

thus neglected during the winter while carrying the spring litter. There is not the temptation of the good grass pasture, as in summer. Grass is the best thing in the world for hogs, but it is not sufficient alone as feed for a pregnant sow. She should have an addition of grain feed, corn and oats sufficing to balance the grass ration. They are suckled down thin when bred, and need to recuperate themselves as well as grow the litter. To have good, strong, lusty fall pigs that will grow from the start, have the sow in a good, nice, thrifty condition when she farrows.

Have your best sows—those you want to keep—farrow in March and then again in September, just as near six months apart as you can figure it, and it will be even money which litter makes you the most profit.—[American Swineherd.]

THE FARM.

Clover After Rape.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of Oct. 18th, I notice J. E. M. asking the advisability of sowing rape on a field that missed a catch of clover last year. You recommend sowing barley, and again seeding with clover. Perhaps that would be all right, but circumstances alter cases. The field, having grown two crops of oats, I would not consider in very good shape for barley without an application of manure, and the chances for clover would be slim. Having had considerable experience with rape succeeded by clover, I would advise sowing rape 4 pounds broadcast, or, if land is dirty, 2 pounds in drills, and scuffle several times. The following year sow barley, and seed with clover—8 or 10 pounds clover. I have followed this plan for several years, and never missed a good stand of clover. I think it is a great mistake to sow clover on land that is not in proper shape for a catch; it is too expensive to have only one-tenth grow. I do not mean to say it will not help enrich the land if it will grow; I believe it one of the best fertilizers we have. But if the land is properly handled we will get a good stand nine times out of ten. Would some others give their opinions on this subject?

Grey Co., Ont.

JNO. R. PHILP.

[We advised sowing barley and seeding to clover because we deemed it advisable to get the land speedily back into sod, and, with a thin seeding of barley and 10 pounds of clover, the chances of a catch, we judge, should be fair, especially if, as we ought, perhaps, to have advised, a top-dressing of well-rotted manure be given. However, we welcome our friend's experience in seeding clover after rape. Doubtless, if the ground were manured and the rape not pastured too closely, but a reasonable growth left to turn under, a good seeding could be subsequently secured. There is always room for difference of opinion on matters of field practice, but, in general, we believe it wise to adhere to the short-rotation system, seeding to clover at least every four years.—Editor.]

Threshing in South Perth.

From all appearances a fortnight ago, the uninitiated would say that winter had set in without any needless formalities. But the native Canadian had a greater faith in the stability of his climate, and still believed that the sun would shine again and chase away the frost and snow, and allow ample time for finishing the season's harvest of root crops and corn. And so it has proved, although we are having rather more rain than is desirable; the ditches are running, and fall work is being retarded. There is still much plowing to be done. Threshing is pretty well wound up, as, with the improved outfit, this disagreeable task can be done much more expeditiously than it used to be. The wind stacker does away with the many delays common where the straw-carriers were used. There is now no lengthening of chains, breaking of slats, or "bunging" with chaff or straw, especially where the self-feeder is used, as the latter insures steadier feeding without ever crowding the cylinder, and it will take either peas, sheaves or loose stuff as fast as any strong man would care to put it on for an hour. Of course, it does not reduce the number of hands required, but it does away with the arduous work of hand-cutting, and, altogether, it seems to be an even greater improvement than the wind stacker, although the latter "saves" three or four men at a big threshing. The use of a dust-collector behind the cylinder would now put this dirty work on a par with other farm jobs. The result of the threshing is, on the whole, fairly satisfactory. Oats, which are reported light in some other parts of the Province, are fair to good with us. Peas have yielded fairly well, and we cannot say that we have a really poor crop of anything. On the whole, the husbandman has little reason to complain.

J. H. BURNS.

Removal of Dams.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I would like to raise the question through the columns of your valuable publication, if, in this age of cheap electric power, the Ontario Government would be justified in taking the matter into their hands of removing dams off rivers, where a large area of good land is completely spoiled with water backed up by said dams, and to instal electric power in its place? I am an interested party, along with others, where the owners of one roller flour mill and a small woollen mill maintain a dam that drowns some five thousand acres of the best land in the county. The owners of these mills hold the dams because of peaceable possession for over twenty years. I claim that a good deal may be said why the law that ruled 40 years ago on this question should not rule now. In the first place, our fathers purchased these lands from the Crown in their naturally dry condition, paid for them, and never received a dollar for the damage the mill-owner did in placing his dam there. In the second place, in those early days the Government gave legal rights for dams on rivers for the purpose of floating the timber over the rapids, but now the timber is a thing of the past, at least in this part of Ontario. The question may naturally be asked, why did we not take measures to have those dams removed before the owners obtained legal possession? My first answer would be—and it is quite obvious—our fathers had land beyond the river farther back to keep them chopping and clearing for a period of perhaps 30 years, and the damage they were sustaining was not so apparent. This land along the river was not looked upon as being valuable, for the reason that they had then so much that was more easily cleared and gave quicker returns. If those dams were removed, these low, rich, alluvial portions of the farm would now be the very best and most productive part thereof. There is still another reason why the unwary farmer allowed his rights to slip out of his hands, and that is, in those early days flouring mills were few and far between, and, no doubt, at that time a flour mill was a convenience in a community, but now the local flour mill is not so important, since our railway system has brought these commodities within the reach of all.

ONTARIO SUBSCRIBER.

[Note.—We think that the Government would not be justified in doing what is proposed; it would, in our opinion, be beyond the proper scope of exercise of Governmental functions.—Editor.]

Poisoning by Poison Ivy.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In last week's "Farmer's Advocate" A. H. reported the suspected poisoning of the white noses and white feet of some horses pasturing where poison ivy was plentiful. Horses with no white were unaffected. I noticed that a correspondent advised him to apply sweet oil and carbolic acid.

The fact that thin-skinned farm stock, as well as human beings, are subject to poisoning by this common weed, as well as by its close relation, the poison sumach, makes the answer important. What is good for the horses is probably also good for the owners, if similarly affected.

This column would hardly hold all the alleviants and cures that have been seriously proposed for poisoning by poison ivy. In the absence of knowledge of the active poisonous principle which the plant contains, the remedies must be only empirical; the recoveries may be on account of the remedy, or in spite of it. It has been taught by some that the poison is an alkaloid, by others that it is of the nature of an acid. One eminent scientist published a paper in which he argued that the poison is bacterial. The latest theory is that of Dr. Franz Pfoff, who holds that the poison is an oil, to which he has given the name Toxicodendrol. He extracted the oil, and at the time of reporting his investigations, thirteen months after its extraction, he found that a sample, exposed all that time in an open dish, had not, apparently, lost any of its virulence. On account of the nature of the poison, he would prohibit all remedies containing oil, unless they were used to dissolve the poison and removed immediately, otherwise they spread the poison over the skin. He claims that the poison oil of ivy is very soluble in alcohol, and that it makes a precipitate with acetate of lead (sugar of lead). The treatment he advises is repeated washing with alcoholic solution of acetate of lead. Alcohol alone, if applied copiously enough and not allowed to dry off on the skin, will dissolve and wash away the poison. Strong soapsuds, used in the same way, will be beneficial, if not entirely effective.

This treatment, if Dr. Pfoff's theory be true, will be of little avail after the skin has absorbed the poison and the underlying tissues have become inflamed. Some of the oil remedies that are so often advised might then be useful. Carbolic acid, while not an antidote for the poison,

is supposed to exert a mechanical effect upon the cutaneous blood-vessels that is probably helpful. A five-per-cent. solution of carbolic acid in Carron oil might, on account of the limewater which the latter contains, be better than carbolic acid and sweet oil (Carron oil, a standard remedy for burns, consists of one part limewater and two parts fresh linseed oil). Repeated washings with limewater alone is sometimes prescribed for ivy-poisoning. It is thought by some that the limewater has some curative effect on the nerve-endings, even if it is not antidotal to the poison.

Based on what I have observed and heard, had I to treat myself for this kind of poisoning, I would first make liberal use of alcoholic solution of acetate of lead as a lotion, followed, if convenient, with limewater, and then brush or touch the inflamed parts, if any, with a mixture of equal weights of chloral hydrate, gum camphor and carbolic acid in crystals—not the glycerine solution sold as carbolic acid. The chloral hydrate and camphor should be triturated until they liquefy, and then the dry carbolic acid added. Equal parts of this mixture and sweet or olive oil make an excellent household liniment.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

J. DEARNESS.

Fall Work Against Insects.

(Press Bulletin from the Ontario Agricultural College, by Prof. C. J. S. Bethune.)

The time of year has now arrived when most of our insect foes have ceased their active work and are withdrawn from observation, and consequently most people come to the conclusion that the season's fight is over and that nothing need at present be done. But this is very far from being the case. There are many destructive insects that can be more easily dealt with now than at any other time of the year.

First and foremost, the pea weevil. The losses from this insect have been very much lessened during the last two seasons in Ontario, but this does not mean that we have got rid of the trouble. The insect is still with us, but being in greatly reduced numbers, can the more easily be dealt with. If there is the least suspicion of the presence of the tiny beetle in the newly-harvested peas, they, and in any case peas intended for seed, should be at once treated with bisulphide of carbon, which will kill every one that is exposed to its fumes. The method is familiar enough: Put the peas in an air-tight cask or bin, and place in an open pan on top of them one ounce of the bisulphide to every 100 pounds of peas (a bushel weighs about 60 pounds), cover up tightly and leave for forty-eight hours; then open up either out of doors or where there is a thorough draft of air; do not allow any fire or light to come near it, as the vapor is very inflammable and explosive. Every weevil or other insect among the peas will be dead, and non-infested seed will be available for next year. The same treatment should be used for the bean weevil, which is a serious pest in some parts of the Province.

In addition to this treatment of the peas themselves, the pea-straw and rubbish should be cleaned up and burnt, and all refuse where threshing has been done should be similarly got rid of. This will destroy any weevils that have already come out and are hiding away for the winter. It will pay to do this whether the insect is known to be present or not.

This brings us to the next important matter, namely, clean farming and gardening. All sorts of insects find their winter quarters in refuse. Many that infest grain take refuge in the stubble, others are sheltered by loose rubbish, others again hide in tufts of grass, among weeds in fence-corners, under bark, wherever, in fact, there is shelter of any kind. Now is the time to turn them out and expose them to the frost and wet. Clean up and burn weeds of every kind; this will destroy many seeds, as well as insects. Leave no heaps of rubbish anywhere. Gather up and add to the manure pile the leaves and stalks of roots, potatoes, etc. Plow up old pastures that are infested with white grubs or the larvae of rose beetles. Scrape the rough bark off the trunks and limbs of fruit trees, but this may be done later on in the winter. By keeping the farm, the orchard and the garden clean, myriads of insects will be prevented from finding on the premises the shelter they need during the winter, and will either perish or go somewhere else for a hiding-place, and thousands more that are in the egg or chrysalis stage will be destroyed. Many, no doubt, will think all this too much trouble, but if they faithfully try it, they will soon find that it pays.

I received the knife all right. I did not expect to get as good a one. I am more than pleased with it, and I am sure I will try to get two or three more new subscribers for your valuable paper before the end of the year. Thanking you very much for your valuable premium.

Windsor, Ont.

JOHN H. DREWERY.