

Let your increase be as little as possible and get all the honey you can. Honey means hard cash and you will be more likely to winter with success. There is no money at present prices in selling bees. Prevent increase by shade under a tree with high branches, not a low thick orchard, but a spot where vegetation will be strong and healthy, give them ventilation and see that they have sufficient room to store honey and you have the most effectual method of keeping down increase. Do not attempt to check the swarming impulse by breaking down queen cells unless it be after a first swarm has come off. If you are a farmer or cannot watch your bees get your wife interested in them, or, tell the children whoever sees a swarm come off first shall have five or ten cents, and the little ones will keep a keen eye upon the hive and perhaps save you the profits from a colony. To loose a first swarm almost means to loose your honey crop for the season from that colony.

Correspondence.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—1. Please write on one side of the paper only. 2. Give full name, Post Office and Province, not necessarily for publication, but as guarantee of good faith and to enable us to answer by mail when, for any reason, that course seems desirable. If an answer is specially requested by mail, a stamp must be enclosed. Unless of general interest, no questions will be answered through the *ADVOCATE*, as our space is very limited. 3. Do not expect anonymous communications to be noticed. 4. Matter for publication should be marked "Printers' MS." on the cover, the ends being open, in which case the postage will only be 1c per 4 ounces. 5. Non-subscribers should not expect their communications to be noticed. 6. No questions will be answered except those pertaining purely to agriculture or agricultural matters.

Correspondents wanting reliable information relating to diseases of stock must not only give the symptoms as fully as possible, but also how the animal has been fed and otherwise treated or managed. In case of suspicion of hereditary diseases, it is necessary also to state whether or not the ancestors of the affected animal have had the disease or any predisposition to it.

In asking questions relating to manures, it is necessary to describe the nature of the soil on which the intended manures are to be applied; also the nature of the crop.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the views of correspondents.

Legal Question.—1. A, a farmer, by agreement in writing hires B. The agreement states that time, place and manner of work is to be determined by A. Is B compelled under this agreement to do chores at all, and especially on Sundays? 2. How much alfalfa seed is required per acre? How should it be sown?—C. G. K., Ancaster, Ont.

[As a general rule, a servant who engages to work thereby undertakes to do all usual and necessary work his master may require, and to obey the lawful commands of the master, and be honest and diligent in his master's business. A farm servant under this general rule is bound to do all such work as chores, either on Sunday or any other day, if required to do so by the master; and generally, a farm servant has no right to claim any Sundays or holidays off at all; as he must have known when he entered into the master's employment that certain chores and works of necessity must be performed on every day in the year, and unless special stipulations are made to be allowed certain days off, the servant cannot claim Sunday or any other day. Of course any special agreement, either written or verbal, as to do only certain kinds of work or to have certain days off would override the general rule. In the case stated above, B is clearly bound to do all necessary reasonable chores whenever required so to do, on Sunday or any other day, and should he refuse or neglect to do so, he may be dismissed, and is liable to an action for damages, and cannot recover wages due. 2. For particulars concerning alfalfa, see article on "Grasses and Clovers," in the April and May issues.]

Threshers.—Would you inform me where I could get a threshing machine which can be driven by four horses?—L. B. G., Letellier, Man.

[John Larmouth & Co., of Montreal, P. Q., manufactures a first-class thresher and tread-power.]

Swollen Udder.—I have a young mare that has never had a foal yet, the glands of her bag swell and the swelling extends all her belly.—J. W., Teeswater, Ont.

[Give a purgative ball, Barbadoes aloes, seven drachms; follow up by giving alternately night and morning, nitrate of potash, one drachm; iodide of potassium, one drachm; bathe the bag where it is swollen with hot water and vinegar, equal parts, twice a day; let her have plenty of exercise. If she is in high condition reduce her by giving less food, do not feed her on soft or sloppy food.]

What is the matter with my bull? and how should he be treated? He is about 18 months old. Some time ago I noticed he commenced slaubering, especially when he was eating, he could not eat whole turnips well. Now his tongue is considerably swollen, and seems to be very painful, causing difficulty in eating.—J. W., Marsh Hill, Ont.

[We would advise a dose of purgative medicine, one pound of epsom salts twice a week, dissolved in a quart of water and given as a drench; give a drachm of potassium iodide, night and morning, either with a spoon well back on the tongue, or in his feeds; perhaps the former would be the better way, as then you are sure that he has taken it. Wash the tongue with warm water and apply the following lotions alternately, one at night and the other in the morning: Powdered alum, 2 drachms; water, one pint, for evening; tincture belladonna, four drachms; water, one pint, for morning. Each of these mixtures will last for some time. In the application of these use a stick with a swab on the end, pour the mixture in a cup, in this dip the swab and apply. A convenient way to make the applications is to raise the bull's head by his ring, open his mouth and place between his jaws an ordinary clevis, of such a size that he cannot readily eject it; put it in flatwise as you would a bit, then raise it to the perpendicular. This will pry his mouth open and keep it so. The swab can be readily passed through the opening in the clevis. Before swabbing, his mouth should be washed free of saliva with warm water. Let his food be soft, nutritious and easily digested. It would be well to scarify the tongue with a lancet every second day, making say about six to ten cuts on it each time, drawing the blood freely.]

Black Knot.—Can you tell me any way to prevent or destroy black knot? I have lost all my plum trees, and my cherry trees are badly affected.—J. D., Oakwood.

[The black excrescences on the shoots and limbs of some plum and cherry trees are produced by the spores of an internal fungus, but supposed by some the work of an insect, or the result of diseased sap or cells, or regarded as a sort of vegetable ulcer. They have been by some attributed to the curculio, an opinion originating from the occasional detection of this insect within the pulpy excrescences, but entirely disproved by the facts that the curculio has existed in vast numbers in neighborhoods where the excrescences are unknown; and on the other hand, that the excrescences have ruined trees in places not infested with the curculio; besides which, the most rigid search of newly-forming knots has failed to detect the eggs or larvae of the curculio, which are only occasionally found when deposited at a later stage in the pulpy swellings. Sufficient evidence appears to have been furnished to prove that a tree, badly diseased, is infected throughout with the poison; as suckers from such a tree will always, sooner or later, become affected. Buds from diseased trees, placed in healthy stocks, soon exhibit the excrescences. But seedlings or suckers from a healthy tree usually escape, unless in near proximity to unhealthy trees. The remedy for this disease is certain and efficient, if vigilantly applied. It consists in cutting off and burning all the excrescences as soon after their first appearance as practicable. If the tumors, however, break out on the trunk or main limbs, it may be difficult to do this without cutting away the whole tree. As much of the wood is therefore to be cut out as may exhibit indication of disease, and the wound washed with a solution of chloride of lime.

The only instances where the remedy has failed, is where it has been but occasionally applied, or where the disease has been suffered to spread for a time unchecked. The only way is to cut, and continue cutting, so long as any traces remain. As a general but not universal rule, the yellow plums are not so liable to excrescences as purple varieties, unless surrounded by diseased trees. Last June, Mr. Little, of Lambeth, bored three-quarter inch holes in some of his cherry trees; these he filled with flour of sulphur, plugging the hole tightly with a limb cut from the same tree. The plug was trimmed off even with the bark, which soon healed over the wound. The trees thus treated have no black knot on them this year. Those not so treated are affected as usual.]

The Time to Prune.—There is a great diversity of opinion concerning the time when trees should be pruned. When is the proper time?—J. D., Port Perry, Ont.

[As soon as the blossoms have disappeared is the time to prune your trees. An orchard of large trees near London, Ont., were totally destroyed and had to be dug up, as the result of cutting off large limbs in the winter and spring, the wounds rotting and causing decay of the trunk. A leading farmer in Middlesex County tried the experiment on one of his trees, of cutting a limb off at each of the seasons spoken of, as a proper time to prune. He found the month of June, soon after the blossoms had fallen, by far the best time. Wounds made then healed over rapidly, and did not cause the trunk to decay. Those cut in the winter and early spring caused decided damage to the tree.]

Cranberries.—Please give me your opinion on the culture of the cranberry. I want to know if they can be grown on a beaver-meadow I have, containing about five acres, which in the spring is flooded by the lake. With little expense a dam could be made, to flood it at any time should it be necessary. I would like your advice in the matter; and, also, how and when to plant and cultivate them. An answer through your reliable paper will much oblige.—W. A. C., Cecete, Muskoka.

[The cranberry is a plant which naturally grows on wet, spongy soils, but is also cultivated with moderate success on drier and firmer ones; on heavy soils it has, however, proved to be a failure. Therefore, if your meadow is of a heavy nature it will not give as good returns as one containing more vegetable matter. The aspect of your meadow is very favorable, for it is of great advantage to be at all times able to submerge the cranberry patch under water, and the quicker this can be done the better the prospects of a good crop will be. This sheet of water serves a two-fold purpose, namely, that of protecting the plants from the frost and from injurious insects, which are very liable to attack the fruit and vines. The meadow should be flooded in fall, when "Jack Frost" makes his appearance, and kept covered till late in spring. During the blossoming time it should, however, be laid dry, for the water destroys the pollen, and, thereby, the crop for that season. The vine-worm or fire-worm, and the fruit-worm, which affect these plants and their fruit, are effectually destroyed if submerged under water, and may therefore be successfully overcome by flooding the plot; but, as their ravages are great, a rapid submersion is required. A valuable cranberry patch may be prepared from a swampy place by levelling its surface, cleaning it from grass and weeds, and covering it with two to four inches of pure sand, ditching it to lower the water to twelve or eighteen inches below the surface, and planting it with cranberry plants. These are generally set out with a dibble, and the soil firmly trampled around the plant; but sometimes cuttings are taken, one end of which is simply pressed down by some blunt implement, through the sand to the underlying mucky soil. The plants are placed in rows, from one to two feet apart each way. All the plants should reach the former surface of the plot, and if planted in a slanting position, so much the better. The plot should be kept cultivated for a year or two, or until the cranberry plants have taken complete possession of the soil. The cuttings may be preserved for a long time if packed with wet moss in boxes and preserved in a cellar, or if covered with earth in a shady place. If dry they should be soaked in water before planting, which completely refreshes them. They strike root very easily at the joints which come in contact with the soil. Planting is not specially confined to one portion of