

Correspondence.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for all articles that appear under this department.]

ARTIFICIAL MANURE — SUPERPHOSPHATE.—Knowing that you feel a great interest in all matters connected with the advancement of agriculture, I send you my experience in the use of artificial manures—a subject which I think will not be uninteresting to your readers. I rented the farm which I occupied last year, as is the usual custom in England. I was much pleased with the superphosphates and the bone meal I had from the Brockville Chemical and Superphosphate Works last year. These articles gave me good satisfaction. I have had large experience in England in using artificial manures; have used as much as 15 tons in a year; have used G. B. Larvi's manures and dissolved bones, and also guano, and I find the Brockville Chemical Works manures as good as I ever used during an experience of 30 years. I look upon them as being equal to Peruvian guano. On carrots and turnips I took two of the best prizes in the county; of the former I had 800 bushels, and of the latter 900 to the acre. These were grown on broken-up green sod that did not formerly cut 1,000 lbs. of hay to the acre. I planted 40 rods with Early Rose potatoes, and used 100 lbs. of superphosphate on same; I had 100 bushels (equal to 400 bushels to the acre). These were a beautiful sample of large, sound potatoes; not one was rotten. I tried barn-yard manure and superphosphate side by side on a crop of oats, and I found the superphosphate to be the best. I used last season of artificial manures, on my coarse root crops, only 300 lbs. to the acre. The coming season I intend to use 500 lbs., as they do in England. I intend to purchase a large supply of artificial manures to use next season, as I intend to use them largely on roots and other crops. I have a machine which I have had made after an English patent, which sows the turnip (or other seed) with the superphosphate. The machine, with one man, a boy and a horse, will drill in six acres in a day. I am sure if this machine were known it would be found to be of great service in Canada.

JOHN DYMOND, East Dunham, P. Q.

CANADA FOR CANADIAN CATTLE—IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE.—The exclusion of stock registered in the Canadian Herd Book from the Centennial Exhibition is only another instance of the unfriendly and exclusive spirit in which Canadians have always been treated by the American authorities. When they could not refuse to admit our lobsters free of duty, they took advantage of an accidental omission in the fishery clauses of the Washington Treaty, and levied a duty on the tin cans in which the lobsters were packed. Our merchants and millers are allowed to import wheat and flour duty free, whenever a difference of price makes such importation profitable whilst a heavy duty is levied on our exports. We want no American cattle imported into Canada. We can raise enough cattle and sheep to consume our own root crops and coarse grains, if we can only obtain a good price for them—not only for our own use, but also to supply the English market, and for this reason no American cattle—Texan cattle especially—should be suffered to pass through Canada, not even for exportation to England; but I fear our Governments, both Dominion and Local, think more of obliging the great railway companies than of assisting our farmers in building up a prosperous future empire. The late Emperor, Napoleon III, rightly observed that "agriculture was the foundation of national prosperity, and that on its success or failure depends the rise and fall of Empires." What caused the rapid decay of the great Empires of the Old World, the Babylonian, the Assyrian, the Grecian and Roman Empires, but that they were military powers only. They were engaged in continual wars, so that the husbandman could never be sure that he should reap what he had sown, and consequently paid little attention to his business. To the destruction of life caused by continual wars add the frequent and extensive famines, caused by neglect of agriculture, and you have ample cause to account for the effect produced. Agriculture demands and will always receive encouragement from a truly wise and paternal Government. I have noticed that several failures have occurred amongst the Granger stores on the Pacific slope. This only confirms the opinion which I have repeatedly expressed, that co-operative stores are never likely to be beneficial to farmers, and I hope our Canadian Grangers will

take warning by the errors of their Californian brethren, and not meddle with speculation in any shape or form. Meantime, I am glad to find that their numbers are fast increasing, and if they faithfully act up to their principles, they cannot fail to produce an enlightened spirit and more intelligence amongst our farmers, who, taking them in the mass, are their own worst enemies, in too many cases driving their sons away from home by hard work and hard living, and hoarding up their money in banks, with the risk of loss if a panic should occur, instead of investing it in improving their farms, in under-draining, wherever necessary, and the judicious use of artificial manures, thereby increasing the quantity of available produce, and consequently profit, and making home what a farmer's home ought always to be—attractive in its surroundings and comfortable within, so that when the children come to be settled in life they may still have pleasant memories of the spot where their early years were spent; or else our farms will be continually changing hands, instead of remaining, as they might do, in one family for successive generations.

SARAWAK.

STUMP EXTRACTION.—I have been informed that by boring holes in the stumps of trees and filling said holes with saltpetre, and then plugging the holes tight up again, the stumps will decay and rot in 12 months' time. Have any of your correspondents ever tried this plan, and is it effectual? I should also like to be favored with any information likely to be useful with regard to the speedy extraction of stumps, and also in regard to stump machines—especially the least expensive.

J. B. PICTON, Port Carling, Ont.

[We have somewhere seen a statement that saltpetre put in holes in a stump will cause it to rot in a short time, and some time afterwards we read a contradiction of it in an agricultural journal. In a late number of the ADVOCATE we gave, in reply to the query of a correspondent, two methods for getting rid of stumps, both of them strongly recommended. A writer in a Southern agricultural paper recommends another method—boring an auger hole in the root of the stump beneath the surface, bared for the purpose, and then setting fire to the root; the hole made acting as a flue, the stump, it is said, will burn out freely and entirely.—Ed.]

RAPE SOWING.—Will you inform me through your next number when is the best time to sow rape, how much it will take per acre, what is the best way to sow, if it is as good for milking cows as for sheep, and what is the best way to feed it off? We wish to sow about five acres. You will oblige by giving the fullest information at your disposal. Also, the price of seed, and where I can get the best. I want to put it into wheat next fall.

H. BEST, Dearham, Ont.

[Rape is as good for feeding milch cows as for sheep. It is extensively sown in Europe, and mowed for soiling for horned stock as well as for sheep pasture. We have sown it in large quantities for both purposes, and also as a crop to be harvested for the seed; and in every instance we found it fairly remunerative. We prepared the ground as we would for turnips, and sowed the seed in June. Grass and clover seeds we always found to do well when sowed with it. Sheep preparing for the butcher for the Christmas markets thrived and fattened well on it. For soiling we fed it to cattle late in October and through November. We found it very serviceable at that season, especially for milch cows, when other soiling was getting to be scarce and turnip-feeding had not commenced. It may be sown broadcast and harrowed, or drilled—the method generally practiced now. A few pounds of seed per acre—little more than of turnip seed—are enough.—Ed.]

PLOW FOR NEW LAND.—Would you please inform me through your valuable ADVOCATE, whether you consider a metal or a wooden beamed plow the most durable for new land? Also, what size harrow is best for the same? Any information or recommendation will be thankfully received.

T. A. ROTHWELL, Colpoys Bay.

[We would prefer the wooden beam to the iron beam plow for new soil, and a V harrow with teeth standing backwards. In new soil that is newly cleared, there is not the same necessity for thorough plowing and tilling as on land some time under cultivation, the surface soil being, in great part, vegetable mould, formed from decayed leaves, needs to be stirred a little—enough to get the mould to cover the seed.]

NEW SEEDS, &c.—I am going to tell my last year's experience of new seeds, &c., of potatoes. I planted the Snowflake, Brownell's Beauty, Compton's Surprise and Green's Seedling, the latter a long, red variety with large tops, hardy, white fleshed and well flavored. Of these, for our swale land, Green's Seedling stands first, Snowflake second. I am not sure that I have the genuine Brownell's Beauty, as they look very like Garnet Chilies. I shall, however, try them again, as I find potatoes can look very much alike and yet be different, as I found out, too late, about the Early Vermont. Compton's Surprise is, I have no doubt, a good keeping potato, but they grow too small to suit me. I think the Climax a better keeping potato and a better yielder. We have the good fortune to be free from bugs here. Of wheat, I sowed only the Golden Globe or Red Fern. It succeeded well on our land. It requires early sowing, is hardy, stands up well to harvest, and makes splendid flour. The heads are very long; one raised by Mr. James Gibson, of this township, contained ninety-eight grains, all plump and good, even to the "top pickle." Our greatest difficulty in this part of the country is in seeding down. I have nothing to say about it except that every plan that I have ever tried has very often failed. I am now trying the plan of seeding to timothy, in November or December, on the frozen ground; and, even if it succeeds this time, I shan't be sure that it would again. Clover is more apt to grow than timothy, and, on that account, I sow clover of some kind everywhere I seed down. Unfortunately, red clover is very liable to kill out in the winter, while the Alsike clover seldom does so; and, if sown in low land favorable to it, it will increase until it takes possession of the ground—seeding itself. My plan is to sow a mixture of 2 lbs. of Alsike, 5 lbs. of red and 15 lbs. of timothy on an acre of clay land, the object being to have the Alsike to take the place of the red clover when it dies out, which it does often in a year or two. In our swales I sow a mixture of 2 lbs. of Alsike to 15 lbs. of timothy. This does well, when the timothy grows; but Alsike does not do without a good mixture of timothy to support it, otherwise it will lay down, and cannot be cut cleanly. The latter mixture makes the best of hay; the grass and clover are fit to cut at the same time.

Why is it, that while we in Canada are nearly all farmers, we allow our legislators to make laws which are unjust to the farmer?—that we allow them to encourage rings and monopolies at our expense, placing protective duties on industries that do not need them, such as coal oil refineries, &c., retarding the settlement of the country by their niggardly action to the poor settlers in so called "free grants," in withholding from them the timber growing on the land, thereby, in many cases, making it a worse than useless gift?

Wolf Island, Feb. 7, 1876.

S. GOING.

[Mr. Going's communication on hay and harvesting we have reserved for the future. He sends us a bouquet of clover from his hay-mow, remarkably well preserved and fragrant.]

BOHEMIAN OATS.—We have heard a good deal of blowing about Bohemian Oats. The greater the humbug, the more wind it takes to blow it on the market. A number of my neighbors grew them last season. One sowed 25 bushels, for which he paid \$250, on about 20 acres of good land, and reaped about 300 bushels, and I am sure he could not sell the lot in the neighborhood for the money he paid for the seed. Another sowed 10 bushels on 10 acres, and had about 110 bushels. Others might be mentioned, some perhaps getting more and others less per acre. Now, the common oats yielded on an average last season, in this section, about 50 bushels per acre, or 4 bushels for 1 of the Bohemian's, and allowing them to weigh 50 lbs. to the bushel, they would not be worth more than a bushel of corn or peas would be for feed, and 4 bushels, or 136 lbs., of common oats at the present low price would be worth about as many cents. Now, from the above facts every one can draw his own conclusion. But the most that I can make out of it is that Bohemian Oats will soon be a thing of the past, and I am sure that even the coming season there will be very few, if any, sown in this section. In fact, those who have them would be glad to dispose of their stock at a price that would fairly remunerate them for their outlay. For my own part, I would not sow them if the seed was furnished for nothing, and therefore many others of the same opinion. The above is written in good faith, that it may be the means of saving hundreds of dollars to honest farmers.

Abingdon P. O., Ont.

JOHN JACKSON.

ORCHARD very highly, future. W grain from B wheat the b and two kind names of the also have so brought from earlier than several kind mangel wur account at a superior to v chard Grass caught very the wheat a think it wil Are carrots best feed fo ours have fa

Brampton

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