

Correspondence.

[We ask for communications and are pleased to receive them whether they are in opposition to our views or not, but we do not hold ourselves accountable for them. Freedom of the press is the only way to ascertain the correct views on any subject.]

THE FARMERS' ADVOCATE.

SIR.—Enclosed find my subscription to the ADVOCATE for 1873. Your paper should be placed in every farmer's family in the Dominion, and it should go free by Government grant, as it would be the best means of keeping the Treasury full.

W. ABBOTT.

Ottawa, Dec. 6th, 1872.

TURNIPS—YIELD PER ACRE.

SIR.—I send you a very easy method of computing the weight of the turnip crop:—Where turnips are drilled about 28 inches wide and thinned to 18 inches apart in the row, the weight of an average sized turnip multiplied by 200 will give the number of bushels per acre. If the turnips are thicker or thinner than 18 inches, weigh the produce of a rod in length; if a drill, divide the sum by 11, and multiply by 200 as before.

I will now give you my reason for this rule: While engaged among my turnips the other day I commenced to calculate the probable amount of the crop per acre. I supposed 4 lbs. to be the weight of an average sized turnip, and 18 inches apart gives 11 turnips to a rod in length. 28 inch drills give about 7 to a rod wide; 160 rods make an acre, which would give the following result:—4 x 11 x 7 x 160 amounts to 49,280 lbs., which, divided by 60, gives 821 bushels. This amount divided by 4, the average weight of turnips, gives a total of 205 bushels.

Testing the same rule by different weights of turnips, it invariably produced 205 and a fraction, hence I concluded that an average turnip x 205 would give the number of bushels per acre; or, making allowance for turning lands in a field of say 200.

The more accurate way, however, is to weigh the produce of 1 rod in length, divide the sum by 11—the number of turnips in a rod, 18 inches apart—and multiply by 200, or, in close reckoning, say 205.

No definite rule can be laid down, as people vary in the width of drills and plants, but I reckon the above a good medium, and any one, though not a scholar, can reckon the weight of his own crop.

In drills 30 inches wide the number to be used would be about 190; and in drills 33 in. wide it would be 176.

Yours truly,

JAS. ROBERTSON.

Oro, Nov. 5th, 1872.

P. S.—The youngsters are very much pleased with Uncle Tom's Column.

J. R.

COMMENDATORY.

SIR.—Herewith I enclose the subscription for your most excellent paper, which is doing a great deal of good amongst the farmers of western Ontario, who are beginning to realize the consequences entailed upon them from having recklessly over-cropped their lands for a long succession of years; and as a necessity, they must now adopt the recuperative measures which your paper so judiciously recommends to their notice, such as deep culture, subsoiling, ploughing under green crops, top dressing with cheap and easily obtained materials, as swamp muck, peat incorporated with lime which has been previously slaked with strong brine or mixed with salt, all of which I have tried upon my farm near Paris with good general results, and next year I hope to give you more detailed accounts of my operations with particular results.

Yours respectfully,

T. W. COLEMAN.

Paris, Ont., Nov. 29th, 1872.

THE EPIZOOTIC IN CINCINNATI.

SIR.—Not having seen a London paper for two weeks, I am ignorant as to whether the horse disease is still prevalent with you or not. If the results arising from it have affected the citizens of London as they at present affect us, I can readily sympathize in proportion with you if you think it would be of any use!

Everyone feels it—from the richest merchant to the poorest workman, and, of course, it is the latter who suffer the more. Were it not for the oxen, bulls, cows, goats and everything else they can get in harness, trade would be at a stand still, and a crisis would occur which, taking it from its starting point, has never before been experienced.

Your readers will, perhaps, be interested if I give them a slight idea as to how the Epizootic is troubling us just now, and I will also relate what has come under my own notice.

Next to bread, fire is an important staff of life (if we can call it such) and in this city,

where cordwood is almost unknown, coal is used for fuel. Cincinnati, having a population of about 900,000, consumes an immense amount of it, and hundreds of horses (sometimes three to a wagon) are employed to draw it to all parts of the city. The better portion of these horses are sick; the consequence is, the means of conveyance is limited, and to have coal conveyed to your house at present you will pay an exorbitant price for it, nearly treble what it cost a week ago. Those who can do their own hauling are safe, but what is to become of the poor, and winter upon us?

Of the many street-car lines in the city, only one is in operation. One company has 250 horses ailing, and the others have their portion of sick animals. These cars, as many of your readers are aware, run from one end of the city to the other in all directions. They enable a person who resides in the suburbs to reach his place of business in a short time, for the sum of five cents, and he can return home in the same manner. In fact, they have become a public necessity, and cannot well be dispensed with; and the inconvenience caused by their temporary stoppage is not well understood by outsiders. But there is no getting over the difficulty, and people console themselves in talking about their "poor feet," and wish they were shoemakers! This alone will tend to still more elevate the estimation of the horse in the eyes of mankind—of Cincinnati, in particular.

What has caused most anxiety amongst the citizens, since the Boston disaster, is the difficulty which would be experienced in getting the engines to a fire, the horses used for this purpose being equally stricken. By the way, these are excellent beasts, and they know their duty so well that the moment the alarm is given, they being ready harnessed and never fastened to their stalls, prance out, fix themselves in their places before the engines, and wait impatiently till they are attended to, and then off they go, as anxious to get to the fire as their masters.

Only one fire has occurred since the horses were unable to be used, and that broke out on Sunday morning last, at 2 o'clock. Last week meetings were held for the purpose of procuring volunteers who would assist in drawing the engines to fires while the horses were unwell, and on Sunday morning, quicker than was anticipated, in a minute or so after the alarm sounded, they had enough men on hand for the purpose, and they reached the fire almost as quick as ever before. The result of this trial has made the people feel easier in regard to this important question.

The farmers seem afraid to come to town, and when they desert us what shall we do? Yesterday morning on a solitary wagon and horse stood where there should have been twenty, and the owner (the driver) being afraid to stable his horse, no doubt, left it tied to the wagon the whole night previous, with a blanket around it. That farmer was not a Canadian.

But a few days ago a yoke of oxen drawing a wagon would attract nearly as much attention here as a circus. I believe most of the people never saw an ox before; for a change, they see them now on all sides. I saw as many as six drawing a heavy load, and a troupe at present exhibiting here serenades the citizens daily in a four-ox wagon. They cause much sensation. Farmers are getting from \$180 to \$300 a yoke, and good drivers get high wages and are in demand. The oxen are shod before using; whether this is customary with you or not I do not know. The process is simple:—The ox is driven into a stout frame work, hoisted off his feet by means of a windlass acting on a strong canvass placed under the body; the head and feet are secured, and four men work at once, one at each foot, and the ox is relieved from his unpleasant position in a few minutes.

A milkman in endeavoring not to disappoint his customers, uses a spin of goats. I saw a butcher with a genuine Durham bull in harness, and a ring in its nose, as usual. He said he was just trying the experiment; but after half an hour's noble perseverance and gentle coaxing, combined with playfully twisting its tail and giving it the benefit of a raw-hide around the legs, he could only get it to move about 30 feet, when, as if to settle the matter definitely, the bull laid down and would not rise again until the harness was taken off. He was taken back from whence he came.

Something laughable is quite common now days; but the funniest thing yet was a horse with a pair (it should be two pair) of wide red pants on, and a comforter round his neck. He only wanted a pair of boots to make him complete. Two gentlemen, desirous of having a drive, the only animal procurable was a cow; they hitched her to a buggy, and, contrary to expectation, off she went like lightning, just wherever she liked. Their pleasant jaunt terminated in being knocked against a wall and the buggy partly disabled, and, shortly after they started out, one was to be seen returning with the cow,