

Correspondence.

BEET ROOT SUGAR.

SIR.—Thank you for your kind attention to my wishes in sending me the sample of beet root sugar produced by Mr. Kraft, of Bridgeport, Ont.

Mr. Kraft deserves well of the country for his enterprise in undertaking the manufacture; but I much fear, unless he has a very large capital, that he will be disappointed. I think he has taken wrong ground; he is evidently attempting to make sugar fit for, to say the least, family consumption. I take different ground, and say that the Canadian farmer and small manufacturer ought to confine themselves to making a rough crude article, fit for the use of the refiner. This any person of ordinary intelligence can do when he is once instructed. The refining of sugar takes enormous capital, great skill, continuous work and extensive chemical knowledge all the year round.

The producer of the roots necessarily can only work three or four, perhaps five months of the year; the remainder of the season is devoted to the growth of the roots and other farming operations, and, during this time, if he attempts refining, not only are his utensils going to waste, but the materials necessary for refining are absolutely being destroyed. The unused refuse, too, whether in the shape of unpurified molasses, washings of the bone or other matter which in the hands of the refiner is turned into profit, becomes a dead loss in the hands of the person who only works on a small scale and for a short period.

I have just completed a series of working experiments on beet root sugar, and have proved all the facts relating to it, and I have now ready for publication a short treatise with full instructions to the farmer and small manufacturer how to grow the roots, and then how to reduce them to a state fit for the operations of the refiner. I have divested the whole process of all mystery, have made it plain in language, and suitable for the information of persons who have received only a limited education. I have done away with all chemical terms and heavy calculations, and, I think, put the information in such a plain and useful shape that no farmer who reads an agricultural paper will feel alarmed when he reads it, as many do when they come to an article full of hard and scientific names, chemical terms, and algebraical calculations and statements. This little work would have been in the hands of the public by this time but for the printers' strike in Toronto. It will appear shortly, and I shall then take care that it is circulated as widely as possible, and I hope to see it in every newspaper in the Province which takes an interest in agricultural affairs. It has not been written for profit.

If you feel any curiosity to see some of the manufactured article, such as I recommend the preparation of, I shall be happy to send you some if you can get anybody to call for it. Yours truly, E. C.

Toronto, May 3rd, 1872.

[We are thankful to Mr. Cull for his valuable information. He says truly that Mr. Kraft deserves well of the country. At a great sacrifice of labor and money he has demonstrated what may be done and what will yet be accomplished. It may perhaps be better, as "E. C." says, that the farmer should only raise the crop and prepare it for the refiner. The division is often advantageous, but Mr. Kraft has proved that a farmer may till the ground, raise the crop, and even then proceed step by step till he has from it produced a good sugar fit for family use, and if he still perseveres he will yet do better. He has a just claim on the country, not merely for their gratitude, but for remuneration for his great outlay. On establishing the first Canadian beet root sugar factory at his own expense, it has not proven remunerative at first, as much has to be learned; but he has laid a foundation from which much wealth to the country will accrue. Such an undertaking deserves further aid.]

TREES.

SIR.—A great deal has been written lately by several of your correspondents about trees. Some articles, too, have appeared in the Advocate on this subject which I think were written by yourself. Now, I am not going to say one word against anything I have read on the subject; for I not only fully endorse the sentiments expressed—all, as far as I can recollect, being in favor of trees—but I also believe a great deal more. For a farmer to cut

down all the bush on his farm is, of course, very foolish, even if nothing but the advancing value of timber and firewood be taken into account; but it is also very imprudent for him to cut down all the trees, even where he does clear his land for cultivation. A few trees left in each corner of the field, or on a rocky or very stony spot, if such there be, would prove of very great advantage, and would not at all interfere with the cultivation of the land. Nor would they detract in the least from the appearance of his farm; indeed they would be far more ornamental than otherwise. Where at all practicable, a row of trees should accompany every line of fence on the farm. The beneficial results which would accrue from this may easily be seen upon a few moments' consideration. Both man and beast would share in the benefits, and in many cases the crops, too, would give their testimony in favor of the trees. How painful to see, in a field where there is not a single tree to ward off the scorching rays of a midsummer sun, the poor horses and cattle vainly trying to screen themselves from the burning heat in the corners of the fences, lashing themselves with their tails to keep off the tormenting flies, and stamping with their feet, thus plainly evincing the torture which they are compelled to endure. I once boarded with a farmer's family where this was the case on his farm; and often when I went to the field to get my horse, I found him thus suffering, and his body, or rather the hair on his body, so hot as almost to burn the hand when touched. Surely this must be very injurious to animals, as it unquestionably makes them miserable when they might and ought to be comfortable.

Nor is it unworthy of notice that trees encourage many kinds of birds, and as birds, that is, most of them, are both beautiful and useful, besides being capable of rendering the most exquisite, sweet, and heart-cheering music, should they not be encouraged in every possible way?

Besides, it is my growing conviction that trees exert a wonderful influence in regard to rain. I believe that generally where the most trees are the most rain falls. Consequently, if this be so, as the country becomes stripped of its woods it must necessarily become more subject to drought. Have not the last ten years been corroborative of this proposition? I think they have, at least in this part of Ontario; and I hope that these painful illustrations of the truth of this theory will bring farmers to their senses and stop them from thus spoiling their farms and ruining the country.

Some may think this a very erroneous idea, and will see no connection between trees and clouds, but these people must remember that many such connections do exist where we fail to see the reasons. For instance: why does lightning strike trees? For the cause, we are referred to the laws of electricity. Then if electricity acts in one case, why not in the other?

In conclusion, every farmer should have as many trees as possible on his farm. And, according to my opinion, where farmers fail to do so of their own accord, I think those who manage the affairs of the country and who are supposed to have the interests of the country at heart, should require every farmer who has not done so, to plant a row of trees in front of his farm. JAS. LAWSON.

Battersea, May 6th, 1872.

NORTH NORWICH FARMERS' CLUB.

SIR.—Knowing that you are deeply interested in the farmers' cause, I thought you would like to hear of an effort being made in this part of the world to form a Farmers' Club.

On the evening of Saturday, May 11th, a meeting was held at Mr. H. S. Loe's Cheese Factory, to organize the new "North Norwich Farmers' Club." The meeting was a perfect success, because enthusiasm was unanimous. Considering the busy time, there was a goodly attendance. At eight o'clock the chairman (Wm. S. Moore) called the meeting to order. The following Constitution was drawn up and accepted:—

ARTICLE 1.—The undersigned hereby associate themselves as the "North Norwich Farmers' Club." Their objects in so doing are to promote their own welfare and intelligence, as farmers and citizens, and their enjoyment socially with their families.

ARTICLE 2.—The members of the Club are the only frame this Constitution and conform to its requirements, together with others who may be invited to join by the Executive Committee, all of whom shall pay each 50c. annually.

ARTICLE 3.—The officers of the Club shall be a President, a Secretary (who shall also be

the Treasurer), and three members, who, with the President and Secretary, shall constitute the Executive Committee. A President shall be chosen at each regular meeting. A Secretary and Treasurer shall be chosen annually. The remainder of the Executive Committee shall be elected at the first regular meeting, and shall hold office until deposed by not less than a two-thirds majority of all the members.

ARTICLE 4.—The President shall perform the duties usually devolving upon the presiding officer of a deliberative body, and act as chairman of the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall keep records of transactions, and be custodian of all the funds and other property of the Club, being accountable at all times to the Executive Committee, giving bonds, if required; and shall prepare and present a full report to the Club at the annual meeting. The Executive Committee, three members of which shall be a quorum, shall have general charge of the interests of the Club and the carrying out of its objects. It shall fill vacancies in its office, make rules, invite new members to join, regulate expenditures, manage exhibitions or fairs, publish offers of prizes and the awards, be responsible for the welfare of the Club, and report at the annual meeting through its clerk.

ARTICLE 5.—The meetings of the Club shall take place on the second Saturday of each month, the meeting in January being known as the "Annual Meeting."

ARTICLE 6.—This Constitution may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any regular meeting, notice being given at the preceding regular meeting.

The following officers were then elected:—President—B. J. Palmer; Secretary—H. S. Loe; Executive Committee—The President, Secretary, Wm. S. Moore, James Ghent, and John Pollock.

"Soiling" was the subject then chosen for discussion at the next meeting. The President is to make the opening speech.

At the close of the meeting twelve parties signed the Constitution, and became members. At the next meeting a great many more are expected.

Now, Mr. Editor, if the above is of any interest publish it, as it may encourage other communities to form Clubs, so that in time the farmers may act as a body, and not as so many independent but non-influential persons. —Yours truly, B. J. P.

New Durham Ont., May, 1872.

"B. J. P." will accept our thanks for his useful article, which may be of some assistance to others. We hope to receive communications from each Farmers' Club giving accounts of progress, management, requirements and reports of discussions. They may be forwarded to us at 1c. per oz. by writing "Printer's Copy" on the wrapper. When such are first published in the local papers, and you desire us to notice them, please cut out the articles to ensure our attention and send it alone, as hundreds of papers arrive at this office that we have not time to open, much less to search through all the matter in each for anything that may be interesting.

LARGE YIELD OF BARLEY.

SIR.—In looking through the May number of your paper, I saw a very lengthy and instructive article on "Barley, and its Cultivation." I think that piece alone is well worth the price of your paper for a year. I feel very much obliged to the Secretary of the Hamilton Farmers' Club for the valuable information he has given.

I give you an account of a field of barley I grew in 1871. If you think it worth anything, it is at your disposal. Late in the fall of 1870, I subsoiled 5½ acres of sod; it had been in grass for four years. The last week of March, 1871, I sowed 1½ bushels of barley per acre (of the six-rowed kind), harrowed twice to a place each way, and after sowing rolled with a heavy roller. In May it was cut bad with the frost (it was about two inches in height). It was harvested the first week in August, and yielded three hundred and fifty bushels of grain.

A READER OF YOUR PAPER FROM THE FIRST NO.

[As we are acquainted with the writer, and know him to be a leading farmer in his section, we insert his communication. Although he wishes neither name or residence to be mentioned, we would prefer giving names to such articles; but many have a dislike to give their names to the public.]

A FARMER'S EXPERIENCE AND OPINIONS.

SIR.—As you are continually asking subscribers to write for the Advocate, I will give you a little of my experience; and if you think any of your subscribers can learn anything from it, you are at liberty to publish it; if not burn it.

The fall wheat in this section is badly winter-killed; many farmers are ploughing it up; around by the fences, where the snow drifted, it is good, but in the middle of the fields, in many cases it is completely killed. We have two mares and two two-year old colts on my father's farm, which, during the past winter, were stabled at night, and fed straw with a small quantity of oats twice a day, and let run to the straw yard during the day. They were thin in condition when taken in to winter; about New Year's they took to going to the hog pen, and eating the dung which came from the pigs; they immediately began to gain in condition, and continued to do so until spring, when we had to keep them in the stable, for when the frost came out of the manure they would sink to the knees. Now, I do not know whether this is new to any of your subscribers or not, but it was new to me. I never saw or heard of the like before.

This spring I purchased one of Gray's light Canada iron ploughs; I have worked it in all kinds of land, rough and smooth, and it gives me perfect satisfaction. It is the easiest working plough I ever used; it is light and strong, and I think taking all things into consideration, it is the cheapest plough any one can buy. Perhaps you may consider this is the light of an advertisement; if so, leave it out; it is of no benefit to me; I have no axe to grind.

I was much pleased with the discussion of the Hamilton Farmers' Club on barley, given in the May number of the Advocate. I hope you will be able to give your readers the benefit of their discussion on turnips, carrots, &c. I was also much pleased with Mr. Kraft's communication on beet sugar. He claims the honor of making the first beet sugar in Canada; I think the Government should aid him in his enterprise. I have grown sugar beets for the past two years; I find them splendid food for milk cows; they are large croppers and easily grown. I think much easier than turnips. I made molasses from them in Jan., 1871, but found I had not the right method, and for other reasons I have not tried the experiment since.

I should like to know your opinion about wolf teeth in horses. Should they be knocked out as is commonly done, or not? Also, should lambers in coats be burnt?

I never wrote for the press but once before, and then it was rejected. I have taken up more of your valuable space than I at first intended. Hoping you will correct all mistakes, I will conclude.—Yours, &c., Novica.

North Oxford, May 13, 1872.

[1st Query—The wolf teeth are not to be knocked out unless they interfere with mastication. 2nd query—The lambers are not to be burned out. A little cooling medicine is to be given, and soft diet.—Sometimes the lamper is scarified.]

LARGE YIELD OF SEEDS.

SIR.—I send you the amount of the seeds I got from you last year. The King of the Earths, 1 lb., produced 90 lbs. of beautiful potatoes. The peck of Bresser's Prolific did not do so very well. They were twice cut off with the frost; they produced about three bushels. I consider both kinds excellent.—The New Brunswick oats, 4 bushels, produced 11 bushels. I sowed them on gravelly land.

I like your paper very much. I am taking two papers besides yours; it is almost more than I can afford, but I don't intend to give up the Advocate.—Wishing you every success, I remain yours, Geo. Dobson.

Tuckersmith, May 3, 1872.

POTATO PLOUGH.

SIR.—Having used one of your potato ploughs last fall, we found it one of the most useful implements for digging potatoes that could be invented. It is in gathering potatoes what the hay rake is in the hay field, an indispensable article, and one which, where a farmer has any amount to dig, is a paying implement, in fact, like the hay rake, they pay for themselves many times over each season. DEAN TIFFEY.

Keweenaw, April 26th, 1872.

TILLING

CORN

SIR.—As I have experience in clearing the result for the who may have h constructive fires so It has been re first crop, and if may answer we clay loam, such ure. Such a soil spring, and whe that barley wou The first piece was ploughed in wheat, but altho larly dry, the re was again plou peas in the sp showery the p eight or nine the pods were smothered the The next crop with clover, wh I cleared was so the winter well red clover at the acre. The clov was injured by lent that year, following season and in Sept. at grass, but the desist, as the p than two inch fodder, I cut the clover was i under, and f had penetrat six inches. La and also as a fi the severe dro but the pods sown with whe and I have a next piece w with headwa well, except i water remain took well, and fair crop of clo the piece on v have this year are now comi next fall. I v next after the repeat the wh in a wet summ do so, consequ and then y years, until t fire can be re should prefer with suitable the log heaps to dry, it wou to burn the v dry, as, soil, it will b and destroy can be sjar summer fall and harrowi ters in the b year's crop, they might a year or two. last paper m in the "Illu for 1861, p. found it ver table use, is of the count owing to th

An effecti the rows is let it remain off, and mil so that eve then mix w to prevent though wo at hand. I no partialit two, he wil fast elsewh pestered by last shot on zard some o one of thei bird.

I fully your corre sending me is done w and organi the best v The Queen pray for al is the farm Your c wants an i he appears Edinburgh purposes,