

CORRESPONDENCE.

Stanbridge P. Q., Oct. 11th 1883.

To the Editor, *Illustrated Journal of Agriculture*.

Seeing an article in the October number of your Journal on sheep, it suggested the idea of making some inquiries on that subject.

I have a farm that will keep about twenty cows and the teams. A part is upland, which is mostly pasture, and which has got very weedy and foul, and as we term it here bound-out. The balance of the farm is low land and is in meadow and arable land. One third is what we term Beaver-meadow or in other words it grows a fine wild grass—the balance of my hay is timothy and clover from the newly seeded meadows.

Would sheep do well on such a farm and would they clean and improve the pasture?

What breed of sheep would you recommend, and how many sheep can be kept in the place of a cow?

An answer through the columns of your Journal would greatly oblige

An Inquiring Farmer.

The farm occupied by "An Inquiring Farmer" would suit sheep very well indeed. In fact, it seems out for that purpose. The sheep would improve the old pasture immensely, if it were kept well fed down, and by growing rape, vetches, &c., on the richer low-lands, and folding the sheep on the uplands, the whole farm in a short time would be entirely changed in quality of soil.

Seven sheep I take to be the equivalent of one cow of good size. The best sheep for rough work are the Downs, but an "i. f." would probably have to content himself with half-breeds. I will enter more into the question in the December number of the Journal.

A. R. J. F.

Montreal, 16 Oct. 1883.

A. R. JENNER FUST ESQ.

My dear Sir,—I have to apologize for the delay in answering your last letter, but I have been from home for a few days, and since returning, have been so busy getting my grapes to market that I have not had a moment to spare. Below, I give you a list of varieties of vines which I have growing on my place, with a comparative statement of their time of ripening.

BLACK GRAPES.

Beaconsfield Champion or *Talman*: This seems to me to be the best adapted to our climate; bearing well and ripening its fruit early, but has obtained a bad reputation for sourness from its habit of coloring about ten days before ripening, and being placed on the market green. When really ripe, it is a very eatable grape.

Early Victor, new variety, not fruited.

Eumelan, not fruited.

Worden, not fruited.

Moore's Early seems to ripen about ten days later than *Champion*, and not unlike the *Concord* for taste.

Telegraph ripens about with *Concord*.

Concord was coloured but not ripe when the frost took it.

Rodgers 39 not fruited.

Wilder R., No 4, not fruited.

Cottage much the same as *Telegraph*, but with a very tough pulp.

I have two or three more not named, and not fruited with me yet, so can't speak of them.

RED GRAPES.

Delaware ripened before frost.

Brighton ripened before frost.

Jefferson, not fruited.

Dracut Amber, not fruited.

Salem was barely ripe before frost.

Lindley just ripe before frost.

Agawam not fruited.

Massasoit about with *Lindley*.

WHITE GRAPES.

Lady Washington, not fruited.

Pocklington, not fruited.

Prentiss, not fruited.

El dorado, not fruited.

Martha ripe before frost.

Chasselas de Fontainebleau, not fruited.

The above are all two year-old vines with the exception of *Champion* and *Salem*. Very truly yours,

D. H. FERGUSON.

Montreal, 16th Oct. 1883.

Dear Sir, - The writer would be very much obliged, if you could answer the following, in the next number of the Journal. Would a young man having \$3000 or \$4000 possess sufficient capital to purchase (and stock) a moderate sized and well cultivated farm (say 80 to 100 acres, 60 to 80 cleared) in this province? Townships preferred. What wages would be paid a good Farmer and wife, and what are the general terms of engagement?

Hoping for this information in your next issue,

I am, Sir, yours,

AN ENQUIRER.

A young man who understands business could buy a farm and stock it well for the sum mentioned, provided he was willing to live hardly for the first few years. Farms of the size mentioned are to be had for from \$2,500 to \$4,500, with plenty of time for payment. I should advise the intending purchaser to retain a good amount of cash for stocking his farm, as that is where most beginners fail in this country: it is better to pay interest on part of the purchase-money of the farm than to buy cattle on credit.

A good Farmer and his wife would come pretty high, as really intelligent men, who understand their work and will do what they are told, are scarce here, as indeed, they are every where. As wages are by no means in a settled state at present, I can hardly say what should be paid the couple in question, but I should think from \$22 to \$28 a month ought to be enough—with board, of course; but all depends upon the style of man required. The terms of engagement must be strictly annual, lest they desert in the spring, when greater gains are to be made.

A. R. J. F.

Alma Farm, Knowlton, Oct. 20th.

Dear Mr Jenner Fust,—Yours of the 17th duly came to hand, so I take the first chance to answer as far as I can. A good, trusty farmer and his wife, who both understand farm work so as to be able to go on and do and direct it when the master has told them what he wants done, would get about \$30 a month and board. I give mine \$400 a year, but he has been several years with me, and I know I can leave and have every thing not only safe, but as well looked after as when I am at home. Out of that, the wife has to pay any help she chooses to have in the house. I would not give a new man whom I did not know so much.

The crops, generally, in this county are good: hay excellent, oats fair, corn middling, potatoes extra, wheat and barley above average. Cheese factories have done well, and there will be a lot of new ones next summer in consequence; and butter will not be so plentiful hereabouts.

Stock is rather high, but horses a little lower than two months ago. Yours in haste,

S. A. FISHER.