

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[In order to make this department as useful as possible, parties enclosing stamped envelopes will receive answers by mail, in cases where early replies appear to be advisable; all enquiries, when of general interest, will be published in next succeeding issue, if received at this office in sufficient time. Enquirers must in all cases attach their name and address in full, though not necessarily for publication.]

Legal.

AGREEMENTS WITH HIRED MEN.

J. D. D.:—"Certain men of this vicinity each make a practice early in the spring of hiring with two or more different parties, and finally go and work for the one who will pay the highest wages. How can I best protect myself against a man going back on his agreement to work for me, and afterwards hiring and working for another?"

[If the man is worth anything financially, he would be held liable for the damages accruing to you by reason of his refusing to carry out his agreement; but generally this remedy is of no value on account of the man having nothing from which any damages can be recovered; and then probably the best way is to have an agreement (in writing, if possible) with him to work for you and expressly agreeing not to work for any other person during the time, and on such an agreement the courts will issue an injunction restraining him from working for another person; or, again, if the man can get some friend of his to become surety for the carrying out of the agreement, you would then have a right to damages from the surety.]

A DEED FROM EXECUTORS.

J. M.:—"By a will A gets a certain piece of land and a sum of money. B gets land and no money. C and D get land and the balance of the money, and C and D are appointed executors. Is a deed from the executors to each of A and B necessary at all, and who should pay for it?"

[A deed from the executors is not necessary, providing the testator died since May 4th, 1891, unless the deed is required by the devise within one year after the testator's death, as by a statute passed in 1891 the land vests in the devise named in the will after the expiration of one year, unless in the meantime the executors register in the registry office a caution or notice that the land may be required to pay the testator's debts. When a deed is required, it should be paid for by the person for whom it is given.]

DAMAGES BY A MILL-DAM.

INQUIRER:—"About nine years ago a mill-dam was allowed to get out of repair, and since then has not been in use; but just recently the owner of the dam has repaired it in such a manner as to raise the back water higher than ever before, and the water overflows my land and so causes me damage; nothing was ever paid by the owner of the dam for compensation for the land affected by the water. What are my rights and remedies in law?"

[Probably the owner of the dam had no right to re-erect the dam at all, so as to raise the water to the old level, if the water would then overflow your property, and he has no right to raise the water higher than before, at any rate, and in an action you could compel the removal of the dam, or at least have height of it reduced, and you are entitled to damages for the injury you have sustained.]

ROAD MAINTENANCE.

R.:—"Another farmer and myself reside on our farms, about one and a-half miles from the main road. A public road, however, extends to each of our farms, but this latter road is frequently almost impassable on account of the road being insufficiently drained. Can we compel the municipal council to improve the road?"

[The council is bound to keep its roads in a reasonably good condition, so as to be effective for the ordinary traffic passing over the road, so far as the municipality has the means and the locality will admit. So it follows that what would be a sufficient road in one township, or section, might be very insufficient for another; and the whole state of the roads in the township, and whether the township is an old and well-settled one, must be taken into consideration. If the council does not maintain the road as well as it should do, then it may be compelled to do so by indictment in a criminal proceeding.]

Veterinary.

RHEUMATISM.

JOHN A. MUNRO, Springbank, Alta.:—"Four or five weeks ago one of my dairy cows got very lame in near hind leg, also thin. In about ten days or two weeks the leg got swollen, and gradually the lameness left, leaving a lump on leg about as large as a hen's egg, right on the cords. She seems healthy and all right now. About a week ago another cow, with calf sucking her, got lame in the off hind leg, and failed in flesh rapidly, much worse than the first one. Yesterday there was a large lump on the short rib, on opposite side from the lame leg; she can hardly move at all. Will you please tell me what is the matter? What seems strange to me, they are both cows I bought at different times. I never seem to have the least difficulty with cows of my own raising, although four or five of them are pure-bred Shorthorns, and came from Ontario three years ago."

[The symptoms are those of rheumatism, a disease to which milch cows and young cattle are liable, especially those that have been kept in over-warm

and improperly ventilated quarters during the winter, and have been suddenly and unduly exposed to wet weather and cold winds in the spring of the year. Commence treatment by administering a moderate purgative, such as Epsom salts, from twelve ounces to one pound; ginger, one ounce; dissolve in one quart of beer; add half a pound of treacle, and give in one dose. After the physic has operated, give morning and evening for two weeks in bran mash: bicarbonate of potash, and nitrate of potash, of each two drachms. Rub the swollen and sore parts daily with the following liniment: Soap liniment, six ounces; tincture of opium, two ounces. Keep the animal in a comfortable and well-ventilated place. W. A. DUNBAR, V. S., Winnipeg.]

BOGGY HOCKS.

O. WESTWARD, Pendennis, Man.:—"I have a two-year-old colt which has had soft lumps in bend of hind legs and each side of hocks since yearling. Kindly let me know the best treatment for same. Are colts from spavined brood mares liable to have same?"

[If there is no lameness we would not advise any treatment at present, as the "soft lumps" often disappear before the colt attains its full growth. If there is lameness the following blister will be found beneficial: Biniodide of mercury and cantharides, of each one and one-half drachms; vaseline, two ozs.; mix, and apply the whole to both legs by rubbing well in with the fingers. Let the blister remain for forty-eight hours, then wash off and apply vaseline or lard to the blistered surface. Repeat in two weeks, if necessary. Spavined or ringboned mares should not be used for the purpose of breeding, if the disease is known to be the result (as it often is) of faulty formation of the joints.]

W. A. DUNBAR, V. S.]

D. W. PICKETT, Andover, Victoria County, New Brunswick:—"My horses have been troubled for about three months with some disease of the skin. At first the lumps gather about the mane and tail, causing great itching, so bad that I cannot work them all the time. I let them out on grass a good deal. Would you kindly let me know what the trouble is and what I can do for them? Find enclosed a stamped envelope for a reply."

[Your horses are suffering from eczema scabies, more commonly known as "mange." It will require some perseverance to entirely rid the horses of this complaint, as it is very contagious. It is most important to first cleanse the stable by washing with hot water all parts of manger woodwork; in the water dissolve some carbolic acid, one ounce to the pailful of water; then whitewash the stable every three months. Wash the horses all over with warm water, in which should be dissolved two ounces of "Little's Soluble Phenyle" to the pail; do this twice a week; about four washings usually cures this very loathsome complaint. Keep the horses from the grass field, and do not let them enter until the winter frost has killed the parasite.]

W. MOLE, M. R. C. V. S., Toronto.]

A DISORDERED UDDER.

H. GLENDENNING, Dundalk, Ont.:—"I have a cow three years old, first calf from whom we have found it impossible to make pure butter. The milk is apparently all right, and free from any taint, but if the cream is allowed to stand for three or four days, a peculiar odor is noticeable, as well as a disagreeable taste. The cow is apparently healthy, has a good appetite, and sound in every way, with the exception of one teat, which sprays when milked. The smell and taste of the cream resembles that from decaying vegetable matter. Kindly say if you have ever heard of a similar case, and state remedy?"

[In answer to your enquiry, there are probably two factors as cause; the milk undoubtedly is affected by some decomposing material, and most likely from the quarter from which the milk spray issues. Are you quite sure that the cow cleansed properly at her calving, or was any of the placental membrane left, which is now being absorbed, giving rise to the condition? I am inclined to think that the cow has some organic change in the udder, and would recommend hot fomentations and the application of some simple, stimulating liniment to the parts, milking the teat separate until the milk vessel resumes its normal condition. A milk syphon will often relieve the condition of spraying. These cases are not uncommon amongst the dairies in Gloucestershire, England, and are invariably due to the condition of the udder. Milk is so very liable to contamination that a great variety of causes have to be looked at. I well remember a case that puzzled all the experts as to why at a certain period the butter was invariably spoiled, and my preceptor located the cause at the period when the cow was in season. DR. MOLE, M. R. C. V. S.]

Miscellaneous.

TREATMENT OF SANDY SOIL.

MR. GEO. F. SIMMONS, Korak:—"I would like to learn your advice with regard to treatment of sandy soil?"

[The question before us has very little to work on so far as giving a definite answer is concerned. There are many grades of what may be termed sandy soil, and many lines which may be followed regarding its treatment. We will suppose that the farm is a moderately level one, tolerably light, and on which mixed agriculture is to be followed. Such sort of land is perhaps as remunerative as any, when properly handled, as it is early, easily worked,

and readily gives up in the form of crops what is given to it in manure. To keep a good supply of humus in the soil is very important, because of its ability to retain moisture as well as its fertilizing influence. If a light soil is poor, it is a good plan to sow a crop for green manure, to which a nitrogenous fertilizer can well be supplied with advantage, as a very luxuriant growth will then result, to supply the needed humus. This can be done in the fall, after a crop of barley or fall wheat, or even after any spring cereal crop has been taken off, but it should be sown at the earliest moment. Buckwheat is largely grown for this purpose, but rape will answer equally well in a good growing season. The following year the rotation may commence with spring wheat, barley, or short-strawed oats, with which the field should be seeded down to clover and grass, or clover alone. If clover and grass, it may be allowed to lie for two years, but if clover alone, it should be ploughed the first year, immediately after the hay is taken off, or left till the aftermath has made a good growth, the latter preferred when a spring crop is to be sown. For a fall grain crop, rye does well on light soil, and will yield a good crop of straw as well as grain. Fall wheat may do all right, but is not so certain a crop on such land. For a spring crop there is nothing better than peas; being leguminous, will assimilate nitrogen from the air, and will leave the soil in a splendid loamy condition. The peas may be followed by oats, and they by a hoed crop of roots, or corn, the latter preferred. The land should receive a good dressing of farmyard manure in the fall or spring previous to the growing of the hoed crop. This will end a rotation, which should keep a light soil in a fertile and clean condition. We would advise feeding most of the crops to dairy stock, as by that method little or no fertility leaves the farm. Should this method not be found practicable by Mr. Simmons, we would say by all means grow as many leguminous crops (such as clovers, etc.) as possible, as they, and they alone, have the power of utilizing the free nitrogen of the air through microbes which exist in tubercles growing upon the roots.]

SEEDING DOWN WITH CORN.

THOS. BURNLEY, Camlachie:—"I would like to hear your opinion, or the opinion of others, whether I could seed down a corn field with grass seeds, after it is thoroughly cleaned of weeds? I would like to clean the land and enrich it without summer fallowing."

[We hardly think that such a plan of seeding would be safe to depend upon. 1st. Because if the grass seed did germinate, it would make a very spindly growth in the shade of the corn, and at the time of harvesting the corn, the clover would be pretty well tramped to death. 2nd. What did survive the corn harvesting would be too delicate to withstand a winter's frost sufficiently to yield a satisfactory hay crop; and 3rd. The seeding would be too irregular.]

For enriching and cleaning land without summer-fallow, see answer to Mr. Simon's question.]

MILLET FOR ENSILAGE.

J. H. ESDON, Curry Hill:—"When well grown, would Japanese millet make up in ensilage the elements lacking in corn, or would it in any way assist as beans and sunflowers do in Prof. Robertson's mixture?"

[Mr. Esdon sends us a magnificent sample of millet, measuring about five feet in height, grown by a neighbor. It was not specially selected, but simply a fair sample of the field. Corn fodder in itself has a wide nutritive ratio, which is made narrower or approaches a perfect ration by the addition of albuminoids of horse-beans. The fat, too, is relatively increased by the addition of sunflower heads. Millet, in a condition fit for ensilage, would not increase the albuminoids, nor fat, much beyond that already contained in corn ensilage. At the Ontario Experimental Farm, last fall, while one of the silos was being filled with corn, an occasional cart-load of millet was run in. When the silage was taken out it was found that the millet moulded at almost every layer. Had the millet been thoroughly mixed with the corn, no doubt the results would have been better.]

According to analysis made at the Mass. Agricultural College, fodder corn ensilage contains 8.00% albuminoids, or muscle forming element, 3.80% fat, and 51.28% starchy material, while Japanese millet contains 8.72% albuminoids, 2.33% fat, and 49.00% starch and sugar.

MARE WITH DISTEMPER AT LARGE.

SUBSCRIBER:—"My neighbor has a mare which he keeps apart from his other horses, and he allows it to run on the public road and it comes on my farm. I am afraid the mare has some distemper which may be communicated to my horses. What had I better do about it?"

[In most of the townships in Ontario there is a by-law prohibiting horses from running on the highways, and in those townships, or in any Province where the law provides that horses shall not be allowed to run at large on the highway, any animal found at large upon the highway may be impounded, and in any case when any horse is allowed to stray upon the land of another, whether any damage is caused or not, it may be impounded, and any damage done may be recovered from the owner.]