

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

The 1901 Fruit Crop.

The far-famed "Garden of Canada," the Niagara fruit district, is this year—the first of the new century—taking a comparative rest, and as a consequence of the shortage in the fruit crop the people of Canada are paying more for that product than they have for some years past. That part of Ontario lying between Hamilton on the west and Niagara Falls on the east, Lake Ontario on the north and "the mountain" on the south, has well been termed the "Garden of Canada," and it is to that district that the inhabitants of the Dominion have learned to look for the bulk of their fruit supplies. Such will always be the case, for there is no other section in this vast Dominion where the soil and climatic influences are so favorable to bringing excellent fruit to perfect maturity.

The reason of the short crop in this district this season was not a late spring frost, nor a hard winter, but it was a cold, damp spring. During nearly the whole of the blooming period we had daily rains and cool weather, and as a consequence the bees and other insects, and the winds, could not do their work in the fertilization of the blossoms. There never was a more magnificent display of bloom, and the growers anticipated a record crop, but their expectations were not realized. As a consequence, those growers who have fruit are wearing long smiles to correspond with some of the long prices they are getting for their products, while those who have not been so fortunate are trying to enjoy the success of their neighbors.

The early small fruits ruled high, strawberries ranging from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per 24-qt. crate, and red and black raspberries kept to \$2 or above most of the season. This was much in advance of previous years, and very satisfactory to the growers. Cherries were a very scarce article, and were difficult to get at any price.

Coming to the larger and later fruits which are now ripening, we have to admit a short crop in everything but pears and grapes. It is estimated by many of the largest growers that there is not half a crop of either plums or peaches, and a few put it as low as a third of a crop. Early varieties of peaches, that last year sold for 15 cents to 40 cents per 12-qt. basket, are this year bringing 50 cents to \$1. These are such varieties as Sneed, Alexander, and Ey. Rivers. Abundance and Saunders plums, that last year were a glut at 25 cents per 12-qt. basket, are now going freely at double that amount, and in some instances more. Thus, one can easily form an opinion as to "supply and demand" in the case of plums and peaches.

Apples are a complete failure in this district, and those who are fortunate to have any should be extremely thankful. Never was there greater demand for them. Manitoba and the Northwest, with her enormous grain crop and consequent good times, is calling for them, and has been for months past. The people of those Provinces understand that they must pay long prices for apples this season, but that does not seem to discourage them. To those who have apples I would say, "Ship them West." But in doing so, grade high, be honest in your packing and dealings, and endeavor to elevate the name of the Ontario fruit-grower, instead of bringing it into disrepute. Then, there is the European market. The United States has a short apple crop this year, and they will not be likely to flood the European markets. I am not one that believes in "hanging on" to fruit, or anything else, when once I consider I am offered a reasonable price, and unless you are sure of being able to preserve your apples in good condition on into winter, you might better part with them soon after they are harvested, as it will not take many rotten ones to count up considerably.

Pears in this district are a splendid crop and of excellent quality. These will no doubt have to take the place of apples to a great extent. There will be a big demand for them in the West. Then, as they are of such fine quality this season, we should endeavor to our utmost to get a fine lot of them over to England in prime condition, and show the Englishmen that if we cannot produce "dukes," we can produce fruit, and that the finest in the world. JOHN B. PETTIT.
Wentworth Co., Ont.

The shortage in the apple crop in most sections of Canada and the United States will certainly be accompanied by higher prices for export than has prevailed for several years past, and for this reason attention should be paid to the picking of the fruit at the proper time, and to packing in the best possible condition so as to secure the top price. This, of course, applies specially only in cases where growers are likely to have any to sell; but even where none are likely to be sold, the gathering should be timely, in order to the fruit keeping through the winter in good condition.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

1st.—Questions asked by bona-fide subscribers to the Farmer's Advocate are answered in this department free.

2nd.—Our purpose is to give help in real difficulties; therefore, we reserve the right to discard enquiries not of general interest or which appear to be asked out of mere curiosity.

3rd.—Questions should be clearly stated and plainly written, on one side of the paper only, and must be accompanied by the full name and address of the writer, as a guarantee of good faith, though the name is not necessarily for publication.

4th.—In veterinary questions, the symptoms especially must be fully and clearly stated, otherwise satisfactory replies cannot be given.

Veterinary.

TOO ANXIOUS TO BREED.

I have a pure-bred Yorkshire sow, nine months old, who, when she weighed 125 lbs., and was five months old, I bred to my pure-bred Tamworth hog. She was due to farrow on the 15th of July. I had her in a hot, close pen, and she had always been fed on grain and whey, consequently at that date she was quite fat, and so could not give birth to her progeny. Engaging the services of a farmer experienced in such matters, he took the pigs from her (ten in number), the best I had ever seen. Three were dead and badly decayed; the other seven were living, but she was so sick they died. She is getting well rapidly now, and all her organs seem to have come to a normal state. Would you advise keeping her for a breeder? Will her generative organs ever be perfect again? What diet is best for a breeding sow at all times, and also for the last month with pig, and after the pigs have come?

Frontenac Co., Ont.

SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—Taking all things into consideration, you have had better success with your sow than could reasonably be expected. In the first place, you bred her too young. In some cases, a young female, especially one in good flesh, will reach the state of puberty very early, though not sufficiently matured to reproduce without great danger. Such was the case with your young sow. You should not have bred her until she was older and more developed. In the second place, the surroundings in which you placed her to farrow indicates either gross carelessness or gross ignorance. The weather about the middle of July being excessively hot, any careful man would have selected a cool and as well-ventilated building as possible. Again, the sow was too fat for breeding, and we are not surprised to learn that she had trouble; on the contrary, we are surprised that she recovered. If allowed to run for four or five months before breeding her again, I see no reason why she should not make a good breeder. Breeding sows should be kept in moderate condition, neither excessively fat nor yet lean. The food given will depend upon what the owner has to feed. All food should be of good quality, easily digested, given regularly in small quantities. The sow should have plenty of exercise. In summer time she will be able to get grass; in winter time, substitutes for green food should be given in the form of roots. If confined in small quarters in cold weather, where little exercise is taken, a sufficient quantity of some laxative should be given daily in the food to keep the bowels open. I find for this purpose, equal parts of powdered charcoal, sulphur and Epsom salts act well. After farrowing, the same principles in feeding should be observed, but, of course, she will require food in larger quantities after the litter is a few days old. J. H. REED, V. S.

ENLARGED TENDONS—BLOODY MILK.

I have a mare, 12 years old, which has enlargement of the back tendons of right fore leg, between knee and fetlock joints, till the leg is almost round. She is a trifle lame, and after driving holds it out in front as if resting. Would you advise a blister, and what kind?

2. Also have a cow, four years old, that had a calf in March, and since that time has given bloody milk at times, but is getting worse. I tried Glauber salts and carbolic acid, but it did very little good. Please give cause and treatment. W. K. WILLITON.

Algoma District, Ont.

Ans.—Enlarged tendons, such as you describe, are very hard to reduce. Blistering may help. Use the following: Two drams biniodide of mercury, two drams powdered cantharides, two ounces vaseline; mix. Clip the hair off, rub blister well in, tie head so that she can't bite the parts. In 24 hours rub well again with the blister, and in 24 hours longer wash off and apply vaseline. Let her head down now, and apply vaseline every day until the scale comes off. Then tie her up and blister again. After this blister every four weeks.

2. The bloody milk is due to rupture of some of the small vessels of the gland. Some cows are predisposed to this condition, and it is very hard to treat. Do not feed to cause great flow of milk. Bathe the udder long and often with cold water, and after bathing apply camphorated oil, made by putting one pint sweet oil and half ounce camphor in a jar. Place the jar in a pan of warm water and leave it there until the camphor is dissolved. J. H. REED, V. S.

LAME MARE AND RUPTURED COLT.

1. I have a mare eleven years old; was sprained in the right ankle when four years old; got all right in about a month. Carried herself all right until a year ago last June, when she showed lame again, large puffs coming on each side of her leg above the ankle. I blistered them, and she got better, until this summer she became lame again. I took shoes off and let her run a month, but it did not help her any. Blacksmith says her feet are all right; shows some symptoms of founder; some tender on the coffin bone. What could be done for her? Does it hurt her to breed from?

2. Also a suckling horse colt, about three months old, has an enlargement in bag as big as a large potato, about four inches long. Is it a rupture; if so, can it be cured, or would it be better to kill him at once? E. P. L.
Compton Co., Que.

Ans.—It is possible the bursal enlargements or puffs above the fetlock joint are causing the lameness. These enlargements, when quite large and tense, frequently do. All that can be done in such cases is long rest and repeated blistering. If the lameness be in the feet (and it is impossible for me to tell without seeing her), long rest and repeated blistering around the coronet will help her, as it will insure her a rest. Of course, if there has been a congenital weakness of the parts, there is a danger of the progeny having a like predisposition.

2. Your colt has scrotal hernia, or rupture.

Do not think of destroying him on that account. It is very probable a spontaneous cure will result before he is a year old. If nature should not effect a cure by the time he is to be castrated, the operator must perform what is known as the covered operation. If, instead of getting better as the colt grows older, the rupture should increase in size, you will have to have him operated on at once. The operation necessary in such cases consists in casting him, placing him on his back, cutting down into the intestine, returning it, and stitching up the opening and also the skin. It requires a veterinarian to operate.

J. H. REED, V. S.

INJURIES TO COLT'S LEG.

Will you please tell me what to do for a colt's leg, as follows: First he got bitten by a dog. We kept the wound dressed with carbolic acid and sweet oil. When about healed he ran away with doubletrees, and bruised it. I policed with linseed, and it is healed over now, but there seems to be a fleshy lump inside skin. Seems loose, not fast on cords, as it is just above fetlock on outside of hind leg.

When he ran away he also bruised his hocks bad. Both are capped, and one seems like a curb. We blistered both with fly blister, then oiled with castor oil. They seem quite tender, especially the curb place. When he is exercised, the swelling goes down some, but keeps swollen badly when stabled. We work him some. Is three years old. What would be best to do? Have we done right so far? B. P.

Algoma, Ont.

Ans.—The growth is a fibrous growth, the result of inflammation, and it is hard to remove. The lumps on the hocks are also hard to lessen. If there is any considerable quantity of fluid beneath the skin on the points of the hocks, which can be detected by manipulation, it will be necessary to lance to allow the escape of it. But it is better to not open unless necessary, and if it has to be done, a veterinarian should operate. You will be able to reduce all the enlargements and probably entirely remove them by the use of the following liniment: Iodine, 4 drs.; potassium iodide, 2 drs.; glycerine, 4 ozs.; alcohol, 4 ozs. Rub a little of the liquid into the parts once daily. If it blister, cease applying it, and apply vaseline until the parts become smooth again, when you will again apply the liquid. Keep this treatment up and have patience, as chronic enlargements disappear slowly.

J. H. REED, V. S.

DEPRESSIONS IN SOW'S BACK—PANTING MARE.

1. I have a pure-bred Yorkshire sow, 10 months old, that has a number of small depressions in her back, varying from just noticeable to half an inch in depth and two inches long. Can you give any cause or cure; has had plenty outdoor exercise and has just farrowed a litter of four pigs.

2. Have a draft mare, 8 years old, in good condition; pants very much when working; respiration twice those of ordinary horses. Fed damp food. No cough. Can you suggest any relief? York Co., Ont. IGNORAMUS.

Ans.—1. The depressions are not serious, and will, in all probability, disappear spontaneously.

2. The symptoms given indicate a weakness of the lungs. Careful feeding will mitigate the symptoms. Feed good clean food in small quantities, and dampen all food with lime water. It is probable when the weather gets cooler the panting will not be so severe. J. H. REED, V. S.