

Sugar Beets.

SIR,—As there is at present considerable interest manifested by the people in this, as well as in other parts of the Dominion, with regard to the sugar beet industry, and as there may be still some doubts existing among farmers as to whether the real sugar beet can or cannot be raised in Ontario, and I am perfectly satisfied that the people of this country as a whole, not merely the farmers, but all classes, both rich and poor, would be greatly benefited by the early introduction of that all-important labor producing and money saving branch of business, viz.: "The raising of beets and the manufacturing of sugar,"—I thought it would not be amiss to communicate to my fellow farmers what little I know about it, through your valuable paper, if, perchance by so doing, others might be encouraged to assist in advancing this, to our country, new enterprise.

In the first place, if this business would be brought into active operation, it would induce farmers to have their lands cultivated with more care, using the subsoil plow more frequently, as the beet naturally requires a deep and loose soil; with its long roots it derives or receives much of its nutrition from below the strata usually cultivated for other crops, consequently the top soil is not impoverished by the raising of sugar beets, but is, if anything, enriched by the process. Thus the beet would be a splendid alternative to introduce into a rotary system of farming, such crops to follow the beets that require a shallow and mellow top or surface soil; besides, the pulp after the sugar is taken out is said to be equal, if not superior, to the common sweet turnip as food for all kinds of stock.

Secondly, if sugar factories and refineries were built in the different localities and the business carried on an extensive scale, it would give employment to thousands of persons living in towns and villages throughout the country, who are at present almost universally unemployed during a great part of the year.

Lastly, what a boon would it not be to the country if, instead of sending thousands—yea, millions of dollars out of the country annually for foreign sugars, all that money could be retained within the boundaries of the Dominion and remain afloat among the people. Would it not have a tendency to enliven the dilapidated condition of business, assist in fostering other industries? And in a few years the general traffic throughout the whole country in sugars might be turned. What is now a heavy expense by the constant importations of this luxury, might become an exportable product of the country, thus resulting in increasing our wealth, lessening the national expenditure, and consequently elevating our national prosperity.

In the summer of 1877 I sowed about half an acre with sugar-beet seed I obtained from Mr. Reimer, of Wellesley Village. The land on which I sowed it was part of my turnip ground, prepared in the usual manner; I drilled in the seed with a turnip-drill on the 15th of June; they came up nicely, and grew rapidly. When they were big enough to be thinned I ran through with Bettschens root scuffer, with the coulters in. I regulated it so as to cut very closely to the beets, which made it easy to clean them. I should subsequently have run through a second time, first inserting a set of mould-boards into the outside beams of the scuffer, for the purpose of moving some earth up against the beets, as the roots should always remain covered in order to retain the saccharine principle. This, however, was neglected, yet, although the seed was sown from six to eight weeks too late, and although the beets were cultivated but once, the patch yielded about 300 bushels or nine tons of sound and solid roots. I have no hesitation in saying that, had the seed been put in at a proper time, and had they afterwards been cultivated two or three times, the patch would have produced at least four, if not five, hundred bushels. I am satisfied that on good common ground, prepared in the ordinary way, as for turnips, from six to eight hundred bushels of beets may be raised to the acre without any risk or extra labor.

I experienced some difficulty in taking them up, as they locate very deep in the earth. I got some ground up and pressed at the cider mill, and boiled the juice into molasses, but was unable to clarify it properly, so it remained dark but very sweet. Some of the beets I fed to the stock; the sheep, in particular, seemed to fatten upon them easily.

Would it not be well for the Local Government to take up this subject as a matter for consideration, and adopt such measures as would tend towards developing this branch of industry in the Province?

A FARMER, Wilmot Township.

SIR,—There is nothing used in making sugar or syrup but the juice of the cane. The evaporators and filters are so arranged as to take all glutinous parts out of the juice, so it will make sugar without any trouble. It takes about one and a half pounds of seed to the acre, and is worth \$2 per 100 lbs. I made 378 gallons to the acre last year, and sold it at 75c. a gallon. I made from a gallon of syrup 7½ pounds of good sugar. The yield per acre is a great deal larger than in the Southern States, as the cane is larger and taller, and the juice sweeter. I was raised on a sugar plantation in the Southern States.

I find your ADVOCATE a great help in farming, and I value it very highly. Any thing you may do in the sugar business I feel assured will be a great help to Canada. C. W., Grimsby, Ont.

[In another column will be seen an article on Sorghum. Mr. W.'s letter is valuable to Canadians, as it relates to Canadian experiments.]

SIR,—My cows have a habit of chewing wood; in winter they will gnaw the boards off their mangers and will chew the boards off the buildings; in summer they seem to relish an old bone or piece of board in preference to the best grass. I give them plenty of salt and bran, and mixed the salt with wood ashes, but it had no effect.

My ewes are given to be clotted in the fleece; they are otherwise healthy. I keep them in a cool barn, well ventilated; feed hay and a little buckwheat, oats or white beans every day from the time they come off the grass till spring. Could some of the readers of the ADVOCATE give me any information on the above subjects, and oblige. H. N., Hemmingford.

[Your cows require more phosphate in their food. The land on which they are pastured needs bone or other phosphate. Will some of our readers give their experience of clotted wool?]

SIR,—Through the kindness of Mr. Lean, one of my neighbors who referred me to you for information, I want to buy a draft stallion, to weigh from 1,700 to 2,000 lbs., with a heavy bone, to be sound, kind, and all right in every way for breeding purposes; from four to eight years old. A Clydesdale, Norman or Belgium preferred. If you know of any, please inform me of it, and about the least price that will buy him. If you do not know of any please hand this to some gentleman that will give me correct information. J. P. McE., Mansfield, Ohio.

[Any one having a horse of this description, would, by advertising in the breeders column of the FARMERS' ADVOCATE, be pretty sure to get a purchaser.]

SIR,—The weather so far this winter has been most favorable for the farmers for hauling in their supply of firewood and fencing. What is very remarkable for this locality is, there has not been the least thaw since before Christmas.

The subject of the growing of sugar beet is now occupying the attention of the farmers, and is being discussed with a view of testing whether its culture can be profitably carried on or not. And in connection therewith, stock raising, as well as the fattening of beef for foreign markets, is also engaging their consideration.

Farmers generally are more carefully studying the capabilities of their soils than formerly, and are beginning to see the necessity of adapting their practice to the growing of such crops and such farm stock as the circumstances and markets will allow. J. B. B., Grand Pre, N. S.

SIR,—Please let me know in your next issue if there are any free grant lands in Manitoulin Island. A. H., Arthur, Ont.

[We cannot give definitely the information asked for. Were those in authority to furnish regularly to an office, such as the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, authoritative reports on free land, townships open for settlement, &c., &c., it would be of no small benefit to the country. The Bureau of Agriculture and of Emigration may perhaps act on the suggestion.]

SIR,—Would you please answer the following through the columns of the ADVOCATE: I have 28 acres of wheat, and the Hessian Fly is working much injury in part of it. Is there any remedy for it? Would salt be of any benefit, or as a fertilizer? A few years ago I seen a recipe for a cement or wash for old roofs, to make them tight and keep them from leaking; also for cracks for chimneys, etc. The composition was salt, ashes, sand and lime. Is there anything of that kind that would be useful and cheap?

A. S., Luton, Ont.

[There is, we regret to say, no means of destroying the Hessian Fly that has survived the winter. It might have been, partially, at least, guarded against by late sowing. We have no actual knowledge of the means you mention of repairing leaking roofs.]

SIR,—I want to ask you if you have heard or seen anything of the "yellow oats" from Denmark? Do you know anything of the McCarling spring wheat? We consider the Clawson the best fall wheat we have here; it has done well ever since it was introduced.

The bushel of Odessa wheat I got last spring was a complete failure, in fact I think spring wheat is done in this part of the country. J. P., Teeswater, Ont.

[We saw the yellow oats at the International Exhibitions at Philadelphia and Paris, but were unable to get any of it for seed. We never saw it in Canada.]

We knew of good crops raised of the McCarling wheat some years ago in some sections of the country.]

SIR,—I am a subscriber of your valuable paper, and wish to ask through it the best way to get rid of ragweed. P. W., Waterford.

[Thorough cultivation will entirely eradicate "ragweed," root, stem and seed. Always thought the growing of ragweed in land a sure sign of its fertility. It never thrives worth mentioning in a hungry soil, as sometimes other weeds do.]

SIR,—Another subscriber to the FARMERS' ADVOCATE from the far West. The people here think (and justly so) that the ADVOCATE is the best farmers' paper printed on the continent. I expect to get more subscribers for you soon. Lots of folks borrow my paper. R. C., St. Helens, Oregon, U. S.

SIR,—Be so kind as to let me know what kind of spring wheat you recommend this year? Also, if you know anything of a wheat called the "Astrachan," grown in the vicinity of Whitby, east of Toronto. It is a bright amber colored grain. J. G., Granton, Ont.

SIR,—I am highly pleased with the steps you have taken in regard to the cattle disease. My brother-in-law lost 70 head in Cheshire, England; they were worth £25 each. My brother lost 62 head, 40 of them were milking cows; other farmers lost in proportion. Do all you can to keep the disease out of this Dominion. W. M., Brownsville.

A subscriber wants to know—If apple trees are girdled by mice, can they be saved by inserting new bark in any way? E. D. S., Winona, Ont.

[Girdled trees may be saved by connecting the damaged space with a graft.]

SIR,—Can you inform me where I can procure quince cuttings for grafting; also, the price per 100? SUBSCRIBER.

[Enquire of the nurserymen whose names appear in our advertising columns.]

To C. A. M., Prince Edward Island.—Clover will make the best and cheapest manure. The best way to prevent it being winter-killed is to sow it on sod land that has been twice plowed. The small feelers and decaying roots of the old sod protect the young plants from heaving out in the frosty and thawing season of spring—that is the time the injury is done to young clover.