

Breaking the Orchard Sod.

A subscriber, in Grey County, writes that he has an old orchard which has not been plowed for seven years, and asks whether fall or spring plowing would be best, and when the manure should be applied.

The orchard on this farm is in exactly the same condition as hundreds of others in this country—too long in sod. There is an old and generally accepted saying that "as sod increases, fruit decreases." This, however, is not true everywhere, and the best guide as to whether the sod should be plowed or not is the crop of fruit which is annually produced. If it be quite satisfactory, why, allow it to remain; but if not, try cultivation. There is no better time to plow and apply the manure than in the fall. When done at this time, the trees will receive greater benefit the following season from the operation than if put off until spring. The sod will have become rotted to some extent and the fertilizing constituents so incorporated with the soil that the root-hairs will be able to absorb a greater amount of plant food than if delayed until next season. There is, of course, something in the protection which the sod affords the roots during winter, but this is so little, compared with the advantages on the other hand, that fall plowing and manuring is preferable.

Canadian Fruit in Britain.

Mr. W. A. McKinnon, Chief Fruit Inspector for Canada, in Great Britain, writes of the recent experimental shipments of fruit which were made from the Grimsby and Burlington districts to the English market. The pears were too ripe and had, in many cases, been bruised by lack of wrapping and packing material. No case seems to give as good results as one which allows a free circulation of air. I would advise using just enough excelsior (paper shavings) to protect the pears from the sides of the case and not from each other, each pear, of course, being wrapped in paper. When thick mats of excelsior are used between the layers, the fruit is apt to be smothered, if in a warm or unventilated compartment, and takes on moisture too readily upon being opened, if it has been kept at a low temperature. With a free circulation of air, the moisture which condenses on the fruit or paper when the cases come out of cold storage is readily carried away, but that is not possible where close packing is employed.

None of the Canadian shipments appeared to as good advantage as some California Bartlets which were marketed some time ago. They were perfectly hard and green and would easily allow the retailer seven or eight days in which to dispose of them, while ours would probably not afford more than two or three.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

1st.—Questions asked by bona-fide subscribers to the "Farmer's Advocate" are answered in this department free.

2nd.—Our purpose is to give help in real difficulties; therefore, we reserve the right to discard enquiries not of general interest, or which appear to be asked out of mere curiosity.

3rd.—Questions should be clearly stated and plainly written, on one side of the paper only, and must be accompanied by the full name and address of the writer, as a guarantee of good faith, though the name is not necessarily for publication.

4th.—In veterinary questions, the symptoms especially must be fully and clearly stated, otherwise satisfactory replies cannot be given.

Veterinary.

SPLINT.

A four-year-old mare went lame about six weeks ago. I have rested her some, but she is no better. She is lame in the near fore limb. I cannot find any tender place. She walks sound, but goes quite lame when trotting. D. McD.

Ans.—The slight symptoms given indicate lameness from splint. Give rest, shower the seat of splint with cold water frequently for four days. Then blister with 1 dr. each powdered cantharides and biniodide of mercury mixed with 1 oz. vaseline. Clip the hair off the part and rub the ointment well in, a little at a time, for 20 minutes, hard rubbing. Tie her head so that she cannot bite the part. In twenty-four hours rub well again with the ointment, and in twenty-four hours longer wash off and apply a little sweet oil. Let her head down now, and oil every day until the scale all comes off. If the lameness has not disappeared by this time, tie her up and blister again as at first. Splints do not often cause much trouble, but occasionally they are very tedious to treat. In rare cases they have to be operated upon. It requires an expert to operate. J. H. REED, V. S.

STILLBORN PIGS.

I had two sows thriving well on pasture. I took them in a few days before farrowing. About half the litter of each sow was stillborn. Oxford Co., Ont. D. L.

Ans.—You do not state whether you had fed the sows while running on pasture, nor how you fed them after taking them to the pen. The sudden change of habits, with want of exercise

and change of food, were probably the cause of the loss. There evidently was some local cause, as both litters suffered. J. H. REED, V. S.

BRAIN AFFECTION IN CALF.

A ten-days-old calf cannot stand without assistance. When lifted up, it will stand for a few minutes, shaking as if it were dizzy, and then falls backwards. D. O. C.

Ontario Co., Ont.

Ans.—The calf evidently has congenital brain affection, and will probably be dead before you see this. In rare cases the symptoms disappear after a few days, but usually the animal dies. Practically nothing can be done.

J. H. REED, V. S.

NASAL HEMORRHAGE.

I have a nine-year-old horse, that when worked coughs occasionally and bleeds from the nostrils and emits clotted blood. TRURO.

Nova Scotia.

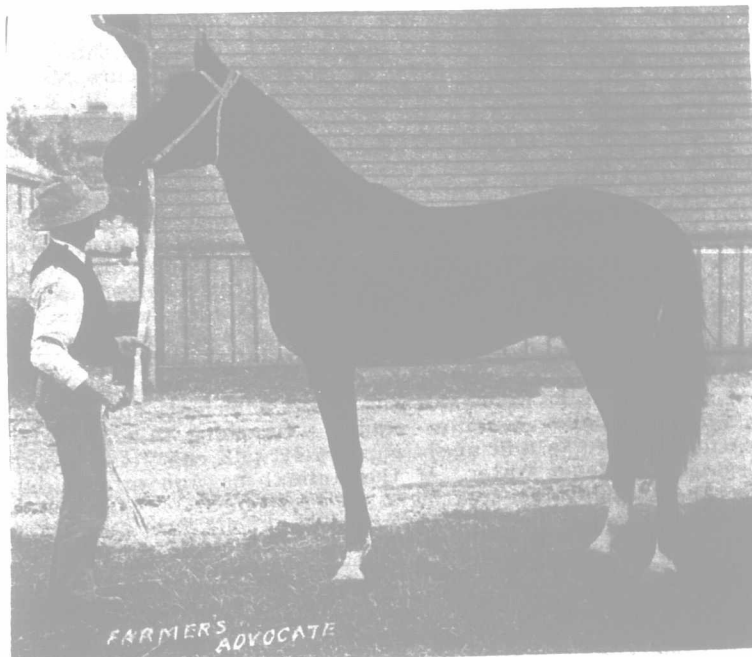
Ans.—The cough is caused by the irritation of the blood escaping. The bleeding is due to rupture of some of the small blood vessels in the nostrils, and as such occurs in cases where there is a weakness of the vessels, it is hard to effect a cure. Give him 1 oz. tincture of iron every night in a pint of cold water as a drench. If bleeding becomes excessive, apply pounded ice to the face. J. H. REED, V. S.

Miscellaneous.

WATERPROOF WAGON COVER.

Please give, in the "Advocate," a recipe for a preparation to make a waterproof wagon cover. Boiled oil does well, but gets very hard in cold weather, and is not pliable. SUBSCRIBER.

Huron Co., Ont.



STANDARD-BRED TWO-YEAR-OLD STALLION.

First at Toronto Industrial, 1902. Sire Larabie the Great. OWNED BY JOHN TWEDDIE, PAINNEAUVILLE, QUE.

Ans.—The only preparation of use in making a wagon-cover intended to turn water and yet remain pliable in frosty weather, would be one containing a good deal of rubber. Melt in linseed oil, such old rubber goods as are at hand, and with it give the wagon-cover a good coating while the liquid is hot. The melting should be done in an iron rather than a tin vessel, as the heat necessary to melt rubber would destroy the latter.

LAND GRANTS TO VETERANS.

Would you kindly give, through your paper, any information you can about the land grants to the veterans of 1866 and '70, as there are a great many of your readers interested as well as myself in this matter, and oblige. Russel Co., Ont. J. A. YORKE.

Ans.—To publish the information, in full, would require considerable space. Complete details may be had by applying to the Department of Crown Lands, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

CLYDESDALE STUDBOOK.

I see in the "Advocate," page 702, "Clydesdale Studbook of Great Britain and Ireland." Can you inform me how I can obtain a copy of Volume 24, and price, etc.?

Bothwell Co., Ont. JAMES JAMIESON.

Ans.—Write to Arch. McNeillage, 93 Hope St., Glasgow, Scotland, Secretary of the Clydesdale Studbook of Great Britain, who will give you the information desired.

BARBED-WIRE FENCING.

Please inform me whether or not is a barbed wire fence (without boards or anything at bottom or on top) a lawful fence to have for a dividing line fence between neighbors' farms? A SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—It depends upon the local municipal by-laws. See the clerk of the municipality.

PATENTS.

Can you tell me, through your valuable paper, where I can get information regarding the patenting of small articles? W. ORRIS.

Ans.—Write the Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa (Patents Branch), which you can do free of postage, and you will be furnished the information desired.

A MONTH'S DAYS.

You have stated that a man hired by the month, or for a month, puts in from date to date. One of our local lawyers disputed this, and says 26 working days is a month. Kindly give your authority for your statement. J. W. B.

Ans.—There is ample authority for the statement. The word "month," where it occurs in Ontario Statutes, must by virtue of The Interpretation Act (R. S. O., C. 1, sec. 8, s. s. 15) be taken to mean a calendar month, and such interpretation has been judicially adopted in construing contracts. Such month may contain more or less than 26 working days. By express contract, or reference to well-established custom of trade or of a locality, a "month" may in some instances be otherwise construed. But ordinarily, although at common law it generally means a lunar month, in mercantile contracts it is understood to mean a calendar month; and the court will look at the context in all cases to see whether a calendar month was not intended, and if so, will adopt that construction. See Benjamin on Sales, 2nd ed., 562.

WANTS OX-EYE DAISY KILLED—ADVISABILITY OF BUILDING A SILO. AND ITS SIZE.

1. On a farm which I bought there grows a great deal of ox-eye daisy. How am I to get rid of it? Would it be a good plan to sow buckwheat on some of the land in the spring, plow it down in June and sow rape on for pasture?

2. Would it be advisable to sow five acres of corn and build a silo on the place for the purpose of feeding cattle?

3. What size of silo would hold five acres of corn, supposing it were an average crop? SUBSCRIBER.

Wellington Co., Ont.

Ans.—1. It requires thorough and persistent cultivation to rid land of ox-eye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*) once it gains a strong foothold. This is due to the fact that the plant is a perennial and produces many seeds, a high percentage of which may remain in the soil for some time ungerminated. The best method of procedure against the pest is to plow shallow after harvest, and keep the surface well harrowed or cultivated until late in the fall, thereby sprouting and killing large numbers of seeds, after which the surface should be ridged so as to leave a large area exposed to the sun and frost during winter. The following season some crop such as corn, roots or rape should be sown in drills, so as to admit of frequent intertillage and prevent the propagation and seeding of any plants. The next year a grain crop may be tried, and as the daisy does not grow from the seed and reproduce in one season, early plowing and treating after harvest, as prescribed for the first year, will destroy another generation. After that another grain crop may be sown, and grass and clover seed may be introduced with reasonable hope of being able to remove all future plants in a short time by hand.

Sowing and plowing down buckwheat and pasturing rape as mentioned is a good plan to smother the weed out, but it will clear the land no faster and is less economical than the method outlined.

2.—There is no food which admits of more economical feeding of cattle to-day than corn silage.

3. A round silo 12 feet in diameter and 28 feet high, or one 14 feet in diameter and 23 feet high, would hold the corn from five acres, provided the corn did not materially exceed twelve tons per acre.

HOUSE FLY AND WORN FLY—RAM'S HORN.

1. Is the house fly and the one that bites cattle one and the same fly? 2. Is there a paper published called "The Ram's Horn," and where? J. D. FREEMAN.

Ans.—1. No. The former is *Musca domestica*, and the latter *Haematobia serrata*, or the Texas horn fly. 2. Yes; in Chicago, Ill.

RABBITS WANTED.

Would you give me the address of any person who sells rabbits. F. R. Griswold.

Our advertising columns are open to rabbit breeders. Our young people are now wanting pets.