

THE following remarks on the TREATMENT OF CATTLE are from a correspondent:—Do not leave your cattle out in pasture during summer. Why? Because, in the first place, it is injurious to them. The hot sun, the rain, and the cold dews, every person should know, are anything but good for them. Travelling over bare pastures, tormented by flies, oppressed by a burning sun, with no shelter, no pure water probably within reach to quench their thirst, how can they live with comfort to themselves or profit to their owners? Then think of the manure that is lost to the farmer,—a strong point in our argument. Think of the trouble of "lost" or "straying" cattle, that give so much vexation, inconvenience, annoyance and trouble to the farmer and stock-raiser. Keep them inside and be relieved from all that trouble. Then again, you are relieved from the necessity—and a most injurious as well as disagreeable one it is—of driving them home hastily, or worrying them when their udders are full. It has been declared that there is no milk secreted in the udder of the cow, unless she is chewing the cud or at rest. In stabling cattle, therefore, be particular regarding their comfort and convenience, keep them clean, feed them plentifully with the best of food regularly and punctually, let them always have pure water to drink, treat them kindly and gently, never abusing or using them roughly. In your accommodations for them, let your stables have plenty light; let them be thoroughly ventilated; in winter and cold weather keep them warm, but by all means keep them clean.

A COMMUNICATION ON PRICKLY COMFREY and SUGAR BEET is unfortunately too long for our columns, but we cheerfully print a portion:—Anything that is good, that nourishes, makes strong, produces good milk, and makes fine beef, is desirable food for cattle. Roots alone are inadequate. Cut hay and straw are good, but that is not enough. Turnips are good, and mangolds, but turnips all the winter will not make firm beef. Cabbages, beets, potatoes, etc., are good in their season. In order to raise and keep cattle, it is desirable that we should have an abundance of the best and most nutritious food, therefore it is our interest to cultivate such vegetables as will supply it.

The Prickly Comfrey is a most wonderful plant, discovered in modern times, and one of the most useful and important to farmers. It is first-rate to either feed or fatten horses, cattle, pigs and poultry. What would make it very important to farmers in Nova Scotia is, that it is such an excellent food for milch cows, and so good a substitute for the best pasture. In this Province, especially in settlements

where good land is scarce and valuable, much land that might be bearing crops has to be laid out in pasture. This plant is better than the best pasture. Milch cows fed on it give more milk and richer than when supplied with the best clover or timothy, either green or dry. A quarter of an acre can be easily made to raise as much of this valuable plant as will feed two milch cows for 120 days with 400 lbs green food per day. One acre laid out in this plant can produce 100 tons of green feed each summer, or 16 tons dried for winter use. The reasons why there is such a great yield from this plant are the following: There is an immense amount of roots running down deeply into the ground, even from 18 inches to 3 feet, according to the nature of the soil. The great mass of tops is cut level with the ground and gathered from four to six or even eight times each season. After each crop of tops is cut, the large amount of roots underneath the ground very rapidly forces up shoots and leaves again, forming another supply to take the place of the former. All vegetables with big leaves draw largely from the air in their composition and formation. The roots are so deep in the ground that this plant is never affected by a dry season. Like the rhubarb, it is never required to be replanted, but once put in the ground it remains year after year without further trouble, except that the soil be top-dressed with manure once a year. Of course the more manure the greater the yield. It is the first to grow in the spring and the last in the fall. It was discovered as a native of the Caucasus Mountains, and can withstand the coldest climate.

[Cultivators must observe that if these extraordinary results are to be obtained from Comfrey, it must be supplied with a corresponding application of manure, if the roots are to run down three feet the plough must go down there first, and if it is to grow like rhubarb it must be put like rhubarb in a rich garden soil.—Ed. J. A.]

We like our correspondent's remarks on SUGAR BEET better than those on Comfrey, not that Comfrey culture is to be discouraged, for we believe it to be a valuable plant in its proper place as an aid in the summer soiling of cattle, but Comfrey must be grown with discretion, where the soil is suitable. Sugar Beet, on the other hand, can be grown in any soil by common culture, and common or artificial manure:—

We trust that our friends will not forget to make preparations necessary for the cultivation of the Sugar Beet next spring. It is needless to say that this plant will be of great importance to the farmers of this Province, both to save

money and to make money. From Report of Select Committee on Immigration, &c., in 1878, we get some information. Mr. Ed. A. Barnard, who was sent to Europe to specially study the growth of this beet, says that Canadian beets, on the average, are richer than those of France or Belgium, and that the returns per acre are so extraordinary, that if our returns were not official, the best authorities in Europe would hardly believe it. The return was from soil that was not very well cultivated—for, unfortunately, many of our farmers are not very good agriculturists, yet the yield was from 20 to 25 tons per acre of sugar beets, while in Europe the average is from 10 to 15 tons.

'Do you consider the climate and soil of the Dominion favorable to the growth of the beet root, and would its manufacture into sugar be a profitable investment for capitalists?'

'I do, most positively; the more so since one of the best authorities in the world, Mr. Walkhoff, a gentleman living in Russia, who has written an important work on the manufacturing of beet sugar, which will be found in the Library, has stated that the yield of beets in Canada, in quantity and in quality, is something extraordinary. The yield, he stated, was so enormous that, if such results were generally realized, the production of beet sugar in Canada would be more to that country than the finding of a rich mine of any precious metal. Similar encouragement comes from several specialists in Europe.'

'Is it not true that the head of the beet coming above the surface is depreciated in quality?'

'Yes; it is best to grow them entirely below ground.'

'How far apart, on an average, did the beets stand in the rows?'

'Not farther apart than eighteen inches between the rows and seven inches between the beets. I advised our farmers to sow from fifteen to sixteen pounds of seed to the acre, in order that the plants might grow quick and thick, and save all risk of large blanks requiring transplantation.'

A glorious future is before the Province—a future that the farmers and gardeners are more or less interested in. Let our farmers cultivate every acre of cleared land they possess. Cultivate thoroughly, manure most liberally, and endeavor by all possible means to raise good crops. Let the land heretofore used as pasture be devoted to the cultivation of the Prickly Comfrey and Sugar Beet. Hear the testimony of Messrs. Biggan and Cowan, English agricultural delegates, interviewed by a *Herald* reporter:

Q "What do you think of what you have seen of Nova Scotia?"

A. "It is very good, but you have