

THE ILLUSTRATED
Journal of Agriculture

Montreal, September 1, 1895.

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Notes by the Way.

Prediction of night frosts in spring.
—Every farmer should have in addition to a barometer, two thermometers, a dry-bulb one of the ordinary construction, and another the bulb of which can be kept constantly damp. This may be done in the simplest way by surrounding the bulb with a piece of cotton-wick the other end of which is kept in a small cup constantly supplied with water. The meteorologist, Hammerman, states, as the result of numerous investigations, that frost may be expected if the reading of the wet bulb thermometer in the afternoon minus 4° C. is zero or less.

Home made fertilizers.—A profitable way of dealing with the materials from which are compounded the ordinary fertilizers seems to have been practised in New-Jersey last year. Seven hundred tons of different stuffs were bought, at a cost of \$20,790, in which the nitrogen cost 14.9 cts a pound, available phosphoric acid 5.7 cts a pound, and 4 cts. a pound for potash. According to the Report of the Station of New-Jersey, the average cost of these elements had they been bought in the form of mixed fertilizers from dealers, would have been, severally, 21.8 for nitrogen, 9.4 for available phosphoric acid, and 6.7 for potash; the cost of the constituents of the 700 tons would therefore have been, \$34,889, instead of \$20,790, a difference of \$13,649; a notable saving indeed of, in round numbers, 70%!

Giant knot-grass, otherwise Sachaline.—From all we can gather this much vaunted fodder crop turns out to be a failure; but it would be a gratification to all of us if M. Bouillier, of Ste Thérèse, would send us a description of the present state of his plants.

Drain-pipes.—If within 40 miles of London (Eng.) one inch drain-pipes can be sold at a profit for \$3.00 a thousand at the kiln, and all Parkes', the great drainage-engineer of our day, drains were made with that sized bore, there can be no reason why we should use 2½ inch pipes here, at a cost of \$8.00 a thousand, to say nothing of the extra cost for the carriage. Ourselves, we never used quite so small a pipe as the one inch, but with the 1½ inch pipe we drained hundreds of acres, allowing 2½ only for the mains. Springs are, of course, quite a different thing to drain; for them the size of the bore must be suited to the discharge of water.

Rape.—In several experiments, at the States experiment-stations, on green fodder-crops, rape has been found to give the greatest weight of crop. As to quality it is far before green corn, tares, and all the rest.

Warts on teats of cows.—An exchange recommends putting lard on the teats of cows twice a day, after milking for several days. The compositor evidently omitted a comma after the word "milking."

Water before grain.—The same paper asks: "Do you ever give the horses a drink in the morning before feeding them grain? If not try your own breakfast that way once." But we do not eat grain for breakfast.

A puzzle.—And again, from the same source: "Stock that is allowed to fall off in condition is always kept at more or less cost, for it costs as much or more than it originally did to put them back to the weight they have fallen from." What a wonderful sentence.

Varying terminology.—"Better to sell one inferior animal than breed it even if you must sell at a sacrifice." But you have bred the animal, or at least some one or other has bred it; unless, the term is intended to read "breed from it," which appears probable.

Sheep.—"All unnecessary driving or chasing of sheep should be avoided." The writer of the five paragraphs we have criticised must have thought he was addressing an audience of little children.

Horses for England.—The styles of horses most wanted in England are chiefly three in number: the showy carriage horse, the "machiner," as it has been long called, i. e., the same sort as our old tram-horse; and a heavier kind for van-work.

The carriage-horse must not be less than from 15.3 to 16.2, and fine knee-action is indispensable. Pace is not required, but plenty of weight. Fast driving, except when late on the road to the meet (of the hounds) is considered ill-bred. Not but what men like to have horses than can go if wanted, but a pace over 9 miles an hour is not needed. A really good carriage horse, quiet in harness and sound, with perfect action will fetch any sum from \$1,000 upwards. Lyne Stevens gave, in our "about town" days, \$5,200 for a pair for Madame's barouche. Madame was, before marriage, Mlle Davernay, the original dancer of the Cachuca, and one of the loveliest women we ever saw. She died last year.

The Machiner,—the old coaches, in the last century, were called, the Bath Machine, the Portsmouth Machine &c. runs about 15.2 to 16 hands, and is a coarser sort of animals. It may sell for from \$180 to \$280.

The third, or van-horse, is a heavier style of machiner. If the feet are not good, no horse can stand the work of the London pavement. Weight, other things being equal, is a selling feature in all horses.

Fodder-crops.—In Vermont, among the experimental crops of green-fodder, were sown our own special favorite rape, and a mixture of pease, oats, and rape. The largest yield of dry matter, 7,491 lbs. an acre, was made by rape, and this plant produced a larger crop when the drills were 6 inches apart, than when 27 inches apart. In our oft repeated opinion, rape should always be sown broadcast. At 5 inches between the drills, only the hand-hoe can be used, and that would cost a great deal more than we can afford, even if the labour were available. In one of the reports from the U. S. stations, it is remarked that, in growing Mr. Robertson's mixture for silage, the sunflowers and corn did well, but the horse-beans were a failure. They will generally fail unless they are planted very early in the spring, as the nigger, or black fly, cuts the blossoms to bits unless the pods set early. As for sowing them with the corn, that is clearly an error. On the 5th of August, last year the horse-beans, at Mr Crane's farm near Valois, were in bloom, and the nigger was hard on work upon them. Sow thick, at least 2½ bushels to the acre, in drills 24 inches apart, if you intend horse-hoeing them, though we should prefer for cutting half-ripe for silage, to sow broadcast 2½ bushels an acre, particularly if they cannot be got in before the middle of May. When prevented from sowing early, why not try pease instead of horse-beans, the silage would be about as good, and the crop, cut half-ripe, would be bulky enough.

Sachaline, which plant we mentioned above, has not given satisfaction in the States, and its general cultivation is not recommended. But it

strikes us that as a protection to the banks of streams it would answer well. Why do not the people of Chambly try it on the bank of the "Bassin," which in our day used to be annually devoured by the spring freshet?

Artichokes.—The so called Jerusalem artichoke was grown last year at Newport, Arkansas; drills 36 inches apart, and sets 18 inches apart. The yield was 454 bushels an acre; at 3 ft., x 3 ft. at Fayette, in the same State, the yield was 612 bushels an acre. Hogs did well on them, and they have one great advantage over potatoes; they need no cooking. We should feel inclined to set some in the corners of the fields, were we farming now. In this good city the tubers brought to market are very small, from being set too close and allowed to stand too long without re-planting.

Red-clover.—We constantly see in the reports of the crops in the States that the red clover is a failure in certain districts. The loss of plant is at one place attributed to the drought at seed-time, at another to the rigour of the winter; but, somehow or other, it is only the red clover that suffers; the Alsike survives owing, of course, to its being so much hardier than the other. The real reason is, of course, that owing to its having been sown so often, at too proximate periods, the disease, as it is called, affects the red-clover on this continent as it has long affected it in England, where it rarely takes if sown oftener than once in three rotations.

Fall-feeding meadows.—In England meadows are fed, at intervals after mowing, from the time the hay is carried till the end of January, and they are none the worse for it. So, when an Englishman reads the following extract from the "Vermont Farmer's Advocate," he is surely puzzled. But when he comes to learn that the grass of the meadows is all timothy, he immediately sees that the practice is so far a wise one, as he knows that the root of that grass is of a bulbous nature, and liable to be pulled out by the stock; whereas the grass he has been accustomed to at home is a compound of perhaps fifty different kinds, that are so firmly rooted as to require the exertion of great strength to deracinate them. Of course, it remains a marvel to him—as to us—why farmers persist in sowing this one grass, from which only one hay-crop and no after-feed can be secured; and more particularly is he puzzled when he learns that, though good for horses, timothy is but poor food for either cows or sheep.

Now and then a farmer will turn his stock on a meadow as soon as haying is over, particularly if it is not a very productive one. This is poor policy and will help to keep the field from possessing much value, as without attention in some other way it must be continually growing poorer.

This fall feeding of meadows as generally done is a questionable practice and is apt to cost the owner more than it comes to. A neighboring farmer has a back field that he used to treat in this manner. The result, was the grass would not hold out, and would have to be ploughed and re-seeded pretty often. He thought the land was leechy and would not retain the manure. He decided to make a change and not allow the stock to run upon it at all. Since he commenced this practice—a few years ago—there has