

Hedges for Canada.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER :

SIR,—In the second number of your valuable journal I see some remarks on hedge plants. The Buck Thorn is the best plant for hedges in Canada, in my estimation. I have tried the O-age Orange, and find it too tender to stand even in the seed bed. The English Hawthorn is subject to insects, slug especially has a particular taste for it. The Barberry has some very good points, as you will soon find by coming near it, unless you have the best buck mitts to defend yourself. This seed is very slow to vegetate, requiring two winters' freezing before it will germinate. The best way to manage it is to put the seed in a box and set it just below the surface as soon as gathered, and let it remain there two winters; prepare the seed bed, and sow in drills a foot apart, and you will have plants in two years fit to set out.

SOMETHING NEW.

The Red Plum has formed a fine hedge by chance, having been left in a row where the pits were planted. They stand thickly and have formed a perfect hedge in three years, four feet high, without any care or clipping, except stopping some of the leading branches. The rapidity of its growth and easy culture, growing as it does on any soil, except that of a very wet nature, render the Canadian Wild Plum well worthy a trial as a hedge plant in this country.

Cobourg.

H.

TRAPPING GRUBS IN SANDY SOIL.—Prepare the soil for planting cabbage plants, and two or three days previous to transplanting, pluck a leaf from each plant and strew them over the prepared ground; and in the evening go with a lantern and pick up the loathsome plant destroyers; do this two or three evenings, and your plants will do well if properly attended to.

Meaford.

M. A.

A PROFITABLE ORCHARD.—A gentleman from Chester informs us that Mr. Joseph Robinson, of that town, has an apple orchard, planted and reared by himself covering but two acres of land, the product of which this year is nine hundred bushels, exclusive of a second picking of inferior quality. Mr. Robinson has sold four hundred bushels for cash down at \$1 per bushel, reserving five hundred bushels for future use. The entire income this year will not be below \$1,000, and at far less labour than is bestowed upon a small farm.—*N. H. Statesman.*

PRESERVE THE SLOPS.—English husbandmen attribute a most important value to sink-slops for manuring purposes, and with good reason, for liquids of this description are rich in fertilizing properties, and in the most suitable condition for furnishing immediate food for vegetable life. With a very little outlay, a suitable receptacle can be made for receiving those house-slops which are allowed to go to waste by so many. One method recommended to us by a friend is, to set an old oil-cask in the ground on the north side of your house under the spout, and cover it with a lid; a little charcoal thrown into it once a week will prevent all unpleasant smells. From this tank the wash can conveniently be applied every few days to cucumbers, melons, squashes, raspberries, grape-vines, &c. Another plan pursued successfully is to conduct the slops into a vault where they will be absorbed by muck, leaves, and other suitable ingredients of a compost-heap. This is made by digging a hole, two or three feet deep, and eight or ten feet square, laying up the sides with stone or brick, laid in water-cement. If too expensive, firm clay, slabs, or old timber will answer for walling purposes. A layer of saw-dust, leaf, or muck should be placed on the bottom, and absorbents added from time to time as they are needed.

VITALITY OF TURNIP SEED.—The London Agricultural Gazette—most excellent authority—says:—"After extensive experiments, we can declare, as their result, that turnip seed of one year old will only germinate about 50 per cent.; two years old, 30 per cent.; three years old, 15 per cent.; four years old, 5 per cent."

NEVER waste animal or vegetable refuse. The very soap suds from the laundry are rich manure.

A good quality of tea grows wild in the mountainous regions of Pennsylvania, and a company has been chartered to engage in its cultivation.



Poultry Yard.

Management of Poultry.

ALMOST every family, however poor, has or can have its own chickens and eggs. And the following hints will prove useful to all such of your readers as wish to raise chickens successfully:—

HEN HOUSE.—Your hen-house should be roomy, say 16 feet long, 10 feet wide, 10 feet high, where it leans against a stable, barn or wagon shed, and seven feet high at its lower side. Its front face—which should face the South—should have glazed windows on hinges to let in the sun's warmth and light in winter, and for the admission of fresh air in summer. The hen-house may, if desirable, be built at the end of the hog-pen, or over it.

2. ROOSTING PLACE.—The roosting place of your hens should consist of a ladder-like frame, (whose slats are about eighteen inches apart,) that can be leaned against the rear of the house at any desirable inclination. As the hens in roosting, always occupy the highest places first, this will bring them close together, and keep them warmer in winter. And in summer this ladder may be raised up to a level, so as to keep them farther apart and cooler then. The floor should be made of stone, sand, and lime, concreted or cemented together so as to form a hard and dry floor, and keep out rats. A few shovelfuls of dry, pulverised clay sprinkled over this floor every week or two, will absorb all the moisture of the dung or droppings, and so keep the house free from bad odour.

3. BREED OF CHICKENS.—Carefully avoid breeding your chickens from the same stock of fowls, or from fowls closely allied to each other. This will invariably produce a small, delicate and unprofitable stock, while cross-breeding of choice different kinds of poultry will just as certainly yield you a large, strong, healthy and very profitably supply of hens and roosters.

4. EGG NESTS.—The butter or lard boxes or tubs, procurable at any grocer's, put on shelves raised two or three feet above the floor, at the rear end or sides of the hen-house, make the best laying nests. As their well soaked greasiness will keep the hen-lice entirely away, as no hen-house can live on or in grease. And hence it would, for the same reason, be well to give the entire roosting ladder an occasional greasing. The boxes aforesaid should be frequently cleansed and supplied with fresh straw or hay.

5. YOUNG CHICKENS.—As the earliest hatched chickens, provided they have a dry, warm and sun-exposed house or coop, free from lice, generally do the best; the hens should be set to hatching about the middle of February or the first of March, but have fewer eggs than common, so that they may cover them well and keep them equally warm. The young chicks should be kept off the cold ground and out of the wet, and in a dry, warm place, and fed with warm food, until they are old and strong enough to do without warm food. If a sitting hen looks pale about the head, it is a sure sign that she is lousy. To remedy this evil, clean out her nest—wash her eggs in warm water—and grease her under her wings and on her breast and belly, and put her back again and feed her well, and she will soon improve and do well.

6. EGGS IN WINTER.—To make your hens lay eggs in winter, they must have a clean, dry and warm house, and be fed on scraps of flesh or unsalted meat, fat, finely powdered bones, oyster shells and refuse lime, green cabbage leaves, &c., and have a proper supply of pure and unfrozen water to drink. Hot Indian corn, buckwheat and oatmeal, contain a large amount of heat-producing qualities, and so form the best winter food for laying hens.

7. GAPS IN CHICKENS.—Holding gappy chickens in or over tobacco smoke until they have inhaled smoke enough to make them sneeze two or three times, is said to be an infallible cure for this disease.

SUNFLOWER SEED.—Chickens are very fond of sunflower seeds, which not only fatten them very quickly, but make their flesh very tender, juicy and fine-flavoured. Therefore it will be well for you to plant sunflowers in some corner of your grounds for this purpose.—*Cor. of Dollar Newspaper*

Poultry Keeping.

B. J. CAMPBELL, in the *Country Gentleman*, says:—"I have not seen an egg story in the *Gentleman* for a long time. I must tell mine, if it is on a small scale, for I have kept a very careful count from last New Year up to this week, Christmas."

"I kept five hens—no rooster about the premises. Got five hundred and sixty-one eggs, being one hundred and twelve eggs to each hen."

"After a three years' trial, I am satisfied it is pretty safe to reckon from one dollar to one dollar and a half profit per hen, if they are properly cared for."

DE SORA'S GREAT POULTRY ESTABLISHMENT.—From time to time very wonderful statements have appeared in the newspapers concerning a mammoth poultry establishment near Paris, France, carried on by a M. De Sora, at which 22 dead horses are said to be daily minced into chicken feed, 100,000 hens wintered, 10,000 dozen eggs sold per week, &c. The *Country Gentleman* draws attention to the fact that these accounts have never been authenticated in any way, and says that a gentleman who was in Paris two winters ago enquired in vain for the celebrated institution. Further investigations are to be made, and it should be indeed remarkable if the whole affair should prove to be a hoax.

POULTRY AND POULTRY HOUSES.—My plan for a poultry house is a plan which will be the most fitted for the easy management of fowls, as well as being the least expensive. For a hen house, it may be built on one side of the barn, or if you have no building suitable, get four posts, hew two sides; let them be for the high side, say 9 feet; for the low side, say 6 or 7 feet, which will be enough pitch of roof, provided the house is not more than nine feet wide. Twelve feet by nine will be large enough for twenty hens. Plant your posts firmly in the earth, so as to keep your house firm and steady; get second quality pine or hemlock boards; nail them on lengthwise. If you do not choose to get plates, so as to have the boards run up and down, a shingle roof will be the best, though a good board or slab roof will do well.—*Ex.*

LARGE GESE AND DUCKS.—At the late Birmingham (England) poultry-show—said to have been "the greatest show ever seen"—the three first prize white geese weighed 67 lbs.; those which took the second prize, 62 lbs.; and those which took the third, 53 lbs. Young geese of the same breed weighed 52 lbs. and 59 lbs., the trio. Of grey and mottled geese, the first prize lot of three weighed 77 lbs.; those which took the second prize, 75 lbs.; and those which took the third, 70 lbs. Young geese in the same class weighed 63 lbs. and 57 lbs. the trio. The three first-prize Aylesbury ducks—a drake and two ducks—weighed 25 lbs.; those which took the second prize 24½ lbs.; and those which took the third, 24½ lbs. The three first-prize Rouen ducks weighed 23 lbs.; and those which took the second prize, 22½ lbs.; and those which took the third, 22 lbs.

Rural Architecture.

Barns.

When barns are scattered about the farm some thirty yards from each other, and as many more from the house, it pays better to move and arrange them in a more convenient manner, as the time would soon amount to enough to pay all expenses, to say nothing of what better care the stock will receive when near the house, than they used to at the further barn. Also, it pays to put a good stone wall (laid up with mortar) under every frame building, except corn-houses and cheese-houses, which should stand upon posts set solid in the ground, with a large tin pan bottom side up placed upon the top of every post to prevent mice and rats running up. Remember and have the mason leave several small holes at the top of the wall to let the air in; for if closed tight it will cause the sill and sleepers to decay. When you build a bridge in front of the large doors, of stone and dirt, do not put any dirt near the sill, as the water from the roof will soon cause decay. I believe thousands of dollars are wasted in this way every year. Remedy—build your bridge of dirt or stone within two feet of the doors, and place a stick of timber four inches from the sill, and four short pieces from sill to embankment, and place two planks upon this foundation, and your sill will not decay here before it does anywhere else. Do not nail a board on the front side of the sill where the doors are, as this will cause decay.—*Colonial Farmer.*