

Management of Pasture and Meadow Lands.

DEAR SIR,—Much has been written on this subject by men of letters, with many good points in their writings, but I would rather have five years of practical knowledge than twenty years of theoretical. The farmer that would live by the field must make himself acquainted with it, or he is sure to fail in its management. So far as my observation of Canadian farming has gone for the last five years, I think it is possible to improve it very much. The farmer cannot see how it will pay to take so much trouble to feed his land, and if he does not attend to this matter he is wasting his time and money. I find the studies of books and men good in their place, but I also find that the farmer has on the farm his best friend, if he will only make use of it.

Now for my plan of procuring a good meadow and a permanent pasture. I seed down the land with barley in the spring; and I find the best plan to adopt to get it in good order, is to break up the sod early in the spring. Sow oats, 4 bushels to the acre, well worked in. As soon as the crop is off I put in the cultivator and get the stubble and weeds on the top; then put on the harrows, and after that let it lie in the sun for a day or two. Then I put on the chain harrow—this knocks all the dirt off the stubble and weeds, and drags the stubble up in heaps, so I can easily collect it in the wagon or cart. I prefer the latter, as it is the handiest for collecting and unloading, as I draw it all in heaps in the field, after which I plow two furrows around the field, and draw an equal number of loads of the plowed earth to each heap, and cover all the stubbles but a small place for setting fire. I then fetch about 20 loads of manure to each heap; spread this compost heap evenly on the top and sides. As soon as possible I plow the land and let it lie till I get through seeding, but I make sure to have all my heap well turned and mixed. After seeding I turn to the field for roots. I now draw out my compost heaps evenly on the whole field; then I plow, harrow and cultivate it until it is well pulverized. Now it is fit for turnips, mangels, potatoes, beets and carrots. As soon as I have the crop off I put in the cultivator and stir the soil as deep as the team can cultivate. I leave it now until spring. At proper time I plow deep, work well and sow my barley, which I well work in. I take the roller and run it over the whole field, drawing a mark at every six feet to sow my timothy and clover. The seed sown, I take the team with a light seed harrow just half the way around, or once across the field. I have adopted this plan since 1865, and I am satisfied that it more than doubly pays for the labor, as the yield per acre is from 2 to 4 tons, according to the season. By all means keep stock off till late in the fall, and I like to keep them off, if possible, altogether. In the spring I would, if the land is dry, feed the first growth for two weeks, and do not feed too clean. The hay would come on then about the time the old meadows are ready, and then the hay can be mixed in the mow—that part you wish to feed to your cows—and thus effect a great saving, as it will not grow such coarse stalks as if it had been cut without being fed early in the spring. This may not seem to be the best way to an old Canadian farmer, but try it before you condemn it.

Wm. THOMAS,

Dereham.

This contribution has for some time lain secreted in our desk. As it embraces a long course of preparation and improvement, it is not out of season even now. We give insertion to it the more willingly from its being thoroughly practiced by a farmer, the results of his own experience and observation.

Clawson and Stone's Wheat.

DEAR SIR,—The sample of Stone's wheat which I got from you last year rusted badly. I sowed again this year and it rusted and is not good for anything. I found a species of chess among it this year, and I showed it to several people, but they never saw anything like it before. I have sent you a head of it for inspection. I sowed the 4 oz. of Clawson wheat you sent me last fall. It produced 15 lbs. of the handsomest wheat I ever saw. Many thanks to you for it. The Clawson had no better chance than the Scott. I just threw it carelessly on the end of the land with the Scott.

R. F. MERRICK.

Millbank, Ont.

Mr. M.'s report of the Stone wheat is such as we have received from others who tried it. It has in all cases proved a failure, as it was not hardy. Having so much to contend with in the climate, we must be continually making trials and experiments. No haphazard farming can succeed here, especially with such competition as there is in farm products as in other industrial pursuits. All the reports of the Clawson wheat are favorable. Thanks for you sending us the specimen of chess.

SIR,—In any place where the snow went off the Scott wheat in winter, it was much worse killed than the Tredwell, and also in hollows where the snow lay in the spring, and where it escaped both winter and spring killing, it was no such crop as the Tredwell. The Scott was sown in the middle of the field, with Tredwell on each side, at the same time, and in every respect the same treatment. It would have paid me over 200 per cent. to have put my money in the fire when I sent for it. Of the small parcel I cannot complain. I mean to try it again.

The gooseberry plant came in good time, neatly done up; but when I opened it it had no appearance of life. I planted and took as good care of it as I could, but it never budded, and soon became rotten.

HUGH FOSTER.

[There may be always expected a few cases of failure, be the successful returns ever so many; and his report is the only unfavorable one of this wheat that we have received. It has very generally, and in places far apart, fully realized our expectations.]

SIR,—In the Township of Stamford, on the farm of J. W. House, I sowed three bushels of barley; when threshed, the return was seventy-five bushels. Other crops accordingly.

Dunville P. O.

A SUBSCRIBER.

The Apiary.

Keep Bees.

Bees are as useful as chickens, and as easily raised. They afford us a luxurious food—healthy, and might be cheap. Bees require no feeding, and little expense and attention. They want only a comfortable home, covered from the storm and sun, and protected from the marauding millers. They will make their own living, and do considerable towards the living of the farmer. Not many swarms can be prosperously kept in one place, but every farmer may raise honey for home use and a little to spare. Every gardener, every villager might do it. A single swarm of bees, well attended to, will soon produce as many swarms as can be successfully kept in one place. All that bees make is clear gain. They get their treasures from flowers. We should have bees enough in the country to have one always sipping at every flower. The flower is all the time producing honey. The bee should be all the time gathering it. If we had a bee all the time at every flower, honey enough would be produced to supply the world. It is a means of wealth, health and pleasure. Let bees be cultivated—let every farmer have them. They are as useful as cows, and are less trouble. A little attention will teach one to manage them.—*Rural World*.

Commencing Bee Keeping.

The great success in the business must depend much upon the character of the hive you use, and the facilities it affords for the securing of surplus. If you use the box hive of 2,000 cubic inches capacity, with two or four boxes upon the top for surplus, of the aggregate capacity, about twenty to twenty-four pounds per colony is all you can reasonably expect. If you use a hive of about the same room for breeding and winter, and surplus box room for a hundred pounds of honey, you may expect one hundred pounds. If you use a hive with box room for two hundred pounds of surplus, you may expect a surplus of from one hundred to two hundred pounds, if the surplus boxes are in intimate connection with the breeding apartment, and communication between them is free and unobstructed. The principal advantage of this plan is, we secure a full working force the first season.

Purchase eight good colonies of bees, and place them in the apiary where you desire your new hives permanently to stand. When the first swarm issues, place it in the new hive. Remove the old hive a few feet from its stand, setting it bottom upward. Place the new hive upon the stand where the old one has stood. With smoke and rapping drive the bees all out of the old hive. They will enter the new hive upon the old stand with the new swarm. Cut out all the comb in the old hive, placing that having the larvæ or eggs near the entrance to the hive. They will gather over the comb and hatch out all the brood, securing the full force of all the workers in the new hive.

Each of the eight colonies treated in this manner will give the full working force of each colony in the new hive, and give half or more of the honey they gather in the surplus boxes, probably securing an average of eighty or a hundred pounds, or more, rendering the first season as profitable as after seasons. Fifty pounds to each colony would pay double the cost of the colonies the first year. The surplus boxes must not be placed upon the hive until the queen has commenced breeding in the central apartment. This gives full surplus, and will cover all the expense of the new hives, and cost of bees the first season if the field and season are good.—*Jasper Hazan, in Country Gentleman*.

How to Ship Honey.

Place two rows of boxes together, with three or four boxes in each row, or enough to make a fifty pound package; then you can measure and cut two end pieces of lumber an inch thick, and bottom and top boards half an inch thick, and long enough to nail on the edge of the end pieces. Nail a cleat, two by six inches long, in the centre of each end piece, by which to lift the case, and then nail it together, placing the boxes in and tacking a strip one inch wide on the edge of the top and bottom, and on the ends of the end pieces, letting it project only about half an inch over the honey boxes, to hold them in place, and yet not hide the honey and glass from view, as railroad men will handle honey more carefully when the honey and glass are both in plain sight. Box honey is often broken, and its sale is injured by being moved by inexperienced draymen, after it has arrived here in safety; hence the commission merchant to whom it is consigned should be notified of about the time it will arrive, and let him have it removed to his own store by his own cartman. Some may suppose we are unnecessarily explicit, but those who have suffered serious loss will appreciate our words of caution.—*Bee Keeper's Magazine*.

The *California Agriculturist* says:—There are 2,000,000 bee hives in the United States. Every hive yields, on an average, a little over twenty-two pounds of honey. The average price at which honey is sold is twenty-five cents a pound; so that, after paying their own board, the bees present us with a revenue of \$8,000,000. To reckon in another way, they make a clear gift of over a pound of pure honey to every man, woman and child in the vast domain of the United States. Over twenty-three and one-third million pounds of wax are made and given to us by these industrious workers. The keeping of bees is one of the most profitable investments that our people can make of their money. The profits arising on the sale of surplus honey average from fifty to two hundred per cent. on the capital invested.

Bees consume large quantities of water when building comb and raising brood. Want of water is one of the causes of dysentery among bees. Knowing the great importance of water for bees, we again call attention to it. A bucket, tin pail or trough filled with water, with a few pieces of old combs or sticks for floats, for the bees to alight upon and drink in safety, should be kept near the hives, unless some stream of water is near.

Look often to your colonies; and if any weak ones are discovered, feed them up. They can be made as strong as any by another spring, but will be worth comparatively nothing if left to themselves.

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