

Condimental food.—Some of my friends are paying at the rate of one hundred dollars a ton for a mixture of $\frac{1}{5}$ ground grain—cheap enough now—and $\frac{3}{8}$ drugs. Now, here is a recipe which they can, if they please, make up for themselves, and which I engage shall do more good to cattle and sheep than any condiment they can buy in the market :

	lbs.
Pease.....	1500
Linseed.....	200
Coarsest sugar (or molasses).....	150
Sulphur.....	35
Saltpetre.....	35
Common salt.....	35
Fenugreek.....	20
Gentian.....	10
Sulphate of iron.....	5
Aniseed.....	4
Ginger, ground.....	3

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Or just about as near a ton as can be. If molasses are substituted for sugar, an additional weight of them must be added to make up for their want of saccharum.

Separators.—I see by the English papers that the Danish separator, small size, is advertised for sale at £27.10 complete; that means in our currency about \$135! At that price, workable by one horse, I should expect to see a great many sold in this province.

Mr. Blundell, a well known *agronome* in England, complains that he has lost several lambs from feeding them on mangels. Stoppage of the urine by small crystalline substances forming at the entrance of the urethra into the bladder seems to have been the immediate cause of death. I was with poor William Rigden when he lost four of his best rams preparing for the R. A. S. exhibition from the same complaint, but I doubt whether the cause was the same, for Rigden continued the use of mangels for all his show rams, and he told me he would rather give two pounds a ton for mangels in June and July than be without them.

The English farmer is not a good hand at figures. It is astonishing what a mess he makes of his calculations sometimes, when he has an object in view! Lately, the *Agricultural Gazette* has been making inquiries into the cost of growing wheat, and replies have been forwarded to its questions by farmers from various districts. By these replies we learn that the cost growing wheat on an acre of land varies from £6.14 in Somerset, to £10.15 in Kent: which is too childishly ridiculous to need any comment from me.

CORRESPONDENCE.

'Quebec,' after speaking of the articles on mangels and swedes which have appeared in late numbers of the *Journal*, proceeds as follows:

"And yet with no field workers what can I do? Again, with hay at \$8 to \$10 a ton, peas and grain as you know,

which would give me the best value, supposing I could have them grown? Of course, remember, my cow food is all prepared by steam, and roots would have to be *handed* during the winter at the rate of 35 lbs. x 35 head of cattle; and last, not least, our butter fetches 30 cts. a lb., on an average, during the winter months. Roots would certainly not improve it.

Reply—In answering the question, Which would give me the best value, say at a certain price with peas and grain? I should have to know a great many things not mentioned in my correspondent's letter: the soil, amount of available manure, price of labour, &c. He has no field-workers, apparently, so I really do not see how he can grow roots of any kind. But, surely, no great number of hands are required for four or five acres of mangels and carrots, for I find one man and a couple of girls can, if properly superintended, get over a vast amount of work in a few of the long days of summer.

I do not recommend steaming food for any cattle except for cows giving milk for purposes of sale. For butter, I am convinced that mangels and carrots, with a few pails of boiling water dashed over the mixed grain, peas, linseed, and chaff, will answer all purposes. Swedes, unless great care is taken, undoubtedly do give a certain unpleasant flavour to the butter, but mangels do not, and carrots absolutely improve, both the flavour and the colour. In my favourite Devonshire mode of scalding, the heat carries off even the taste of *white turnips*, and cabbages are rendered quite innocuous—of course, I add saltpetre.

But, how about the health of the cattle without roots? If linseed is used, it will doubtless keep their bowels in good order, but I do trust very firmly in the effect of a moderate use of roots, particularly if the water the stock have is not warmer than that usually provided here. (1)

Again, why should my correspondent give his young cattle 35 lbs. of roots daily per head? That is a large amount for full-grown animals, if, as I suppose, his stock are of a small breed. I should say that 25 lbs. a day for the milch-cows, and 10 lbs. for the yearlings would be quite enough. After so much steamed food, would not the young cattle be rather delicate on turning out to grass in the spring? I know that the old Scotch system of boiling food for cart-horses has been decried on that account by all the best veterinary surgeons.

"Quebec" goes on to ask:

I have about thirty acres of poor, very poor, sandy land, which I cannot manure thoroughly next spring. Half of it received about ten tons of good manure and some superphosphate—Brockville—300 lbs. to the arpent (354 to the acre, a heavy dressing with ten tons of dung. A. R. J. F.)—but this showed very poorly on the maize. This was frozen, and fed to the cows on the field. It is still, apparently, very poor indeed, although a great deal of couch-grass was destroyed through the summer. I propose trying Alsike clover early in the spring, with plaster and ashes, and just enough buckwheat to shade the clover. What say you? In a year or two, I hope to give it a good dressing of manure for potatoes or silocorn. Would you act otherwise?

Reply.—Buckwheat sown early in spring would run the risk of being frozen. You are on the North side of the St. Lawrence, are you not? Bousingault recommends, if I remember rightly, grass-seeds with buckwheat, but not in our climate. Why not try *rape*? No sheep to feed it off, perhaps, but your young stock would do well on it (*crede experto*), and all you would have to do would be to keep them from the rape till the dew was off. With the Alsike I should mix two bushels of *orchard-grass*; the yearlings would tread

(1) It is not the least likely that "Quebec's" cattle get ice-cold water to drink.
A. R. J. F.