

**PROBABLY INFLUENZA IN COLT.**

A colt, which came the last of May, has been on pasture with the mother for a month, with access to spring water at will, and has been healthy from the start. I have just noticed, however, that the hind legs, including the knees, are swollen quite large, and it moves about like an old horse with puffed legs. I think the front legs are also a little swollen, but very little. Kindly let me know what is the trouble; if it is serious, and what can be done for it?

Hastings Co., Ont. J. S. MCGURN.

Ans.—It is probable your colt has influenza, a disease that is quite common in some sections. In many cases the legs swell and the joints become sore. Of course, the swelling may be from other causes, but, from symptoms given, I think not. Keep mare and colt in the stable during the day, and protect from flies by darkening the stall. Feed the mare new hay or grass and a liberal supply of chopped oats and bran. Encourage the colt to eat by arranging a feed box at the proper height. Put 20 grains chlorate of potash on a teaspoon, catch the colt's tongue in left hand, insert the spoon in the mouth with right hand and upset the spoon well back on the tongue. Give this dose three times daily. Do not attempt to drench. As long as the colt will take nourishment you need not be alarmed; if it refuses to do so, you had better employ professional assistance. If the weather be fine, turn them out at night, but do not leave out in a rain storm or cold.

J. H. REED, V. S.

ground clean, all stacks of corn which are infected should be removed and destroyed before the smut balls burst open and begin dropping their spores. Again, the spores may be distributed by cows if they are allowed to eat corn infested with smut, for the droppings will contain living spores, which will go on reproducing in the semi-solid medium. As a matter of fact, it is generally believed that the main source of infection of the young corn plant is manure containing smut spores. On this account it is advisable to use only thoroughly rotted manure for corn crops.

2. Regarding treatment for seed corn before planting, there is considerable difference of opinion. Some authorities claim that soaking the seed in bluestone assists in preventing infection, but there are many cases on record where such treatment was valueless. However, if it is true that corn smut spores in the ground infect young corn plants, then it is also natural to assume that smut spores attached to seed corn when planted will infect the young plants. A strong solution of bluestone, 25 pounds in 25 or 30 gallons of water, may be used to kill the attached spores. This solution may be sprinkled on the corn so that every grain is thoroughly wet. A solution of formalin, 1 pound in 30 or 40 gallons of water, may be similarly used. Probably the latter treatment is the better one.

W. LOCHHEAD.

Ontario Agricultural College.

**GEESSE BREEDING FOR PROFIT.**

I have two pure-bred Embden geese. Which would be more profitable, to mate them with a

**CLOVER SEED CROP—BEST FARM PAPER ON EARTH.**

This is my first year as a subscriber to the best farm paper in the world, and I am very much pleased with it. I will try and procure some more subscribers for you. What yield of seed should I get per acre from the second crop of clover which would cut 1½ tons per acre, and what condition should it be in when fit to cut to thresh?

J. R. GREEN.

Leeds Co., Ont.

Ans.—In harvesting, some use an old self-rake reaper set low, and others a mower with small table attached to the cutting-bar, an extra man following to pull off in bundles with fork or rake. Unless of fairly good length, the clover is difficult to gather left in the ordinary mower swath, though many harvest it that way. Take in when dry.

The yield will depend on the number of well-filled heads evenly ripened. A first-rate crop in these respects should yield you four bushels per acre, though it is quite possible to have a heavy growth of stalk (fodder) and a smaller return in clover seed. At least two thirds of the heads should be turned brown before cutting, but it is not advisable to wait for the later ones to ripen, as they are frequently smaller, and the earlier-matured heads being overripe, there would be loss from shelling.

**CHEAP SHEEP HOUSE.**

A friend of mine is going into sheep-breeding, and purposes to keep two or three hundred. Can you give me, through your paper, an idea of the most approved kind of pens, feeding racks, etc.? I would be obliged if you could help me in this way.

C. P. BLANCHARD.

Colchester Co., N. S.

Ans.—A fair description of a cheap sheep house was given in the May 1st issue of the "Advocate," page 308, and the plan of a more expensive one, the main features of which could to some extent be adapted to a cheaper structure, was given in the April 1st issue, page 222. A location sufficiently high that the water will run off in all directions should, if at all convenient, be chosen, and a hard earth floor is as good as any. A shed built with posts and poles, and covered with board and battened roof and sides, would perhaps be the cheapest for the present and for a short term of years, and may be made to answer the purpose very well, but a cheap, light frame, with shingled roof and stone foundation, will look better and last longer.

**GRASSES FOR PERMANENT PASTURE.**

What kind of grasses are the best to sow for permanent pasture?

A SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—It is well to have a mixture that will give variety, as well as a thick sward. In all mixtures we find clover and timothy suitable especially to depend on the next year after seeding. Other varieties should also be sown to fill in later. We recommend timothy, 3 lbs.; red clover, 2 lbs.; blue grass, 6 lbs.; red-top, 4 lbs., and white Dutch clover, 1 pound, per acre. This will do best sown without nurse crop on well-prepared, rich land, free from weeds. When the crop is 9 inches high the mower should be run over to cut down any stray weeds and make a mulch to protect the roots.

**SUITABLE SOIL FOR CRANBERRIES.**

I have on my farm about an acre of land that is too wet for ordinary crops. Water lies upon the surface up to about midsummer, and cannot be conveniently drained. The soil is black and swampy in nature. Would it be suitable for growing cranberries? What class of soil and what method of cultivation do their require?

ENQUIRER.

Durham Co.

Ans.—In reply to your correspondent's enquiry as to the suitability of his soil for cranberry culture, I may say that a muck soil in which there is considerable proportion of coarse sand is the best for cranberry culture, providing there is sufficient moisture. From the description of his soil, I should think that cranberries might be grown successfully in it, but I would advise him to go into the business on a small scale at first, until he learns what his soil will produce and also gains experience. A good book on the subject of cranberry-growing is "Cranberry Culture," by J. J. White, published by the Orange Judd Co., New York (price, \$1.25), which he would do well to read beforehand.

W. T. MACOUN, Horticulturist.

NOTE.—The FARMER'S ADVOCATE can supply "Cranberry Culture" at the regular retail price.—Ed. F. A.

**PIGWEEED.**

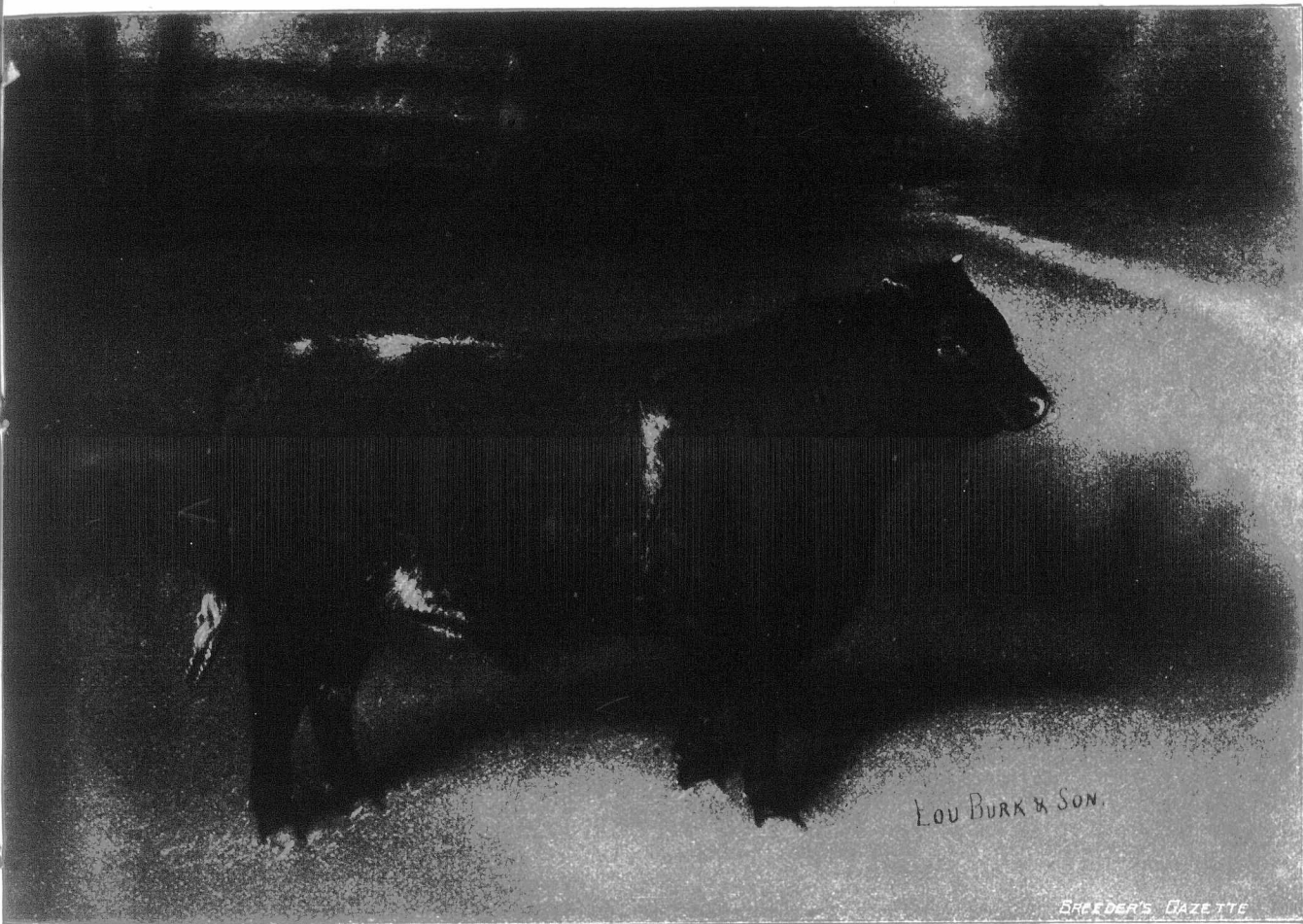
I enclose to you a very troublesome weed which I would like to know how best to get out of the land and what it is? Pigs seem to be very fond of it. Whether eating too much of it would hurt them I do not know. Thanking you for past information.

Northumberland Co.

HARVIE DOAK.

Ans.—The plant enclosed is *Amaranthus retroflexus*. Farmers call it pigweed. It is an annual, free-seeding plant, and easily subdued with a hoed crop. We are not aware that it has any injurious properties that will affect the pigs eating it.

W. T. MACOUN.



**IMPORTED SHORTHORN BULL, WANDERER'S LAST 158478.**  
IN SERVICE IN THE HERD OF CAPT. T. E. ROBSON, M. P. P., ILBERTON, ONTARIO.

**Miscellaneous.**

**TREATMENT OF CORN SMUT.**

The reading of Prof. Lochhead's valuable letter regarding grain rusts, in your issue of August 15th, leads me to ask: First—If there is not danger to the next crop of other grains from corn smut, which I find is very prevalent in my field this season, if the bunches are allowed to fall upon the ground? Will these spores infect other grain in that way, and if so, what disposal should be made of the smut balls? Second—In planting corn next season, should not the seed be bluestoned, and how strong may it be applied, and how, or is there any better remedy?

W. S. Middlesex Co., Ont.

Ans.—There is no danger whatever to the crop of grain following corn infested with corn smut, for the smuts which damage wheat, oats or barley are distinct from it, and cannot possibly reproduce it. One might just as well expect to get a crop of white clover from sowing purple clover seed. The smut of wheat will not affect oats or barley or corn; neither will the smut of oats affect wheat or barley or corn. Each of these smuts is a distinct species, as we say, and the general biological law that "like produces like" holds true here as with the higher plants and animals. Care should be taken, however, to keep the ground from becoming filled with spores of corn smut, which may be done by preventing the smut balls from falling to the ground. Smut spores retain their vitality for several years, and are not readily destroyed by heat. To keep the

pure-bred Embden gander and sell the stock for breeding purposes, or mate them with a pure-bred African gander and raise the stock for the market?

SUBSCRIBER.

Wellington Co.

Ans.—An expert poultry judge assures us that the produce from a cross of the African gander and Embden goose is very satisfactory for market purposes, being hardy, vigorous growers. The Embden at maturity is about equal in size and weight with the African. If you have a first-class quality of Embden geese, and have reason to believe you can readily find buyers for breeding purposes, it would seem likely that there would be more money in keeping them pure, as you could at least sell part of them for breeding, and the remainder, if well handled, will bring about as much on the market as the cross-bred stock would. As a rule, when one has a good market variety of pure-breds, it is wise to keep them pure and to make judicious selections of males to improve the stock.

**BUCKTHORN.**

Enclosed you will find a sample of a tree I found on my farm. I do not know the name of it, and cannot get anyone to tell me what to call it.

Ans.—The shrub is the common buckthorn (*Rhamnus catharticus*). It makes one of the best hedges, being a rapid grower and firm. The fruit is sometimes used for medicinal purposes, as it makes a strong purgative.

Horticulturist, Ottawa.