

Preparing Seed Grain.

SIR,—The most important step to be taken by the farmer at this season of the year is the preparing of seed grain for sowing. Many farmers leave this until the hurry of seeding time, and then give their seed a very inadequate cleaning. Seed grain of all kinds should be put through the fanning mill several times, and none but the best mills should be used. A coarse screen should be placed above the chess-box of the fanning mill, and must be coarse enough to separate the first class grain from the second class and foul seeds, and should vary in size according to the kind of grain you wish to clean. By repeating this process at least three times, you will thus avoid sowing weed seed and will procure none but the best kernels of the various kinds of seeds, which is no doubt of as great importance as procuring the best live stock to breed from; in fact, some practical and very successful agriculturists think the matter of such importance that they hand-pick considerable of their seed grain, but, as this is exhaustive, we would prefer careful cleaning with a good fanning mill, except when different families of the same kind of grain are mixed.

Not only in cleaning their seed grain are many farmers careless, but also in obtaining their garden, vegetable and root seed, which is also put off until the last moment, when they run to the nearest store and procure their seed; in fact they will buy of anybody, and next fall they wonder why they can never raise as good vegetables or roots as their neighbor, who obtains his seed fresh from a first class seedsman. We have tried both ways, and have uniformly had the best results when we dealt with an established seedsman who has a reputation at stake, and therefore cannot afford to sell you poor seed; beside this, being a specialist, he has the required knowledge of his business which renders his statements reliable.

PRACTICE, Ontario.

Prussian Blue Peas.

SIR,—In reply to the question which I observed in last month's issue of your paper, "Is the Prussian Blue Pea Bug-proof?" I think the following experiment gives a very satisfactory answer: Last spring I sowed two acres of Prussian Blues and two acres of Golden Vine side by side, and on the same day. The former were absolutely free, and of the latter it was impossible to discover a single perfect pea.

A. J. G., Thorold, Ont.

Statute Labor.

SIR,—I live near a side-line that is bad for drifting snow in winter. Can the Pathmaster compel me to go out and shovel snow on said line? Can I claim any remuneration for shoveling snow on said line? Is it lawful for parties to open fences on said line against the owners' will, when the roads are blocked in, and have they a right to close the fence after them?

McF., Shakespear, Ont.

[The Pathmaster can call out the men in his beat to open roads. You must go or pay for a man in your place, or you may be fined for refusing to work; but you are not compelled to work over one year's labor in advance. No man has any right to throw down your fence or go on your property without showing you a legal authority. A snow drift or broken bridge is no legal excuse; you may eject by force or recover damages. No one has any right to molest your fence if it is on the proper line.]

SIR,—Do you know if there is a scarifier equal to T. S. Perry's, Canandaigua, N. Y., made in Canada?

A. L., Garafraxa, Ont.

[Not being informed ourselves on this subject, we wrote Copp Bros. & Co., of Hamilton, Ont. Below is their answer: "We can not safely compare our scarifier with Perry's, as we have not yet seen his and have been unable to obtain any information about it. We would, however, say that we have not yet seen a single person who is not highly pleased with ours after using it. We have already enquiries for a large number, and these have been sent principally by farmers whose neighbors bought last year. We know of no implement which will break up hard ground more thoroughly and easily than this will, and where it has been used on the stiff clay on the mountain land the improvement in the crop was remarkable. They are used here for putting in grain, or rather cultivating in, as well as for breaking up the summer fallows. Cut is shown in the ADVOCATE for 1879 (April and other numbers)."]

Sweet Corn.

SIR,—As the season for planting corn will soon be upon us, I thought it would not be out of place to let your readers know my experience as a farmer in growing what is called sweet or sugar corn. I have for several years past received catalogues from different seedsmen, and seeing different kinds of corn advertised as being the most nutritious for family use, I sent for a small quantity for a trial, the names of which were Crosby's Early and Stowell's Evergreen, and after growing the two varieties side by side I found, to my surprise, that I had splendid green corn from the time it came in until frost set in, and a corn far superior in quality to our old common yellow corn. As soon as I had no more use for the corn I gave the stalks to my cattle, which they relished immensely—in fact, they turned their attention to them in preference to American or Western corn-stalks, so long used in Canada for fodder. The next season I added a new addition to the above varieties, called the "Tuscarora," and found that it succeeded equally as well with me as either of the others, as regards a green corn for eating purposes and also for feeding stock. As I had by this time accumulated quite a lot of seed, I resolved to try it broadcast as a fodder corn, and which fully realized my expectations, and I consider its fattening properties far exceeds that of any other corn. I may say that some of my neighbors said that Stowell's Evergreen would not ripen, but I have proved to the contrary, and last season sold my surplus seed to a seedsman for \$2 per bushel. My seed the first season cost me 30c. per quart, but I soon overcame that difficulty by raising it myself, and now the duty on Western corn don't trouble me, as I can do much better by raising my own seed. I have found raising corn so far a success. As we can't raise Western corn in this country, the Americans can charge us what they please, and they think we must grin and bear it. For the benefit of those who like to try raising sweet corn, I will explain how I cure it when the stalks begin to dry. I cut and bind them in shocks the same as field corn, and husk the ears out afterwards, and spread in a loft to dry through. The nicest way to save sweet corn is, when the stalks are partially dry, to break the whole ear off, and with one or two of the outer husks tie six or eight ears together, and hang them in a loft until they become perfectly dry, when they may be husked out. Sweet corn retains moisture for a long time, and must not be hastily stored away in bulk.

EXPERIMENTER.

SIR,—I propose buying 12 or 15 acres of land between Oakville and Toronto, on the shore of Lake Ontario. I intend putting—say, \$2,000 cash into the whole thing—land, stock, house, barn, etc. etc. (say \$500 on account of land for the present). I want you to give me your opinion as to the advisability of going into this thing. Now, Mr. Editor, what I wish and hope you will do is to put down the amount that you think about the thing opposite the following items, which strike me as being about the most needful things necessary to carry out my scheme:—

Twelve or fifteen acres of land cost, say...	\$
To build house (say 3 rooms and kitchen..	
To build barn and stable (same size).....	
Pig-pen.....	
Poultry-yard and house.....	
Necessary fencing.....	
Plough.....	
Harrow.....	
Horse.....	
Harness.....	
Light wagon.....	
Ten heifers (say 1 year old).....	
Twenty pigs (say 6 months old).....	
One hundred hens (including roosters)....	
Thirty turkeys (including gobblers).....	
Ten sheep (if you think there will be room for a little "sheep farming").....	
And if you can suggest anything else (besides house furniture) that you, with your experience, will see will be necessary. (Don't count in a wife, as I am a confirmed bachelor). I have had no experience in farming or stock raising of any kind.	

C. H. K., Listowel.

[We would strongly advise you not to invest your money in the manner you propose. You will be pretty sure to meet with a heavy loss, perhaps lose the whole, and more if you can command it. You should employ one year at least in learning more about the requirements of the country. If you wish to succeed hold on to your money and go to work in earnest with some good practical farmer.]

The Cut Worm.

SIR,—This insect is fast becoming a great pest in some of our gardens and farms. Can you give us some description of its habits and any method of preventing its ravages. N. O., Arva, Ont.

[From the recent report of the Entomological Society, we reprint the following extracts on this subject:—There is scarcely any land free from the wire worms, or any crop that is not subject to their voracity. They occur wherever grass will grow, being particularly harbored among clover roots, and are always prevalent in meadow and pasture lands, seeming to thrive best in the vicinity of swamps and woods. Young oats, wheat, rye and barley suffer much from being partially or entirely cut off below the surface. Cabbages and many root crops are also injured; turnips, perhaps, more than any other, as they are cut off when young, and have the roots badly eaten into when larger. In gardens they are very destructive. It appears that Indian corn is the greatest sufferer, especially when it is the first crop planted in new land, or when the season is cold, wet and late. Upwards of thirty have been planted in a single hill, and nearly the whole of the seed planted is sometimes destroyed. One of the most successful remedies on a large scale is a mixture consisting of two parts of quick lime, three parts of soot, and one part of coarse or refuse salt. This is used as a top dressing, being applied immediately after compounding, and should be well rolled in. It has the advantage of being perfectly harmless to the crops. Indeed, it is a most excellent and powerful fertilizer, as well as a destroyer of all kinds of insects and many weeds. Refuse from gas works, nitrate of soda, rape-cake and chloride of lime mixed and spread with manure are highly recommended, and the sowing of soda ash or guano broadcast when planting. A previous crop of white mustard is claimed to clear the land of them, presumably by starving out, for the roots of the mustard are extremely acrid and occupy the soil to the exclusion of any more nutritious ones. A close grazing with sheep seems beneficial when pastures are badly infested. The same result is also obtained by compacting the surface with heavy rollers.]

Stock in the Maritime Provinces.

SIR,—Thanks for the benefit of your Liverpool correspondent, who is an admirable writer and stands by Canada like a "son of the soil." The company he refers to as having been formed in the Maritime Provinces to ship beef to England has its headquarters at Amherst, situated almost in the centre of the "wonderful pasture land" that your correspondent says was found by the British agricultural delegates in their visit to Canada last fall. The advice given as to the kind of cattle required for the English market is appreciated here, and farmers have been trying to act upon such principles for some time. Importations of pure-bred Shorthorn stock have been made at intervals for a number of years back, and as a result of these importations there is now within a mile of this place a pair of three-year old steers that measure seven feet eight inches in girth, and are estimated to weigh 4,000 lbs. Another pair of steers, 18 months, weighed last fall at that age 2,360 lbs. Fifty-two head have been sold in one stable, to be delivered next month, that will average from 3,200 to 3,400 lbs. a pair. This company was not the first in the Maritime Provinces to ship cattle to Britain. A company in St. John last summer shipped several lots via Quebec, and since the formation of the Amherst Co. there has been one formed in Halifax with a capital of \$15,000, that has just shipped 250 head by the Anchor Line and they propose to make several more shipments before the Gulf opens. You will see by this that the Maritime Provinces intend to have a hand in the business of supplying beef to John Bull.

March so far has not sustained its reputation for wind and storm, but for cold, severe frost it takes front rank, the mercury having gone down one night as low as 23 deg. below zero. The traveling, however, in this district has been excellent, enabling farmers to finish up their winter's sledding in good shape; and as a cold March is no indication of a late spring, all seem well pleased with the March of 1880.

H. T., Point de Bute.

SIR,—Will you tell me the best time to sow plaster on clover or wheat. J. R., Ops, Ont.

[We like to sow plaster as soon as vegetation starts. What are the views of others?]