

The Canadian Farmer

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Dr. JOHN FERGUSON, M. P., PRESIDENT.

EDITED BY W. H. MONTAGUE, M. D.

All communications to be addressed to
Drawer A, Welland, Ont.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mrs. A. R. J. wants to know what she shall give her canary birds when they are moulting. We have found the yolk of a hard boiled egg sliced and mixed with eggcrumbs good. You might also place a little saffron in the drinking water. Let the bird have lots of sunshine and keep it tolerably warm. This correspondent also desires to know whether too much hemp seed is injurious. We have found a mixture of hemp, canary, and a very little rape seed the best food.

VALUE OF HAY FOR STOCK.

Experiments have been made in England as to the comparative value of good hay for stock, with the result that it is estimated that 100 pounds of hay are equal to 275 pounds of green Indian corn, 400 pounds of green clover, 442 pounds of rye straw, 360 pounds of wheat straw, 160 pounds of oat straw, 180 pounds of barley straw, 153 pounds of pea straw, 200 pounds of buckwheat straw, 400 pounds of dried cornstalks, 175 pounds of raw potatoes, 504 pounds of turnips, 300 pounds of carrots, 54 pounds of rye, 46 pounds of wheat, 59 pounds of oats, 45 pounds of mixed peas and beans, 64 pounds of buckwheat, 67 pounds of Indian corn, 68 pounds of acorns, 105 pounds of wheat bran, 167 pounds of wheat, pea and oat chaff, 179 pounds of mixed rye and barley, 59 pounds of linseed and 330 pounds of mangel-wurzel.

STORING ICE.

Every family should have ice for the summer. Hence build an ice house. Select some spot shaded if possible and protected from the wind. Every ice house should have a kind of cellar dug, which must be filled up with stones covered with a layer of sand. This will permit the water to escape. On the foundation place a common sill; on this put the plank upright and nail outside boards well battened; inside any rough boards will do. The aim is to make the wall hollow and thus pre-

vent conduction of heat from the heated atmosphere; the space must be filled with saw-dust, tanbark or rough, coarse chaff. Roof of common boards is all that is needed, well battened. Opening should be left on each gable end to permit a free draft. Door should be double and filled with saw-dust. When ice is put in let water be poured over each layer to fill up the crevices and prevent entrance of air. At first a layer of saw-dust should be put on floor at least six inches or a foot deep. A foot space be left between ice and walls, and this space should be filled with saw-dust. Over the top layer a good thickness of saw-dust or whatever other material is used.

SHYING HORSES.

The practice in vogue among nine-tenths of the human family with horses that shy or scare at some unnatural object by the roadside only makes the horse worse instead of causing him to forget the habit. When the horse pricks up his ears and begins to show signs of fright, the common practice is to rein his head directly toward the object which has caused the fright, and ride or drive him right up to it. Often the lash is used severely to enforce this, and the poor, trembling beast is made to walk right up to the object, be his fear what it will. This adds doubly to the frightful impression first formed, and rivets it in the animal's memory, and instead of being broke of the habit, it becomes worse and worse every time it is repeated. The best way to proceed to get a horse to quit such tricks is to use every possible effort to divert his attention from what he takes fright at. This is done by tightening the rein next the object, then drawing hard on the other, thus bringing the head round in the opposite direction and causing him to look away from the scarecrow. By practising this method it will be seen that the animal is made to forget the object of fright. A saddle horse may be broken of this pernicious habit in this manner with ease. Driving horses are not so easily managed, yet it can be done.

DECEMBER FRUIT GARDEN.

Gather up all stakes, labels, boxes, and store whatever may be of future use, and make kindling wood of the rest. Surface drainage should be provided to carry off water from rains and thaws. Young trees planted last fall or spring, need a mound of earth at the base of the trunk, to steady them against the heavy blows, and also help to keep off mice. Cut cions in mild weather, always taking vigorous last season's shoots. Park with sawdust or moss, first carefully labelling them. Strawberry beds, if not yet protected, should

be covered with straw, bog hay, or leaves. Prune in mild spells, currants, gooseberries, grape-vines, etc. If trees or small fruits are to be planted next spring, decide upon kinds, where they are to be brought, and order early. Fruit, if stored in the house cellar in large quantities, may give off so much carbonic acid as to contaminate the air of the rooms above. Provide ventilation, connecting with a chimney if possible. Keep a thermometer in the fruit cellar to aid in maintaining a low temperature -- just above freezing. Manure should be drawn to the orchard while the ground is frozen, ready for spreading in early spring. Gates and fences should be in condition to keep out animals. Rabbits are most readily kept from young trees, by sprinkling the trunks with blood. Set traps. The eggs of the tent caterpillar, which are glued to the twigs in a band near their ends, should be cut off and destroyed.

In another column Dr. J. C. Thom asks bee-keepers to send in their reports. We beg to repeat the invitation to bee-keepers and extend it to poultry-ers, farmers, stock raisers, gardeners, etc. The FARMER, readers, is your paper: use it and make it increasingly useful as the voice of Canadian agriculture and kindred Canadian industries.

We reproduce in this issue a lengthy article, showing up some of the enormities of life insurance. The article presents some weighty facts against the system of joint stock companies, and should be in the hands of every Mutual Insurance Co. Copies can be had by addressing us.

As the result of late trustworthy experiments, it is estimated that 100 lbs. of hay are equal to 275 lbs. of green Indian corn; 400 lbs. of green clover; 442 lbs. of rye straw; 360 lbs. of wheat straw; 164 lbs. of oat straw; 180 lbs. of barley straw; 153 lbs. of pea straw; 200 lbs. of buckwheat straw; 400 lbs. of dried corn stalks; 175 lbs. of raw potatoes; 504 lbs. of turnips; 300 lbs. of carrots; 54 lbs. of rye; 46 lbs. of wheat; 59 lbs. of oats; 45 lbs. of mixed peas and beans; 64 lbs. of buckwheat; 67 lbs. of Indian corn; 68 lbs. of acorns; 105 lbs. of wheat bran; 167 lbs. of mixed rye and barley; 59 lbs. of linseed, and 339 lbs. of mangel-wurzel. This is an interesting table, although some of the foods cited would differ considerably, as they might contain more or less water. This would be the case with green clover, corn stalks and straw. Again there are differences in the quality of these foods. Sweet corn is more nutritious than some of the larger and rank growing sorts. Roots of all kind also differ in nutriment. Turnips vary greatly in quality, and the

same is true of mangels, carrots and potatoes.

Correspondence.

Bees Dead Already.

While looking over our hives yesterday, Nov. 21st, preparatory to placing them in the winter repository, we find two dead stocks out of 140. These stocks were all in the best condition, taken as a whole, one month ago. I never met with a loss of this kind at this season of the year before, and the cause is a mystery to me. These stocks died with abundant stores and strong in numbers. There is no apparent reason why they should have died in a mass, clustered between the ranges of comb and covering the bottom board. We might have surmised that they died of starvation had we experienced weather sufficiently cold to cause them to hibernate in a sleep that knows no wakening, but it has been too mild a season for that. I hasten to make this known to fellow aparians in order that they may be on their guard, and also request that they will report if any similar occurrence has come within their knowledge. While I write this the *American Bee Journal* has just arrived. I notice that Mr. R. Henderson of Ogdensburg has lost two colonies similarly affected. Mr. Heddon remarking on his letter, states that he premises the occurrence to be a natural one--another way of saying that he is ignorant of the cause. I hope I may have no more natural occurrences of the kind to put on record this season.

Bee-keepers in Canada have every reason to be thankful for the honey yield of this season; with some few exceptions the season has been a very poor one for the majority of Americans in the Northern and Western States. I would like to see more frequent communications from our bee-men in your bee-keepers columns, Mr. Editor, as I am satisfied that you could have an interesting page in every issue if our members would only tell their experience.

Yours respectfully,

J. C. THOM.

Streetsville.

P. S.—I think if Bro. Pettit of Belmont won't take it amiss I will now call upon him to give an account in the next issue of anything new he may have picked up at the Rochester convention. I am sure he did not go all the journey without learning something.

J. C. T.

Query.

Toronto, Nov. 17th, 1884
EDITOR CANADIAN FARMER,—Seeing that it is the custom for bee-keepers to give a report of the season's work, I herewith send you mine.