

Farm Yard Manure.

BY H. B. S., ST. LAMBERT, QUE.

The standard resource of the ordinary farmer may be said, without fear of contradiction, to be farm-yard manure, and to the proper way of increasing this his efforts ought to be directed. The basis of farm-yard manure is straw, and from every ton of straw about two tons and a-half of manure ought to be obtained. Therefore it is easy to see that the more straw that is used on the farm so much the more manure, and the grain in the field ought to be cut as low as possible, as the straw near the roots is double the weight of the straw at the ear.

Farm dung, from animals well fed and well littered, contains all the necessary principles for the growth of plants; so that the farmer who keeps plenty of stock and takes good care of them can be independent of artificial manures, which are only necessary under exceptional circumstances, and can only be applied, as a general rule, when they are cheap and when crops are high in price. The chief reliance is, therefore, to be placed upon farm dung, and the intelligence and industry of the farmer is immediately shown by his care of the manure heap.

The heap should of course be near the stables so as to avoid extra labor, but no matter where placed the following conditions ought to be observed, namely:—That the rain from the roofs should not drop on the heap; that a cistern or it should be arranged near to it, so that the drainage from the heap can run into it, but no other water to run into it; and plenty of room ought to be given to the heap so that it will not be necessary to make it too high. The pit may be made any size—the larger the better—as it will be necessary to throw in litter, et cetera, to absorb the drainage and prevent the evaporation of the volatile gases. It is of advantage to have the manure under a shed which can be made of old boards or any cheap material, the idea being to protect the heap as much as possible from the rains.

When the manure is to be allowed to ferment, it is necessary that the heap should be made even, and it must be turned once or twice, in order to prevent undue fermentation.

Where muck from a swamp or marsh can be obtained cheaply, it can be mixed with the manure to advantage, but this is entirely a matter of cost which each farmer will be obliged to estimate for himself. Every one knows that sandy soils are improved by manuring with clayey materials, but the question to be brought to bear upon these operations is—will it pay? Now, as labor is the most expensive item to be considered on a farm, the amount of labor to be applied to the manure heap must be carefully watched. The cheapest plan in some cases is to draw the manure directly to the field—that is, where it is desirable to use long manure, namely, in heavy or closely packed soils, as long manure tends to render the soil more friable and porous than well-rotted manure. The objection advanced against the use of long manure is the extra cost of drawing, as in long manure about two-thirds, speaking generally, consists of water, which is maintained to be so much dead weight. This is a valid objection to a certain extent, but when we take into consideration the loss of time incurred in properly fermenting manure, and the usual loss by evaporation, it will be found, I think, more economical to apply manure in the long state. When it is desired to use manure for the purposes of gardening it may be found more profitable to use the short manure, both on account of its being more easily turned under by hand labor, and also because seeds of weeds are generally killed in the process of fermentation. No one can say that

short manure is better than long who has ever used the manure from old hot-beds, and watched the effect compared with the effect of new manure properly applied. Scientifically, I suppose well-rotted manure ought to be the most valuable, as it is in the condition suitable for assimilation by the growing plant; but my observation and experience have rendered me favorable to the use of long manure.

The mode to be followed then, in my opinion, is as under:—The manure is to be thrown under the sheep from the stable, and placed evenly so as to avoid heating as much as possible, and a small quantity of plaster may be thrown upon it from time to time; if there is ample room around the farm buildings the heap may be made quite large, in fact, may remain till wanted, though with us we find it cheaper to draw it in sleighs during the winter to the fields, as the drawing is in winter easier on the horses and labor is cheaper, and we save ourselves for the rush of work in spring. It is to be placed in heaps of sufficient size in the field, and if found to be heating too much ought to be turned, and in the spring carted out to be turned under by the plough. It is not profitable to draw it directly from the barn-yard and to place it in small heaps to be afterwards spread. The small saving of labor thereby effected is more than counterbalanced by the loss by waste. The grand principle in the application of barn-yard manure is to so apply it that all the constituents of the manure will be kept by the soil to furnish food for the plants. It appears to me that this result is best obtained by using long manure, and getting it covered as soon as possible. In closing, I would say that the use of long manure in potato furrows directly underneath the potato tends to make the potato rot. I should advise the turning under of a green crop, or else manuring very heavily the previous crop; though I must say that we have succeeded in raising good crops of potatoes by manuring the furrows—that is, we have had over nine hundred bushels from four acres (arpents) and a quarter.

Better Late than Never.

It is now four years since we gave notice to the Government that the Foot and Mouth Disease had been introduced into Canada. Every reader of the ADVOCATE knows that we have done our duty in urging the Government to prevent the repetition of the introduction of this and other dangerous stock diseases among the healthy flocks and herds of our Canadian farmers.

We have received a circular from Mr. McEachran, the Government Veterinary at Montreal, which is a step in the right direction. It contains the following questions, which we are requested to answer, and do so with pleasure as far as our present knowledge extends. The statistics kept by the Government may show the number of animals in each county. We hope that every county will be able to fill the report as favorably, and without the remarks that we deem but right to annex.

1. Are the farmers turning their attention to breeding and feeding stock for exportation?

Ans.—The best farmers are turning their attention to feeding stock for exportation.

2. Are there any contagious diseases in stock in your county?

Ans.—There are no contagious diseases existing among the farm stock of this county that we are aware of at the present time.

3. What diseases prevail most in animals?

Ans.—There is no particular disease prevailing at the present time that we know of.

Four years ago the Foot and Mouth Disease affected one herd of Ayrshire cattle in this county, but it was prevented from spreading. Two years ago the Hog Cholera spread into a few herds of swine, but we have not heard of either of these diseases being in this county for the past nine months.

Sundry Thoughts and Topics.

BY J. SEABURY.

The Cincinnati Prices Current, in referring to the progress of packing in the West, says:—

“Notwithstanding the fact that warm weather has interfered with packing the past week, the operations at the ten leading points have exceeded corresponding time last year about 100,000, and we incline to the belief that there has been a corresponding gain at interior points, so that the total packing in the West is now but little if any short of 250,000 increase over same date last year. These ten places show a total of 2,420,000 to date, against 2,308,000 last year. It is impossible to state closely the number now reached at all points, but it probably does not vary much from 3,000,000. When we reach out first of January report of all points, we expect that the comparison for same period last year will show a material increase in the packing, and as to the final outcome of the season, we see no reason yet for changing the views already expressed, that last year's total number may be expected to be reached.”

The movement so far in Canada has been light, the soft open weather being very much against the handling of dressed hogs. With the duty of two cents per pound on all American pork and bacon, we think that prices here should rule steady and firm. From the best information to be had, we are of the opinion that the home trade will require all our surplus hogs. Farmers will do well to keep none but the best breeds, and to keep no more than what is necessary to consume a certain portion of produce and refuse that would otherwise go to waste to a large extent. Beyond this, let the Western stalls do the hog raising, as cattle and sheep will pay Canadian farmers much better.

From all we can gather from various quarters throughout the country, we find that the crop of clover seed will be a good one, and the sample very fair. How prices will rule the next two months is something very hard to forecast. The general impression earlier in the season was that prices were likely to rule high. These impressions are being somewhat modified of late, and time only will tell how prices will go. The bulk of the crop tributary to Toledo is said to be marketed, and of this some 20,000 bags are now held there on speculators' account awaiting higher prices in Europe. The bulk of the crop around Chicago and West is still in farmers' hands. The acreage is large, and the yield good. This, with the Canadian crop, will sow a good many thousands of acres of European lands.

The English crop of clover seed is about nil, and the French crop is short, together with some other European countries. But whether sufficiently short to require all the American crop and more, remains to be seen. There is no doubt our seed will be wanted and in good demand, but whether the demand will be such as to warrant any advance on present prices is hard to say. Present prices will pay farmers very well, and we don't think the situation will warrant any delay in marketing after threshed and ready.

The apple trade between Canada and England is beginning to assume very large proportions. The shipments have been very heavy this season, and as a rule, when well and properly handled and packed, have turned out very well. From an English circular before us we notice that Newtown Pippins are quoted at 23c. to 25c.; Baldwins, Greenings, &c., 14c. to 19c.; Seeks, Spys, Spitz and Russets, 15c. to 26c.

This will show our readers the kinds most sought after, and the range of prices of the last three kinds is caused by the condition of the fruit on its arrival there. We would strongly advise any farmers who have any thoughts of raising fruit for export to have but one or two or at most three varieties. But let them be the best kinds