

SIR.—Can you, through the ADVOCATE, inform me if there are any peas to be got that are proof against the pea bug; and if so, where they can be got and at what price? About a year ago I saw the Prussian Blue pea spoken of in the ADVOCATE as being bug-proof. We have a blue pea here—I do not know whether it is the Prussian Blue pea or not, but it is as bad with the bug as any other kind.

J. W., jr., Harlock, Ont.

[We know of no pea that is bug-proof, except the grass pea, which is very hard and small. It seems to be a variety of the vetch.]

SIR.—I had a four-year-old ox with a diseased tail, and I don't know what to make of it. The animal seemed well and healthy, but the tail commenced to dry up, all the flesh and blood disappeared, and it was working up by degrees towards the spine little by little, or a joint at a time. When it got within 3 or 4 inches of the spine, I took an axe and chopped the tail off just above the dead part. It did not seem to affect the ox at all, for he is as well now as ever. I saw a two-year-old heifer the same, but the tail was not cut off, and the animal died. If you could enlighten me as to the cause and remedy, I should be thankful.

J. F. V., Headingly, Manitoba.

[This malady is what is commonly known by old farmers as the "Hollow-horn," or "Wolf in the Tail." It affects cattle that are poor and have not sufficient blood to keep up a proper circulation. Its appearance on the end of the tail and in the marrow of the horn causes the flesh and bone to decay, and will kill the animal if not checked. The prevention is plenty of good food and good shelter. No beast properly attended will ever be affected by it. The cure may be accomplished by boring the horn, if the horn is affected, and putting on any substance that will irritate the numbed or decaying part. This will cause a flow of blood to that part, as nature sends its force and strength to any injured part to restore it. Pepper and vinegar are frequently poured into the horn when bored for this malady. When the disease is confined to the tail, splitting it open with a sharp knife and inserting a little salt is often resorted to with good effect. More generous feed and better shelter will almost always restore the beast to health.]

#### Guelph Christmas Show.

The annual Christmas fair and live stock show under the auspices of the Guelph Fat Stock Club, was a great success. The fair was very largely attended by buyers from all parts of Canada, from Montreal, Q., to Windsor, Ont. Many cattle were sold on the roads before arriving at the ground, and some of them the evening before the fair, so that many farmers had disposed of them before reaching the fair ground. Notwithstanding these early draughts on the fair, there were not less than 500 head of cattle on the grounds in the forenoon, the greater number in good condition, quite a number ranking as extras, and a number as medium. The demand was keen. Prices ranged from 4c. to 6½c., the latter price being paid for choice lots. One lot of 10 head, sold by Walter West, were said to be one of the best lots ever offered at a Guelph fair. They sold at 6½c. per lb., and one at 7c.

The cattle was the first class shown, and it was the one in which the greatest interest centered. The show was ahead of anything of the kind ever held in Guelph before. It consisted of six sub-classes, exclusive of that for the sweepstakes, and there were thirty entries in these. The competition was so close that in several instances the judges had the utmost difficulty to decide which animal was worthy of the prize. It was a difficult matter indeed in some cases to distinguish in favor of any beast. Animals which did not get a prize at all would have taken that position creditably at former shows in Guelph. Armstrong's steer was the best animal shown, and carried off the sweepstake. Messrs H. & I. Groff and Messrs J. & R. McQueen carried off a number of prizes, showing very superior animals, and Messrs Wm. Whitelaw, M. O. Connor and H. Young were also to the front as prize winners.

The following sheep were bought by Mr. E. B. Morgan: 3 Southdown wethers, bred and fed by Herbert Spencer, Brooklyn, Ont.; 4 wethers, of 260 lbs each, from John Evans, of Hespeler; 119 extra sheep, averaging 166 lbs., from Henry Croff, of Waterloo; 2 extra Oxford-down wethers from John Phin, of Hespeler; 50 very choice wethers, prize winners, from Alex. Brown, G. It.; and 2 extra wethers from John Hardy, of Winterbourne.

Five very fine cattle, raised on the farm of M. H. Cochrane, of Compton, were purchased by Roberts & Wilder as follows: One 2 year old steer of 1,990 lbs.; 1 Highland Scotch 2 year old, 1,330 lbs.; 1 four year old, 2,050 lbs., and 1 pair of oxen, 4,000 lbs. Mr. Fred Ritchings, of Rose Hill Farm, sold a pair of heifers at 5½c., a pair of steers at 5½c., a pair of heifers at 5½c. Roberts & Wilder had 150 cattle, and of these they sold 2 car loads at an average of \$25 and \$37 per head. Mr. Kinnear sold several cattle at 5c., 5½c. and 6c. Mr. Benallack had some fine cattle under exhibit. M. Laporte, Mildmay, had 19 cattle. He sold two milkers to N. Taillefer at \$65, and the balance to R. J. Hopper for a trifle under 4½c. per lb. Messrs. Daoust & Bros. purchased 17 cattle from Harry Gould at 5½c.; 48 hogs at 6½c.; 15 do same price; 2 extra calves for \$50; 4 fine sheep for \$50, and 25 lambs at \$6 each.

The following is the

#### PRIZE LIST.

With the exception of three, which are mentioned, every prize was awarded to Messrs. E. B. Morgan & Co. Where no names are given, therefore, it will be understood that these gentlemen were the successful exhibitors. Best carload of cattle for export, not less than 14 head—1st, \$100, given by Messrs. H. & A. Allan; 2nd, \$50, given by Mr. H. Redford; 3rd, \$25, given by Mr. Jas. McShane, M.P.P. The last was awarded to Messrs. Roberts & Wilder. Best five cattle—1st, \$40, given by Mr. M. H. Wells for Messrs. A. & F. Tiernan; 2nd, \$25, given by Mr. J. F. Reid for Messrs. Young & McQuade. This second prize was taken by Messrs. Roberts & Wilder. Best pair of oxen or steers—1st, \$50, given by Messrs. Jas. Nelson & Son, of Liverpool; 2nd, \$25, given by Messrs. James Pritchard & Co., of Bristol and London. The second prize also was awarded to Messrs. Roberts & Wilder. The above first prize was taken by two steers, one bred by Mr. J. & R. McQueen, of Elora, and the other by Mr. J. S. Armstrong, of Eramosa. Best carload of sheep, not less than 50—1st, \$50, given by Messrs. Thompson, Murray & Co.; 2nd, \$25, given by Messrs. John Hope & Co. Best fifteen sheep—1st, \$25, given by Mr. J. H. Smith for Messrs. J. Swan & Co.; 2nd, \$10. Best five sheep—1st, \$25, given by Mr. D. Shaw, agent of the London Temperley Line; 2nd, \$10.

#### SWEEPSTAKES.

Best cow, heifer or steer, of any age or breed—1st, \$50, given by Messrs. D. Terrance & Co., of the Dominion Line; 2nd, \$25, by Messrs. A. W. Ogilvie & Co. The first prize in this exhibit was taken by a steer bred by Mr. J. S. Armstrong, and the 2nd by a heifer bred by Mr. J. Evans, of Hespeler. Best 10 sheep—1st, \$20, given by Mr. C. H. Chandler for Messrs. R. Bobbitt & Co.; 2nd, \$10. The number of cattle exhibited was about 150.

#### Montreal Christmas Cattle Market.

At the new division of the Grand Trunk Railway stock yards the Christmas live stock market was held on Dec. 19. There was an exhibition of live stock intended for export, prizes being offered by many leading citizens. Many of the leading drovers of Ontario and the Eastern Townships were in attendance, as also many Montrealers interested in the breeding and exporting of live stock. Among the stock on the ground were a number of prize winners at Provincial Exhibitions. The principal transaction reported was the sale of 50 choice well-bred cattle and a fine lot of sheep, made by Messrs. Robt. Craig & Sons, of Brampton. The whole consignment was purchased for shipment by C. B. Morgan, of O-hawa, who paid from 5c. to 12c. per lb. live weight for the cattle, some fine beasts realizing as high as \$300 each. The finest steer in the market, a thoroughbred Durham 3-year old, was in this lot. It was raised by J. L. Armstrong, Eramosa, and weighed 2,500 lbs. Two other cattle from the same breeder were in the lot; also 3 gold-medal steers and one fine heifer raised by J. & R. McQueen, of Elora; 1 steer of 1,210 lbs., and 1 heifer of 1,500 lbs., raised by H. Watson, of Guelph; 1 steer of 2,000 lbs. bred by W. S. Armstrong, of Guelph; a heifer of 1,690 lbs., bred by J. Evans, of Hespeler; 2 oxen weighing 2 tons, bred by M. Kennedy, of Morriston; 2 steers of 3,000 lbs., bred by J. Russell, of Pickering, and 2 thoroughbred cows of 1,800 lbs. each, raised by J. M. Bell, of Pickering.

#### Culture of the Cherry.

It is a fact well known that the cherry tree is apt to crack in the body by the intense heat of summer. This is especially true of the large, sweet varieties. The Morello, of all kinds, does the same, to a less extent, however. The only plan known to me to avoid this "three o'clock scald," as it is termed by some, is to shade the trunk by an upright board or other thing, until the tree throws out branches enough to shade itself. If the limbs are allowed to grow low enough down on the body of the young tree, say from about a foot or two of the ground, they will shade the trunk sufficiently to prevent the cracking of the bark and consequently early decay and death.

Another thing fatal to the cherry tree especially, is the placing of strong, hot manure around the base of the trunk. I contend that no manure should be put on the surface near the tree, but after it is four or five years old the grass should be permitted to grow up close to it. I have found that manure so placed will, in a few years, kill or so injure the tree as to render it almost unfruitful. The limbs and smaller branches will die, the trunk rot and the fruit be knotty, small and otherwise quite tasteless and inferior. The cardinal points, then, to be observed in cultivating the cherry, are to have the trunk shaded in some manner, and after the fourth or fifth year from planting out let the grass grow close to the trunk, and never place strong manure on the surface near the body.

Treated in this way this most delightful fruit can be raised in great perfection and the tree will live to a "good old age." One other remark, and I will close. In planting the cherry place them in rows running east and west. This will throw the shade from one to the other at the fatal time of the day in summer (3 to 6 o'clock) and thus render artificial shadings less imperative. From the last of October to the middle of November is as good a time as any to put out all kinds of fruit trees, but they should be heavily mulched before freezing weather with leaves or straw, which should be removed in March following. Such is my experience, after twenty odd years of observation and trial.—Ex.

#### Hawaiian Geese.

The Hawaiian geese (*Bernicla sandvicensis*) which I brought over in the spring of 1878 have proved hardy, and I trust will prove reproductive. They were all sheltered and cared for last winter, and came through in good order. Both geese commenced laying in April; one laid three and the other four eggs, but only one showed a disposition to sit upon the eggs, and she, after attending to her business faithfully for ten days, tired of it and quitted the nest, so they produced no goslings. In the wild state they lay but two or three eggs, while in domestication they sometimes lay eight or ten (Mr. Rickwood, postmaster-general of the kingdom, who had them in domestication for many years, sometimes raised as many as ten in a brood). In domestication they seem to have strong attachments, and are fond of human society; one gander in particular has become very fond of me, and always greets me cordially, and will talk with me in a low soft plaintive tone so long as I will indulge the humour. They are less aquatic than the other geese. The foot is not more than half webbed. They take a bath scarcely once a day, and rarely remain in the water long. I once saw one with the tail under water, as we see a hen when forced to swim. Their native habitat are the high volcanic mountains in the Island of Hawaii, where they breed among the lava beds, depending upon the pools which they find among the rocks for water, never going down to the sea. They are of strong flight in the wild state, though in domestication they show little disposition to fly. Altogether, they are the most interesting water-fowl pair I have left. A few weeks ago I lost the other pair by a mink.—[JUDGE CATON, in American Naturalist.

WINTER FEED FOR A COW.—An excellent food for butter cows for winter consists of clover hay cut and mixed with two quarts of wheat middlings, three quarts of ground corn and oats (four parts corn and one of oats), and one quart of cotton-seed meal. This may be given at two feeds, one morning and one at night, with a feed of hay at noon. With this meal 15 pounds of hay per day will be required.