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RURAL NOTES.

Prof. Brown, of the Ontario Agricultural College, states that raw peas as pig-feed are better than cooked peas, or Indian corn in any shape, and make pork quicker and cheaper.

The drowth of last month has had a bad effect on the crop in many parts of the Province, and it is much lighter than last year. However, a large surplus has been held over, and doubtless there will be enough and to spare.

Most kinds of timber will answer for fence posts if the lower end be boiled for a few minutes in tar, and the coated part sprinkled with wood ashes or lime. Thus prepared they will last a good many years in any kind of soil.

Fluke in sheep usually has its origin from drinking the water in standing pools, in which the germs abound. As prevention is better than cure farmers should see to it that sheep are not allowed to pasture in low, wet fields; and that a plentiful supply of clear, wholesome water is furnished from wells or running streams.

Any soil that is loose and loamy is good for turnips. They may be sown from the middle to the latter part of this month, and a good plan is to have the ground ready so that the seed may be sown after a shower of rain. Turnips are much better if they can be made to grow rapidly, as they are then crisp and tender; if growth is slow they are strong and pithy. For this reason the ground should be thoroughly worked, so that growth may be continuous from the start.

Young fruit trees should be well cared for during the summer months. If the roots are allowed to become dry in a hard crusted soil, growth will necessarily be very slow, if starvation and death do not actually ensue. The ground for several feet about each tree should be kept mellow by repeated cultivation, and if the orchard be planted with corn or some other hoed crop this may be attended to with very little trouble. Young trees require to be staked securely in order to prevent injury by winds.

From a series of experiments in feeding grain to cattle while running on pasture, Prof Sanburn, of Missouri has reached the conclusion that it does not pay. In the case of cows giving milk he found that feeding them on the best grass gave the most satisfactory results; and while in the case of grain fed at the rate of four pounds per day, he found there was a greater increase of weight than when fed on grass alone, he found that the cost of the increase was 14 cents a pound or more than twice what it was worth.

In the finest qualities of butter the salt is so evenly diffused that, as appears under the microscope, every grain is surrounded by a film of clear and transparent brine. This shows the necessity of avoiding the over-working of butter before the salt is added. In the first working every particle of milk ought to be got rid of, but enough clear water should be left to dissolve every grain of salt in the twelve hours before the next working. If this is attained there is little danger of streakiness in the butter, but to get the best results the salt should be very finely ground.

How to milk a cow in fly-time and keep one's temper over it is surely worth knowing. One plan is to procure three yards of factory cotton and cut it so as to form a neat-fitting sheet to be fastened around the cow's neck and drawn close under her belly, leaving the udder free, with such a covering the flies will give but little trouble; there will be no kicking over of pails, and no switching of tails about the milker's face and neck, and the cows will give their milk in a steady flow. Three or four such sheets may be made at home, at a cost not exceeding \$1.50 for the lot, and they will last several summers, with ordinary care.

It pays to grow cabbages as fodder for cattle, sheep and pigs, and still better for the city markets if they are convenient. The one great drawback to their cultivation is the cabbage worm, but a safe remedy for this worm is common white bellebore or the Persian insect powder. Or if a larger area be sown the evil may be averted in a measure, since the greater the number of cabbages the fewer will be the number of worms to a given area. It is well to scatter a little guano or special fertilizer in the soil about the time of planting, so as to promote rapid growth. All the poor heads, or those affected by the worm, should be culled and fed to the stock, and only the prime ones sent to market.

The June Report of the United States Department of Agriculture estimates the total area of spring and fall wheat in the entire Union to be 88,500,000 or about 900,000 acres more than last year. It is pointed out that in the parts of the spring wheat region that are somewhat improved there is felt a need of variety in production which is withdrawing from wheat acreage for the extension of pasturage, and for other crops deemed more profitable than wheat. But in the newer States and Territories, there appears to be a steadily growing increase in the area of Spring wheat, the estimates for Iowa, Minnesota, Dakota and Nebraska being in excess of last year's crop by 897,000 acres. Assuming that this year's harvest will give an

average yield, which may be expected if favourable prospects continue, it is computed that the total product will be 500,000,000 bushels.

The old European enemy of the mangold wurtzel has followed this root to Canada. It is a small two-winged insect which deposits its eggs soon after the mangold crop has been sown, and when hatched out the larva feed on the tender leaves of the roots. They are voracious eaters and work their way through the leaves with astonishing rapidity. They were first heard of in Ontario last year, in the county of Grey, but this year they are covering a much larger area and are already doing a great deal of damage, we do not know whether any remedy has yet been found for this pest, but we trust that our local entomologists will study carefully its natural history with a view, if possible, of learning the best means of arresting its ravages.

The frost of the latter part of May was thought to be severe in many parts of Ontario, but the extent of permanent danger done by it was comparatively slight. In the State of Connecticut, we see by the *Boston Cultivator*, the ground was frozen on ploughed fields so that it would hold up a person in walking over it; ice formed three-eighths of an inch in thickness; and nearly all field crops were cut down. In Ontario the cloudy sky and the influence of the surrounding lakes saved us from a like disaster, if not a worse; for the cold wave came down upon us from the region of Hudson's Bay, and its effects were severely felt in all the neighbouring States to the south and south-east and to the west and south-west of us. There is in this as well as in many other respects no portion of country of equal area on the continent so highly favoured as the Province of Ontario.

Every orchard tree should have its label, so that the variety of fruit may be known. A common practice is to leave attached the label put on the trees by the nurseryman, when they are packed up for delivery, but the wires with which these are fastened cut into the bark as the tree grows, and permanent injury is done. Another plan is to make a map of the orchard, showing the class and variety of each tree. This is very satisfactory, but there are not many farmers who will take the trouble to prepare such a map. As good a way as any is to use a strip of zinc for a label, one end being coiled around a small side branch and the name written on the hanging end with a common lead-pencil. If the zinc is rusted the name will last for a great many years, and as the label will gradually uncoil as the branch grows there is no fear of injury by compression or cutting.