

The wages of farm laborers are always affected by a general depression in business. This is natural, for the thousands of mechanics thrown out of employment are brought into competition with them. The state of affairs in Canada is always in sympathy with that of our neighbors. The average monthly wages paid in the New England States during the depression in 1879 was \$13, against \$16 in 1882, when labor and business were in their normal condition. Last year wages were again on the decline, and the depression is likely to continue throughout this year.

Now collect all the bones about the farm. Place them in strong boxes or barrels, with alternate layers of ashes, first breaking the large bones. Keep the mass wet, and in a few months you will have a fertilizer more valuable than the most expensive superphosphate. It is folly to use superphosphate at all, for being soluble it readily reverts to the soluble state in the soil. The partly soluble form is more valuable for plant food, but when bones can be finely pulverized or reduced by ashes, no farmer should run the risk of being defrauded with adulterated superphosphate. A bushel of bone ashes, when judiciously used, may be worth over two tons of farm-yard manure; and with a supply of nitrogen makes a complete fertilizer.

The great loss sustained by keeping cows on poor pastures can scarcely be estimated, especially when they have to drink from stagnant pools. Something can't be got from nothing. The food of support must first be obtained before the cow can give any milk at all, and all the profits consist in the quantity of food she eats over and above that required for maintenance. If she has to wander over a large range of pasture, especially in the hot sun and when the flies are troublesome, the food consumed in producing this mechanical work would otherwise have been used in the production of butter. Hence the necessity for rich pastures and plenty of shade trees. Always remember that, under a proper system of feeding, the more an animal eats, the greater will be the profits.

Last year the immigration to Canada reached the largest dimensions ever yet attained, and the tide which a few years ago flowed into the United States has been considerably checked. Preparations for the encouragement of emigration from Britain and the continent have already begun, and the movement is likely to be on a larger scale than ever before. There will be room in Manitoba and the North-West for all the surplus population of Europe for half a century to come, and as transportation facilities become cheapened and improved, the rate of increase of our population will keep pace proportionably. When the country fell into the hands of the Dominion about thirteen years ago, there were but a few scattered settlers; now the country contains upwards of 250,000 inhabitants. What the country wants is able-bodied farmers, and for them there is a bright future. The farmers of Ontario and the other provinces are also greatly in need of farm laborers. The right class of immigrants can obtain higher wages in Canada than in any other part of this continent, and they still have the same opportunities of rising to wealth and influence as the pioneer of half a century ago.

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. Non-subscribers should not expect their communications to be noticed.

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

SIR,—Is salt injurious to pigs? Many people here say so without being able to assign any reason. I should like to know how it affects them.

DELOIRAIN, MAN.

G. F. T.

[Small quantities of salt are necessary for keeping the blood in a healthy condition; too much acts as a stimulant to the coats of the stomach and alimentary canal, causing secretion to be too active, and inflammation of the mucous membrane. All foods contain more or less salt, but small quantities in the mineral state may be given with advantage. Having more fat than other domestic animals, hogs require a less percentage of salt.]

SIR,—The package of flower seeds which you sent me I received a few days ago, and am very much pleased with them, being a much better collection than I expected. I will endeavor to send you a few more names. If farmers knew the value of your magazine to both ladies and gentlemen on the farm, they would not grudge the little dollar yearly for so much knowledge to their benefit.

VANLEER HILL.

L. B. M.

SIR,—In your March issue you recommended W. W. to sow right on the plowed land without a previous harrowing. Does this apply to wheat, and is it the most usual and satisfactory method?

MILLFORD, MAN.

C. O. S.

[If the land was sod broken by a good plowman, the furrow-slices will be even and turned compactly over, in which case the wheat, if sown on the unplowed land, will be of a tolerably uniform depth. Sowing before harrowing would then be advisable, as the seed would have a bed somewhat similar to that made by sowing with the drill on old land. If, however, the land is rough and irregular, it would be better to smoothen it first with the harrow. Consider that wheat requires a moderately firm bed with uniform depth, so as to promote uniform germination and growth; then use your judgment as to the best method of spring tillage.]

SIR,—Under the heading of "Methods of Separating Cream," I notice in your April number what must be an error. You state that an average cow will give about 4,500 pounds of milk each season. This is all right as an average, but you go on to say that this quantity of milk by the old pan system will produce 60 pounds of butter. From considerable experience I am prepared to say it will yield about 180 pounds, and by the ice plan 183 pounds, but by the De Laval Cream Separator System the yield will be increased to 225 pounds. Taking your price of 20 cents per pound, (which is very low for choice butter), this will show a difference of \$9 and \$7.40 per cow in favor of the latter system without taking into consideration the advantages of having pure sweet skim milk for either cheese making or feeding purposes within an hour of the time the milk comes from the cow.

MONTREAL.

F. W.

[Your cows show a much higher percentage of butter than that in the experiments we have taken. Your experience corroborates these experiments—with a slight variation in favor of the centrifugal separator. You will observe that our figures state percentage of cream instead of butter, which, if figured on the latter basis, would represent your interpretation.]

SIR,—THE ADVOCATE is just the very identical paper that every farmer should take, and don't you forget it.

WATERDOWN, ONT.

T. R.

SIR,—Will you kindly inform me what I will do with my young orchard? It has been planted about 9 years, and about every 5th tree has an ant hill, raised in some trees about 1 ft. high. How will I destroy those ants and not injure the trees?

ANCASTER.

SUBSCRIBER.

[Various remedies have been tried, but we think the most effectual one is a strong solution of soft soap in boiling water. Salt has also proved effectual. Please send us an account of the experiment.]

SIR,—1. We have a very good pedigree Shorthorn bull, and as it is expensive to get him changed, how would it do to let him serve his own daughters next season? Our cows are grade Durhams from Montana stock. 2. If a pedigree bull is badly stunted through ill-treatment and neglect, how would it affect his offspring?

BATTLEFORD, N. W. T.

M.

[1. You will be safe in letting him serve his daughters. The best stock has been produced by in-breeding. The best breeders now breed from the best stock regardless of affinity; but in such cases care should be taken that the bull and cow do not possess the same defects or in fact any prominent physical defects or hereditary taint. 2. If a pedigree bull is temporarily stunted, his offspring will not be affected thereby; but if neglect or ill-treatment be continued for many generations, the breed will degenerate. Cruel treatment would be apt to have an injurious influence upon his direct stock.]

SIR,—Last year I planted Hebron potatoes, and in the same field Early Ohio potatoes, and I believe the Hebrons were mixed in the tubers with the Ohio—the rows nearest the Ohio rows plainly so. I am told this could not be so, as they could only mix through the seed. How is it?

HAMILTON.

R. R. G.

[Potatoes can only be hybridized through the seed, not from the tubers.]

SIR,—Please inform me through your valuable paper: 1. At what time should bees be transferred from the box hive to the frame? 2. Is it more profitable to produce comb honey or extracted? 3. How many times can bees be divided with safety, in a summer? 4. How can I feed a swarm that is weak, with safety from robbery? 5. How much surplus honey should a strong colony produce in a season? 6. Please name what you consider to be the best bee journal for beginners?

BADFORD, QUE.

A SUBSCRIBER.

[1. During the early part of fruit bloom; choose a warm day without wind. 2. Extracted honey. 3. A good strong colony of Italians may be once divided, and each part then once again by an expert, if the season be good and the first division be made early. 4. By using a "Shuck's" feeder at the entrance, or by feeding from above the cluster, under the quilt. 5. The average is 100 lbs. although with an increase of one swarm 200 are not uncommon; but if it yield a larger increase the honey gathered will be proportionately less. 6. "Gleanings in Bee Culture," by A. D. Root, is the best journal. The best book is "Bees and Honey," by Thos. G. Newman. In order to understand a journal thoroughly, you must first read a systematic work.]

SIR,—1. How much boiled flax seed would be sufficient to feed a mare with foal, and how often? 2. Is there any such thing as black teeth in young pigs? 3. Should wolf teeth in horses be pulled out, or would it do as well to break them off? If so, would the remaining roots affect the horse the same as the whole tooth? 4. Is the disease in spring calves called "black quarter" the same as "black foot"? Is there any cure, or would the following recipe be of any use? 1 pint salt, 1 tablespoonful saltpetre, 2 tablespoonfuls black antimony and 1 lb. of sulphur in a trough? 5. How would the following articles be mixed together for a condition powder: sulphur, saltpetre, ginger, baking soda and ashes?

EXETER, ONT.

NEW SUBSCRIBER.

[1. Flax seed fed to a mare in foal is apt to produce abortion. 2. Black teeth are known to exist in young pigs, caused by indigestion or acids in the stomach, but there is no disease known by this name. 3. Wolf teeth need not be pulled unless they interfere with mastication. Loosen them with a punch and then extract with forceps. If the fang is left it will do no harm; it will soon become absorbed. 4. "Black foot" and "black quarter" are the same. The calves die so suddenly that no cure can be affected. Your recipe is good for any calves. 5. Sulphur 4 parts, saltpetre 1 part, soda 2 parts, ashes 2 parts, and ginger 1 part. Give a good tablespoonful at night in the feed.]

SIR,—Please inform me through the ADVOCATE—1. Will coal soot mixed with stable manure, make a good fertilizer for strawberries? 2. How would it answer for common garden vegetables? 3. Would a quantity of coal soot in a compost be of much value for a top-dressing for meadow lands?

GARDNER'S CREEK, N. B.

J. F. W.

[1. 2. Soot would be a valuable auxiliary to stable manure for strawberry bushes or garden vegetables, especially if the soil is deficient in vegetable matter. If vegetable mould is abundant in the soil, lime or ashes would be better and cheaper. Soot is only valuable for the nitrogen it contains, and vegetable soils already contain an excess of this element, but the nitrogen of the soot is more available as plant food. If your soil is heavy, soot would enrich it, and improve its mechanical texture. 3. Yes.]