

summer soiling is much greater now than it was then, but it is lamentably small still, and smaller in Canada, so far as my acquaintance extends, than it is in New York. Nothing would contribute so much to advance the profits of dairying as a universal custom of preparing every year for maintaining a full flow of milk through the entire season, whether wet or dry, and it seems a sad lack of intelligence and common prudence to omit doing so. No matter how promising the spring may be, no dairyman can afford to stake the income from his cows on the uncertainty of the season. It is equivalent to gambling with the weather, and the weather beats four times out of five, and it is a needless risk, because the production of soiling crops will pay their cost for winter use, if not wanted in summer.

#### London Cheese Association.

The first meeting of the London Cheese Association for the present season was held in the City Hall on the 17th ult., a large gathering of makers and dealers being present. Considerable cheese has already been manufactured, and several factories offered lots for sale. London market promises this season to continue to occupy first place among those of the Province. The following were elected officers of the Association: President, Mr. John Wheaton; Vice-President, Mr. James Creighton; Secretary-Treasurer, John A. Nelles; Board of Directors, L. H. Richardson, Strathroy; J. W. Scott, Elgin; B. Wood, London township; J. K. Little, of Lambeth; L. Cleverdon, Strathroy; R. Boston, Melrose; J. S. Pearce, city; James Carmichael, London township; M. Wellington, Vyner P. O.; A. Vining, West Nissouri; G. Decker, Delaware; F. Elliot, Westminster, and J. B. Lane, North Dorchester.

Don't let your cows drink from stagnant pools.

Of course there is money saved by feeding a cow below her capacity, but then this kind of gain is the base of the greatest losses that occur in dairy farming.

Professor L. B. Arnold says that the milk supply of Rochester is excessive in water and defective in cream, largely on account of free use of brewers' grains and glucose meal.

Prof. Sanborn, of the Missouri Agricultural College, claims to have proved by a long practice that corn fodder has a practical feeding value of two-thirds to three-quarters that of good hay.

Several shipments of Canadian cows have been made to England, and have proved a profitable investment. It is said that the English like the Canadian cows very much. Canada is importing ship loads of English cows, and likes them very much. Why can't every nation learn to like its own cows very much?

Professor E. M. Shelton, farm manager of the Kansas Agricultural College, has handled three or four distinct breeds of swine, and studied them carefully during many years. When asked which is best he admits that he would be "sorely puzzled to tell." Each has sterling points and counterbalancing weaknesses.

### The Farm.

#### Weeds.

A weed has been defined to be a plant out of place. The more out of place, the more noxious the weed. A plant when placed under the best conditions for development, becomes a weed; whereas under other conditions, having less tenacity of life, it may be regarded as a wholesome herb. Indeed, most all our so-called noxious weeds, when fed in a succulent state, are wholesome food for stock. Some of our most nutritious grasses, when in the grain field—in other words, out of place—may be denominated weeds. A plant frequently ceases to be a weed when we understand its properties. But, whatever their virtues may be, they must all be branded as robbers, and should be summarily dealt with accordingly. Farmers have tried every art tending to their extermination, and they can be taught very little in this respect; but very few have studied the art of prevention, which is indeed the only safe remedy. A fruitful way of spreading weed seeds is when the tailings of winnowed grain are cast into the barn yard, and the manure spread on the field before it is properly fermented. Purchased grain used for seed frequently contains pestiferous seeds; indeed, home raised grain is too frequently not exempt. No wonder good farmers are discouraged in their attempts to keep their farms clean, for the wind, the birds, and the threshing machinery from their reckless neighbors increase the terror of the scourge. Remove the cause. If this advice were more strictly followed instead of continually warring against the effect, the enemy would be routed more expeditiously. Seeding down will usually exterminate the least pertinacious kinds of weeds; but seeds that still retain their vitality after years of dormancy cannot be destroyed in this manner: the best plan is to encourage their germination by tillage, and then destroy the tender shoots. The practice of inverting the soil so frequently is an egregious blunder. It should be understood that stirring, cultivating, spudding, or any method by which the weeds may be prevented from running to leaf, is more efficacious. A plant without leaves to inhale the carbonic acid of the atmosphere will soon die; but when the roots are large and tenacious of life, they should be collected and burnt, or composted with lime. There are economical methods of destroying weeds—just as much so as in doing anything else. Commence the experiment on a patch of weeds by sowing some soiling crop. If this is frequently cut, not only will the weeds be destroyed, but the cuttings will make wholesome food for stock. The practice of cultivating crops in rows and of summer fallowing for the purpose of destroying weeds, is too well known to require comment. There is no royal road to weed destruction.

Weeds always being in their natural element, both with regard to soil and climate, it is natural to suppose that they take away food and drink from the cultivated crop. They contain the same chemical constituents as other plants, and the fact that they readily take up these constituents is a condition of their noxious existence. This is the chief *casus belli*. With this fact in mind, it will be easily

seen why roots, especially mangels, exercise a beneficial influence in the destruction of weeds. Mangels very readily take up all the constituents necessary to their development, so that in this respect they fight the weeds with the latter's own weapons. If farmers would study a little botany, at least so much as to know what weeds are annuals, biennials and perennials, also the effects of specific manures in the destruction of weeds, they would find it easier to destroy weeds with their heads than with their hands.

We are pleased to see that the Ontario Government took the matter in hand at its last session. A bill was passed empowering municipalities, on petition of fifty or more rate payers, to appoint an inspector whose remuneration they are intrusted to determine. The weeds specially enumerated are the Canadian thistle, the ox-eye daisy, the wild oat, the rag weed, and the burdock. It shall be the duty of such inspector to notify, in writing, the owner or occupant of land containing noxious weeds, or in case of railway land, the nearest station master shall be notified, to cut or destroy such weeds within ten days, notice to be given not later than July 10th, or earlier if fixed by the by-law. It is to be hoped that this law will be strictly enforced, so that whole neighborhoods will not be permitted to suffer from the negligence of a few shiftless farmers.

A meeting of the Association of Ayrshire Breeders of Canada was held at the office of the Council of Agriculture, on 30th ult., in Montreal, Que., and was largely attended. Mr. Wm. Rodden, of Plantagenet, presided, and Dr. Geo. Leclerc acted as secretary. After discussing matters connected with the exhibition, the election of officers was proceeded with, and resulted in Mr. Rodden being elected president, and Mr. Jas. Drummond, of Petite Cote, vice-president. The following committee was also appointed:—Hon. Louis Beaubien, Alex. Somerville, Wm. Rodden, Jas. Drummond, Thos. Irving, Thos. Brown, Robt. Ness and Jas. Henderson. The committee was authorized to publish an Ayrshire handbook for Canada and to obtain an act of incorporation.

**DISEASE AMONG PIGS**—A farmer in Puslinch reports a strange disease which is killing off the young pigs in that township. He has lost several himself and states that a number of his neighbors have been deprived of whole litters. In all cases the animals were five or six weeks old and seemingly healthy, when they swelled up about the throat and died suddenly.

The Annual Industry Bill has been passed by the United States Senate. It is under the control of the Commissioner of Agriculture, and provides for the establishment of a bureau whose chief shall be a competent veterinary surgeon, who shall investigate the condition of domestic animals, and report on the causes of contagious, infectious and communicative diseases. The staff is not to consist of more than twenty persons. Two practical stock raisers shall be engaged to report on the caring of animals during transportation. Transportation companies are forbidden, under heavy penalties, to convey cattle afflicted with disease. The sum appropriated is \$150,000.