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RURAL NOTES.

The best results with grain or oil-cake, are obtained when they are mixed with straw, chaff, or turnips. Roots and green fodder again produce the most paying results when mixed with dry food.

In case of an animal being choked with a potato or small turnip lodged in its throat, a simple remedy is to administer a little oil or salt and then work the obstacle up or down by pressure on the outside.

The outlet of an underdrain should be of the best quality of tile, and firmly set in stone or bricks. A covering of evergreen boughs, or boards and straw, will prevent the effects of freezing and thawing in winter.

In order to take advantage of our remarkable clubbing offer, subscribers in arrears are expected to send on arrears as well as the combination price for 1885. Do this at once and so get the full number of *RURALS* for next year.

The idea of loaning money at a low rate of interest, for the purpose of enabling farmers to carry on the work of underdraining, did not originate with the Legislature of Ontario. The plan was tried in England many years ago, and in every instance the loans were repaid.

This season again the clover midge has been very destructive to the seed crop, and a large quantity of seed will necessarily have to be imported. Where farmers grazed their clover until the beginning or middle of June and then left the crop to grow, the midge was found to do little or no harm to the seed crop.

Of course no intelligent farmer will dream of putting fat on his breeding ewes. Clean, bright straw with well cured cornstalks, make excellent fodder for the winter, but it is advisable to give a light feed of roots as the time of yearning approaches, to stimulate milk production and to make parturition less difficult. Their quarters should be dry and moderately warm.

In underdraining it is well to avoid laying drains near to elm or willow trees, as the roots of these trees are apt to enter and choke them. The willow is particularly bad in this respect, and being without beauty or value, its destruction does not involve much loss. Where, however, there is not much water in the soil a few willow trees answer of themselves the purpose of an underdrain.

At the Chicago Fat Stock Show the white steer Clarence Kirkvingston, of the Bow Park herd,

won the Shorthorn sweepstakes prize; also the grand sweepstakes for the best animal in the show, open only to winners of their respective classes, also the prize for the best carcass. This animal weighed 2,400 pounds, at 1,870, days, showing an average gain of 1.74 per day from his birth.

Don't let your subscription run out. Renew promptly. Our combination offers make this an easy matter on very favourable terms. *THE RURAL CANADIAN* and *The Canada Presbyterian* is only \$2 per annum; *THE RURAL CANADIAN* and the *Montreal Witness* \$1.25; and *THE RURAL CANADIAN* and *London Advertiser* at the extraordinary price of \$1.15. Take your choice and renew without delay.

The ailment of horses known as heaves is usually caused by the feeding of dusty and musty food, although in some cases it comes from indigestion, and in some it is inherited. Prevention is easier than cure, and with the thoughtful farmer prevention is a first consideration. Relief, however, may be afforded by feeding the affected animal with moistened food of a nutritious kind, keeping the system open and avoiding severe exertion.

We have been adding a large number of names to our list during the past month, and expect a regular rush during December. Our staff of clerks is large and experienced, but in spite of all efforts mistakes are sometimes made in our busy season. These we are always ready to correct when they are pointed out. But we wish to say to friends that the best remedy is to remit early and so help us to avoid the rush in the last week of December, which is quite unavoidable when so many put off renewing to the last moment.

FARMERS who are fattening sheep for market know that great care requires to be exercised in the manner of feeding. If the animals are thin in flesh it is never safe to put them on a heavy grain diet suddenly, it is better to begin with a very moderate allowance—say half a pound per day, morning and evening while they have still got the run of the fields, and if they begin to gain on this the allowance may be slowly increased. It is safer to feed oats than corn, as it is less heating, contains less oil, and is more bulky in proportion to weight.

Hon. H. G. Joly advises the planting of maple orchards on hill-sides, but instead of transplanting saplings from the forest he would collect seedlings as they may be found after the fall rains, and set them out in a garden for three or four years. By this time, he says, they will be fit to transplant, and they will soon overtake saplings,

of ten feet high, taken direct from the woods. A bare hill-side is often of no value for farming purposes—being difficult to work and yielding but a light crop of grain or grass, but if converted into a maple orchard the benefits are obvious.

It is reported that in consequence of the low price of wheat some of our Ontario farmers propose feeding it to their stock instead of sending it to market. An English farmer says that after the drop in wheat following the Crimean war, he fed it to horses and cattle rather than sell it for 36s per quarter. He ground it, boiled it, sprouted it, and even fed out large quantities of it whole; but the usual plan was to sprout it and then feed with chaff or roots. Horses fed on the wheat so prepared, fattened rapidly, but they required great attention. A little common nitre added to the water they drank was given with good effect once or twice a week.

WHEREVER infectious diseases break out, whether in the stable or the household, there should be a liberal use of disinfectants. Bleaching powder was formerly used for the purpose, but charcoal and carbolic acid are regarded as more efficacious. The latter, however, is more generally used than the former, no doubt because it is more easily procurable and because a very small quantity is effectual. Being a powerful drug it needs to be handled with care, for it is a deadly poison if taken internally; even the outward application is dangerous, as it rapidly cauterizes the fleshy tissues, and is absorbed by the pores of the skin. When used as a disinfectant it should be diluted with eighty or ninety per cent of water; or four ounces of the acid may be mixed with a pound of precipitated chalk or fine sand. In the latter form it makes a very valuable disinfecting powder.

In writing on the subject of shipping apples to England, Mr. Alex. McD. Allan, of Goderich, says in the November *Horticulturist*: "Give me a cargo of choice apples, leading varieties, such as Russets, Baldwins, Spies, King Tomkins County, R. I. Greenings, Ribston Pippin, Blenheim Pippin, Wagner, Ontario, Mann, etc., all well selected and packed, and I care not how the British market may be flooded with apples from other countries, I can sell at a paying figure, and am sure of a higher price than any other country can demand, because our apples, especially from the central and northern belt of Ontario, are superior in point of quality to any in the world, and British as well as other consumers are aware of this. To growers I say choose best leading varieties and plant more trees. Plant, plant, plant!" This thoroughly endorses the opinion on the same subject expressed in the November number of *THE RURAL*, and we could wish no better authority on such a subject than Mr. Allan.