

Of every valuable element of the soil the crop of milk is more exhaustive than the crop of wheat. The dairyman who every day, for half a year, carried to the factory or ships to the city, six cans of milk, exhausts the soil more than the farmer who sells 500 bushels of wheat each season. If, then, the farmer is compelled to return some equivalent to the soil for the wheat removed, that he may keep his farm in good condition, he must return to the meadows an equivalent for the draft he makes from them in the shape of milk. The manure from his stock alone will not be sufficient, unless he feeds them purchased grain, or other food rich in nitrogen, phosphate of lime and potash, or adds these to the soil in the shape of wood-ashes and potash salts, and superphosphate of lime and bone dust.

Dairying, then, can only be carried on at an expense of the soil equal to that of growing grain, and it is a mistake to suppose that we can congratulate ourselves upon the steady increase of this industry as an escape from the exhaustive effects of grain growing. If dairymen should be led to suppose that their fields may be pastured indefinitely without injury to their fertility, they will fall into a mischievous error. The relief from the heavier labor of growing grain will be dearly purchased if the meadows are pastured from year to year without frequent top-dressings of the needed fertilizers, or of manure enriched with purchased food. It may be, and to some extent it undoubtedly is, owing to this unsuspected exhaustion of meadows by pasturing that many farmers find them to fail prematurely, and are obliged to break them up and re-seed these with the hope to restore the herbage which they think has run out.

We do not know to whom credit for the above article on pasture is to be given, but it expresses the opinions held by more writers on the subject. We have heard and read it several times, and must say that the opinion advanced is at variance with the results of our observation. To prevent any misconception, we would refer to the two words, Pasture and Meadow, used as if designating the same thing. The remarks relative to the exhaustion of the soil of meadows, if not wholly correct, is not without some foundation. From it the crop of grass is taken every year, and, if no manure be applied, the yield of grass constantly decreases.

The case with pastures is quite different—so much so, that on good grazing farms the land acquires increased productiveness from being grazed on. It is continually enriched by the droppings of the pastured animals. In this we hold that science does not contradict experience. Much is taken from the soil in milk and meat, but there is a return equal in value to the soil. The well known fertility of the old pastures of England and Ireland is such as to demonstrate that pasture, so far from impoverishing, enriches the land. The writer of this knew land that had been at least fifty years feeding stock, partly fattening cattle, and a more fertile tract of land could not be met with in that very fertile country. The only manure it received during the time was the droppings of the cattle fed on it.

This land, though feeding 80 or 90 sums per hundred imperial acres, was never eaten bare, and, at the setting in of the winter, always was on it a good coat of aftergrass. This winter's covering was of great service to it, and then young grass growing up through it in May, afforded good early pasture for the stock. In order to have such pasture, it is necessary that the land be in good heart when sown with grass seeds; that these be a variety of the best grasses, and that it be not kept bare by overstocking. Not only does this old pasture produce abundantly.—The milk, butter and cheese from the cows fed on it have a peculiar flavor and richness, and the beef and mutton from such pastures is unequalled by any other on the Eastern or Western continent.

John Ireland, of Dover, has purchased Pickering Lad, bred by John Miller. He also has sold Berkshire boar to John Ireland, of Nelson, and two Suffolk hogs to R. B. Ireland, of the same place.

Correspondence.

Seed Report.

THE EMPORIUM OATS.—I received them rather late, and a drouth set in which lasted a few weeks, consequently they did not yield as much as they would have done had the season been favorable. They did not rust as bad as my other varieties, black Main and Friezland oats. They are quite pure, as I hand-picked them, and have been careful in threshing them.

THE EGYPTIAN AND RED FERN WHEAT.—I sowed side by side at the same time.

I would like to ask you one question and get your opinion about a new wheat. It was raised back of Toronto, some place, and is called the Alirado. Some man has sold quite a lot in Clinton township in twenty-five bushel lots, at the small sum of twelve dollars per bushel. I have inquired, and from what I can learn, it is the same as I got from you last spring, called the Egyptian, but now sold under a new name for a sharp speculation something similar to the other rings.

P. S.—If you know anything of this great Alirado white spring wheat, let me know through the farmers' friend, the ADVOCATE.

Your obliged,

J. W. MOYER.

We believe the wheat spoken of must be the Egyptian wheat. As this variety of wheat is creating some talk in some localities, it is but right that we should know about it. We sent out seven 4-ounce packages to different parts of the country last spring. We give reports as we receive them. The price, \$12 per bushel, is too much to pay if such reports as the above are returned. We wish a few more would send in their reports concerning it.

The Egyptian wheat has proved a failure with me. It was not worth cutting. The grain is about as small as chess. WM. WELSH, Avonbank.

Boring Machine.

SIR,—I want to get a boring machine for boring fence bunks and caps; also a machine for making fence pickets, the pickets to fit a three-inch auger hole. Boring machine to bore straight and in centre of block every time, without much trouble to operator, and to be driven by horse power. Can you tell me where I will get these machines? Also the price of them?

Yours truly,

JOHN A. CARMICHAEL,

Beachburg, Ont.

[Would some of our subscribers, who know of a machine such as is wanted by Mr. Carmichael, kindly give him the required information?]

Land Plaster.

SIR,—Please inform me through the columns of the ADVOCATE if you consider the artificial manure, commonly known as land plaster, injurious to land?

JOSEPH DOWD,

Dec. 6th, 1875.

Eardly.

[We have lately met one or two articles written about gypsum or land plaster, stating that it had impoverished the land. Gypsum is a stimulant, as is all lime, and, as such, it causes those plants to which it is especially beneficial to grow more luxuriantly, and, in consequence of their greater luxuriance of growth, to draw more largely on the plant food in the soil. This can cause no reasonable objection to its use. The more you force the soil to give the more you must return to it in manure, and the larger crop grown by aid of a fertilizer (as gypsum for instance), so much the more you have in your power to return.

Cultivation of Thorn.

SIR,—Have you any practical information for raising the common thorn from haws or thorn apples—what is the process, &c? Any information, recommendation, or otherwise, will be thankfully received.

Respectfully,

JOHN S. HARRIS,

Bartonville.

[Pick up the haws any time in the fall; keep them damp and cool; put them in a damp place where the frost can get at them, either in the ground or in boxes, barrels or in lumps. Earth should be mixed with them if they are not sown in the fall. Sow the seed either early in the spring or in the fall, in a shaded place—a well grown orchard is as good a place as any, as they require shade when young. The plants are liable to be destroyed by the turnip fly, or other similar insects, and must be shaded or protected from the destroyer when young. In a previous number we replied to a similar query. There is more than one method of preserving and sowing the haw, still they aim at the same end. As formerly stated, the usual way in Europe is to preserve them in pits, and this means serves to prepare them for growing more freely when sown in the spring. That method answers equally well here—or the more usual one, that now given, has been very successful.

Plowing Clay Land in the Fall.

SIR,—I am well satisfied with your paper, and I consider it is well worth the money, and no farmer ought to be without the ADVOCATE. In one of your late numbers you spoke about plowing clay land in the fall, but you did not say whether to plow in the spring or to sow on without plowing.

ROBT. SQUIRES.

[The clay land plowed in the fall generally becomes so compact before seed time as to need plowing that the seed may be mellow, and that the seed may be sufficiently covered by the harrow if it be sown broadcast. The cultivation is sometimes found to prepare the ground sufficient ly. If the ground has been plowed strong and rough, so that the heavy scores or banks of earth have been well exposed to the influence of the frost, there is the greater likelihood for the land to be less compact, and the loosening by the cultivator to be sufficient. And the soil now forming the surface will form a good mellow seed bed.]

Exhibition of Sheep.

SIR,—As you claim to be the farmers' advocate, I wish you would try and have better pens made for showing sheep. At the present time, Cotswolds, Leicesters, and Lincolns can be shown from the same flock, in fact, some may be entered in one class and shown in another. Something should be done to show the real breed of the sheep.

WM. DARLING,

Brinsley.

[Mr. Darling's remarks deserve the attention of Directors of the Provincial, and other Exhibitions.—Ed.]

The Free Grant Lands.

SIR,—As many of the good people who read your valuable paper are making enquiries of me about the Free Grant Lands and the prospects generally of the Thunder Bay territory, I deem it advisable to furnish such information through the columns of your widely circulated paper, and more particularly as you always take such a deep interest in the prosperity of your patrons as well as the country in which we live.

In reference to the above, I beg to say that I left Collingwood on the 2nd of July last, on board the steamer "Cumberland," and landed at Prince Arthur's Landing, Thunder Bay, on the 5th of July. The route cannot be surpassed for grandeur of scenery and purity of air. In passing Silver Islet, which is twenty-two miles east of the Landing, we soon arrived in sight of Prince Arthur, which has an easily approached and magnificent harbor, which is sheltered by Thunder Cape, 1,400 feet high, and Pie Island, 1,000 feet; and between these two are several other islands of considerable height. All of these islands are of solid stone.

Prince Arthur is the most prosperous and rising place I have ever seen, being only some three years old and containing a population of some 1,500; and, from the many advantages it possesses over inland towns, it must in a very few years grow to a large and important town. It is at the head