

CANADA THISTLES AND THEIR EXTIRPATION.

Mr. John Ferguson, of Caldwell, Warren county, N. Y., called upon us and gave his experience in destroying Canada thistles. About thirty-five years ago there was a portion of a field on his farm that was completely covered with them. He cut them, and not one ever revived or grew again. Their complete extirpation impressed him that perhaps the time of their being cut, if known, might lead to an easy method of ridding farms of these pests. For many years past he has been cutting the thistles, and when cutting, mark them with the date when done, and observed whether they died. Every day in their season, save Sabbath, he has practiced this cutting, until he has determined, as he assures us, the dates covering the growth of the thistle, which if cut on these dates, will prove their destruction. For four years past he has cut them on certain dates, August 15th, 17th, 18th, 20th and 25th, and not one has lived. His reasoning as to their destruction is, that at this period the pith is not full in the stalk; that rain and moisture settle in the stalk and they rot to the root. He presented samples that were killed by observing this plan, and they evidence the action as described. The experiments have been confined to thistles over one year old.

Mr. Ferguson desires us to give this information publicity, that farmers may avail themselves of the advantage of his years of experiments, and he also desires that persons adopting his suggestions advise this department of the result of their experiments.—*Journal of the N. Y. State Agricultural Society.*

THE TEETH OF A HORSE AS AN INDICATION OF AGE.—At five years of age a horse has forty teeth—twenty-four molar or jaws teeth, twelve incisors or front teeth, between the molars and incisors; but usually wanting in the mare.

At birth only two nippers or middle incisors appear.

At a year old, the incisors are all visible on the first or milk set.

Before three years, the permanent nippers have come through.

At four years old, the permanent dividers next to the nippers are cut.

At five, the mouth is perfect, the second set of teeth having been completed.

At six, the hollow under the upper, called the mark, has disappeared from the nippers, and diminished in the dividers.

At seven, the mark has disappeared from the dividers, and the next teeth or corners are level, though showing the mark.

At eight, the mark has gone from the corners, and the horse is said to be aged. After this time—indeed good authorities say that after five years—the age of the

horse can only be conjectured. But the teeth gradually change their form, the incisors becoming round, oval and triangular.—Ex.

Communications.

To the Editor of the Farmer's Advocate.

PLOUGHING.

Lambton, June 1868.

MR. EDITOR—After reading with the greatest of pleasure, a short account of the recent great ploughing match near Whitby, it occurred to me, by the number of spectators present, that the general community took interest in it, and I am aware, Mr. Editor, that there is many of my brother ploughmen and farmers that take no part in such interesting occasions when they ought to be active supporters of them. One reason why some of them don't take part, is, that they think they are not posted enough in ploughing to be able to compete. Others think, if it is turned upside down, in the most careless manner possible, it will grow as good crops, as if done by the most competent ploughman, which I am happy to say is a great mistake. I will then through the columns of your valuable paper make a few remarks on ploughing, for the benefit of your readers that are not well posted in that noble art. Ploughing that appears good to the eye, is often inferior when examined, to that which wants the showy appearance; but nevertheless is most profitable to the farmer. In good ploughing, every furrow should be cut clean, well turned, firmly put together, no holes to gobble up the seed, the furrows of uniform size and squarely proportioned when turned, with a good corner for the harrows to take hold of. The open or dead furrows, must be neat and no wider than the plough that turns them, and last, it ought to be straight. I class this last; as the other parts are of more importance to the farmer, but the finest work, if not straight wants the admired and masterly appearance it ought to have. I will now give you my method of ploughing a ridge, or land, whichever you may call it, at ploughing matches and which has proved best in my experience. We will suppose ourselves at the end of a field, with plough and team ready to go up the dead furrow we are to begin in, see that the coulter of the plough is down, touching the point or share, this cuts the light furrows clean and they go to their proper place better. I have had them come (greatly to my annoyance) on the wrong side of the plough, by having the coulter open or away from the point, they must be cut very light according to the depth of the furrow you begin in. They are for the purpose of holding the two first heavy furrows at a proper level with the other parts of the ridge; care must be taken that you don't

put them too far apart, as the lower edges of the first heavy furrows should just meet and by putting them too near each other, you can't cut the first heavy furrows the proper size, for they will lap, a bad fault. Now for the first heavy furrows; put your off hand, or furrow horse, in the last made little furrow, let them a little further apart than they generally are, this gives you a chance of seeing the shortest way to the opposite end, a route that all ploughmen should take. Take up your coulter half an inch from the joint, and give your plough more land throughout the draught on the beam, start, letting your plough lean well towards the land side, which keeps the furrow from breaking in lengths, as it is apt to do next furrow. Put your horses to their proper width give your plough the same lean as with the last furrow and make the lower edges of the furrows touch lightly, not too close. The third and fourth heavy furrows are often the most difficult part of the work, and a good plough will show its qualities at once; the furrows must correspond exactly; if your plough does not put it properly together, cut the furrow an inch wider than you intended, it will help you some, and if you are expert you can easily make the next correspond, as your plough will be more on its sole, and with a light pressure you can put it in the proper place. Go ahead! Be sure that you divide your land properly into furrows before you get within three or four of the finish, have no guess work about it, but know by measurement what you are doing, the last four furrows should be lighter than the others, beginning with very little difference. If the last should only be half the width you can manage, but if the others are reduced much it becomes visible and you will likely loose by it. In turning your last green furrow let the plough run an inch or two to the land side of it and one inch deeper and leaning to the land side; don't go right beneath it and lift it away to one side, but keep your plough as much to the land side of it as will just turn it without throwing it off. If your plough is bad at turning it, or if the furrow is extremely narrow as will sometimes happen with unpracticed hands, in place of turning it, give your plough land on the beam and let it run up the furrow to the land side of it, the land side of your plough touching the lower edge of the turned furrow and lift an inch of earth out of the bottom of it, at the same time leaning your plough well to the land side, your horses are where they would be, if turning the green furrow, and the little earth you lift is thrown to the side of the green furrow; this makes a bed for it that you can turn it into no matter what shape it is and will look as it ought to, in fact it will almost turn over into it of itself and wont rise readily. Now for the finish, take off your point and put on a sharp