

SIR,—I have a field of six acres which I seeded with clover and timothy last spring, along with oats. There is a fair catch of clover. As I intend pasturing this field for a number of years, I would like to sow a few other grasses on it this spring. How would it do to sow Meadow Fescue, Kentucky Blue Grass, and Orchard Grass during March or April?

FARMER, Brucefield.

[You could not do better.]

SIR,—Will you please inform me through your valuable paper if there is a Stud or Herd Book kept in Canada for the registration of Clydesdales, and what are the necessary requirements and how to proceed to register. I have a colt bred in the following manner: Sire, Imp. Royal Exchange, sire of dam imp. Netherby, sire of G. dam imp. Comet, sire of G. G. dam imp. Clyde. Will he be well enough bred to register. My own opinion is that he is as well bred as many of the imported colts, as he is an excellent type of the pure Clydesdale?

G. W., Salford, Ont.

[Communicate with the Secretary of the National Clydesdale Stud Book, Chicago. There is no Clydesdale Stud Book for Canada.]

SIR,—I would like to hear through the ADVOCATE your, or others', opinion of the Devon cattle. Would they not be likely to pay better on many farms than Durhams?

F. M., Westbrook.

[This class of cattle are good for all purposes, especially for working oxen. They have not as many admirers in this country as some of the other classes.]

SIR,—I would like to know if tomatoes would pay raised on light, sandy soil.

P. G., Brantford, Ont.

[Yes, if properly manured and careful attention be paid to cultivation.]

SIR,—1. What is the best and cheapest way to make a hot bed? 2. What time should seeds be sown to raise plants for market? 3. Would it be a good plan to start grape and currant cuttings in a hot-bed? 4. How, and the best time of year to propagate cedar hedges?

A SUBSCRIBER, Leskard, Ont.

[1. For how to make a hot-bed, see answer to J. W., Strathburn, in this issue. 2. As early as possible. 3. No, better wait till spring. 4. In the spring of the year, by planting young trees about one to two feet high, and plant as close as possible.]

SIR,—I see advertised by seedsmen, "for sale, Barley, also Chavelier two-rowed barley," strangers to us down here. Please let us know through the ADVOCATE what are their particular merits.

J. H. B.

[The Black Barley has been grown extensively in the neighborhood of Chatham, Ont., and is reported as being an excellent variety for feeding purposes, but of no value for malting. The "Chavelier" has not answered in this country.]

SIR,—Will you kindly answer the following questions in your next number. 1. Is whole flax seed, raw or boiled, good for sheep instead of oats when oats are scarce? 2. Which is the best breed of sheep for a beginner to buy to raise for wool and mutton, in this latitude, and near several small towns, where there is a market for a good deal of mutton. 3. Would pure Merino rams be good cross for the common sheep of Minnesota, when brought here to Pembina country?

M., Pembina, D. T.

[We would not advise feeding of flax seed to sheep instead of oats, flax seed being too laxative. The best breed of sheep for your locality would be those natives that have been bred in the neighborhood, and can stand the climate; then improve by crossing with any close-wooled ram.]

SIR,—I have a piece of land that is very sandy, and I wish to know if clover sown alone would do, and if I could expect a crop the same season?

DUNCAN, Bowmanville.

[If the land is in good tilth and well manured, you might expect a good crop of clover, but not the first season. Calves might be pastured on it late.]

SIR,—I received your sample copy, and am very much pleased with it. Please give me hints for starting an orchard, as I am going to start one next spring in Canada. F. J. R., Lowell, Mass.

[We are unable, in a condensed form, to do justice to this subject. But we may say for your general guidance: Have the ground properly prepared by drainage, manuring and cultivation. Select thrifty trees from a reliable nurseryman, even if you have to pay a higher price for them. The trees should be from three to four years old, and for variety the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association only favor 5 varieties, in the selection of which you will have to use your individual judgment, as a deal will depend on the locality. The fewer varieties you grow the better, as they can be more readily sold for shipment. The distance apart to plant the trees will depend whether you intend to occupy the land solely by the trees, or intend cropping. If for the former, 25 to 30 feet apart is the distance, and if it is intended to crop the land, then the trees should be at least from 40 to 50 feet apart. However, we should advise you only to grow root crops until the orchard is well established, when it can be seeded down. Never sow grain or grass seeds in young orchards. A plan highly recommended is this for one acre:

O	X	O	X	O	X
X	P	X	P	X	P
O	X	O	X	O	X
X	P	X	P	X	P
O	X	O	X	O	X

The letters O represent standard apples 30 feet apart, and the P, standard pears, and the X, cherries, plums, &c.]

A. B., Ont., wishes to know if potatoes can be grown successfully under straw, the ground being clean; also if beans can be grown successfully, sown broadcast on clean ground, and how much should be sown to the acre? What kind of beans are most suitable? What time should they be sown?

[Potatoes can be grown under straw, but the advisability of this course is another question altogether; only as an experiment would we advise potato growing in this manner, as there are so many more better methods. With regard to your second question: Beans can be grown broadcast, but if a profitable crop is wanted it would be better to plant in hills or drills.]

SIR,—I have about 50 fine young fruit trees completely girdled with mice. Will you, in your next issue, please give a remedy, as I presume there are plenty of others who have met the same misfortune?

J. J., Boston.

[Brown paper or hay bands saturated with tar and tied tightly round the trees will prevent further depredations. These can be removed when spring comes. If the trees are completely girdled the chances of reviving circulation are extremely small, unless you united the bark by engraftment.]

SIR,—I shall be much obliged if you, or some reader of your valuable paper, will inform me how many years a pig will grow, if let live and well cared for, and what kind of grain will make the most bone and muscle, or which is the best of any other kind of food, and how many times a day is it best to feed it? What makes me ask the question is, I have a Poland China pig about two years and a half old, weighing about 1,000 lbs., and is well, smart and healthy, and I think that he will gain three or four hundred more, yet I would like to have some one advise me as to keeping him through the hot weather in summer, and I would like to know the best plan, as I want to make him as heavy as possible.

YOUNG FARMER.

[Unless you are desirous of going into the show business it would be better to kill the animal before winter departs. It would be extremely risky to keep such a large pig during the hot summer months. He is at present sufficiently large for profit. To keep it longer would entail loss.]

SIR,—Please to state in next issue of the ADVOCATE what kind of oats would be best to sow on river flats, as most kinds go down before being filled. Is there any kind stronger in straw than others?

A. C., Middlemiss.

[We would advise the sowing of any of the Tartar varieties, as they are the strongest in straw.]

SIR,—Having read an article in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, December number, 1882, page 328, in which the article sets forth that the theory of wheat turning to chess was not yet exploded, allow me to state some of my observations, that can be vouched for by many beside myself. In the fall of 1869 my neighbor had a fallow of 12 acres of new ground, or, in other words, 12 acres of land just cleared of heavy timber, that until now had never bore any cereal of any kind. He procured as fine, clean seed of the Treadwell variety as I have ever seen, not a sign of chess to be found in the grain. The grain was sown, if anything, late for fall wheat. In spring time it gave promise of a very good crop, but at harvest time there was not one head of wheat to twenty of chess, and he did not receive in return more than twice the amount of wheat that he had sown. In this Northwest such a thing is unknown as yet, and fall wheat is now being introduced, and according to past experience will no doubt be a success. This country has produced, under very adverse circumstances, the best spring wheat that I have ever seen, either in Canada or the United States, and I have been in the grain trade for 35 years. Extreme wet caused the failure of two crops—1880 and 1881—and the crop of 1882 was not first-class, owing to the seed being of a very poor quality, but still we have samples that cannot be beaten very easily. Very severe winter, so far; the hardest I have experienced for three years. This country only requires to be known to become the garden and paradise of the farmer, which it is soon destined to be.

J. K., Edmonton, N. W. T.

SIR,—Kindly reply in your first issue, or otherwise, as to the most secure and profitable investments in Canada for English capital, non-resident.

R. T. S., Ockley, Eng.

[This is just what we would like to know ourselves, even resident.]

SIR,—Will you please give the standard weight of apples, plums, &c., in your next?

K. C. E., Roger Hill, U. S.

[Sixty pounds to the bushel.]

SIR,—You would oblige me by answering the following questions: 1. In onion raising do you put on the salt and ashes before you plant or after they come up? 2. What is the average yield per acre of onions, also of bush beans?

A SUBSCRIBER.

[1. Put on the salt and ashes before planting. 2. Onions, from three to five hundred bushels per acre. Beans, from thirty to forty bushels.]

SIR,—Should I make any difference in the feed of a heifer that will come in the last of April than that of an older cow? If so, please inform me as to what treatment I should adopt.

A SUBSCRIBER, Yarmouth, N. S.

[A young animal should not be so highly fed as an older one. They are more liable to fever.]

SIR,—Would you please tell me through your ADVOCATE where I could purchase the James Vick and Manchester strawberry plants; also at what price they can be bought?

A SUBSCRIBER.

[Enquire of nurserymen, whose advertisements appear in the usual columns.]

SIR,—Would you please inform me either through the FARMER'S ADVOCATE or by private letter, your opinion, or the opinion of some experienced individual, if the Watson Gleaner and Binder will give satisfaction.

J. C., Brison, P. Q.

[Information on above from any of our subscribers will oblige.]

SIR,—Please inform me through your valuable paper what will cure warts on cattle's heads.

W. D. F., Hampton, N. B.

[Apply lunar caustic, which can be obtained at your nearest drug store.]

I like the ADVOCATE very much. As long as I am a stock-raiser I won't be without it. It is one of the best agricultural papers with which I am acquainted.

T. W. HUGHES, Donelson, Tenn.