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Our Manitoba Correspondence.

SIR,—We had a very wet season last year and an abundance of mud, and, as a consequence, we had a very poor harvest. Where the crops were not drowned they grew too much straw, and the result was we had about $\frac{1}{2}$ of our usual crop. I had 175 acres under cultivation last harvest, and the yield per acre was as follows:—Wheat 20 bushels; oats, 40 bushels. I have as good land as the majority, and consider my crop about the average yield. I hear a good deal about 100 bushels of oats and from 40 to 50 of wheat; but such crops are generally grown in some land speculator's head, or by some boasting person who wants to see his name in print or to deceive people in other countries. This is no doubt a fine province, infinitely better than the older ones for the farmer, but there is a great attempt to make it appear too good by those who know least about it. A. M., Springfield, Manitoba.

SIR,—A year ago this April I went to Manitoba, having read so many glowing accounts of the country. I landed in Winnipeg on the first of May, and then went to Portage La Prairie, and then started by the southern trail with oxen and cart to Rapid City, where we found nine small huts. We waded through mud and water up to our knees and sometimes to our waists, until we reached the sand hill and beautiful plains. We were told there were belts of timber on each lot or growing close by, but all we saw after we left Portage were not six inches through, and they were poplar. Sometimes we had to go ten miles to get enough to cook our meals. The northern trail was impassable at that time. All I could see that was flourishing there were hotels and boarding houses. At McKennan's, a place they call Pine Creek or bog, we had to pay 25 cents for each cart to cross a bridge, and other places the same. The ferry across the Little Saskatchewan at Rapid City consists of a boat like a wagon box, and it cost \$2 for a cart and load to cross; 25 cents for a person. You stated some time ago in the Advocate that you would give the bright side of Manitoba life. It is my opinion you will find it hard to do, as I do not think it has got one. I concluded that five acres in Ontario were better than 160 acres in Manitoba, so I returned and have settled in Norfolk County. D. G. S., Ronson, Ont.

Manitoulin Affairs.

"Manitowaning" writes complaining that Manitoulin Island does not get that amount of attention from the Provincial Government and Legislature that its importance as a field for emigration and agricultural improvement entitle it to receive. "The vote for colonization roads on the island this season has been only \$4,500. No other section of the province needs more the laying out of public money on roads and increased postal facilities than this and the neighboring islands, and such is the fruitfulness of the soil, and so great its natural resources in every respect, that it would well repay any governmental expenditure."

SIR,—What would be the best to sow on a muck swamp plowed first time last fall—muck from one to four feet in depth, clay bottom, well drained? Would mangel wurzels or Swede turnips do well, or if grain, what kind?

T. C., Skead's Mills, Ont.

[Mangel wurzels would no doubt produce the best crop; Swede turnips or carrots will not do well. It would produce a heavy crop of millet or corn for soiling; would not advise you to sow cereals, but if you do, apply salt heavily.]

Plowing Matches.

SIR,—In reply to an enquirer in the Advocate, wishing information concerning plowing and plowing matches, I will give him my views. There is no doubt good plowing is necessary to good farming. Township plowing matches are very useful, especially for the youth of our country, although they have been carried to such an extent in some localities as to be a loss to those who followed them up; although there might be higher prizes given, for the reason that an excitement gets up among plowmen as soon as a plowing match is announced. Some think their plow is not fit for the occasion, so there must be a new plow or a borrowed one of high reputation, and perhaps a team; in fact, they are somewhat like the Highland man when he wanted a smoke, he had to borrow all; his neighbor said, "Guid man, you have nothing but the mouth." This should not be, as every farmer worthy of the name should have a team and plow that would be ready for a contest any day. In our young but favorable country there is a great tendency to get through with plowing too fast, so many of these wide plows have been introduced which are good for nothing unless for a summer follow or loosening the ground in spring. Many farmers advocate that they are good for cutting thistles, &c.; but we say a good Scotch plow is better for the reason that you can plow deeper; but be sure your share is wide, so that you cut your furrow right through. The majority of farmers plow too light; they say it is heavy enough for their team, &c.; but there is another reason; my boys say it is a good bit easier held to. Now, I could give you many instances to show that deep plowing in the fall of the year pays, but for the present I will only give you one. One year our society had the crop judged in a field where a plowing match was held, to see which plowing gave the best crop. I think this should be every year. Well, I had a team there and a hired man, but the plow was new from the forge and rough; so I told my man there was no sight for a prize; but the horses being strong, to let the plow run deep, and that he did; and at the judging of the crop it was much the best. Much could be written about good plowing; but what is necessary at the offset is to have good strong horses; train them to attend at once to what you say to them, have a good Scotch plow, a straight eye in your head, and good bone and muscle in your arm. H., Wilbert.

Absence of Milk.

SIR,—I have a heifer which has recently calved and has no milk to support her calf. What is best to do for her? A. F., Cobourg, Ont.

[We copy the following from the National Live Stock Journal:—A scanty secretion or entire absence of milk at the time of parturition occasionally occurs in domestic animals. It is due to various causes, among which may be mentioned constitutional debility, insufficiency of nutrient food previous to parturition, organic disease of the mammary gland, wasting of the same, etc. According to the cause, treatment is more or less successful. If not due to a partial or complete degeneration of the gland or to other permanent causes, a more or less complete restoration of the milk secretion may be established by the use of local and constitutional stimulants. The food should be of the most nutritious kind, given in an easily digested form, such as steamed or boiled. With each ration should be mixed some alterative, stimulant and stomachic, such as a powder composed of five ounces each of powdered fennel seed, aniseed and common salt, and three ounces of black sulphuret of antimony. Of this two tablespoonfuls may be given morning, noon and evening. Frequent friction of the udder with the palm of the hand, and application of some brandy, high-wine, or liniment of ammonia will be beneficial. When a heifer or cow, previous to calving, shows a want of natural increase in size of the udder, some annoyance may be avoided by following the above directions before calving, together with frequent stripping of the teats.]

A correspondent of the New York Tribune says:—Having raised many calves in the last twelve years and found their thrift checked by loose condition of the bowels, I this fall gave hardhack tea in their drink by advice of an old army surgeon. These were cured in twenty-four hours, and have since grown beautifully with no recurrence of the complaint.

Quantity of Seed Oats per Acre.

SIR,—I am about to ask you a question that may seem very easily answered—what quantity of seed oats is required to the acre? On asking experienced farmers the question, two of them seldom give the same answer. Some are in favor of sowing "plenty of seed," as they say; others, again, practice and advise sowing as little as one bushel per acre. YOUNG FARMER, Simcoe, Ont.

[The quantity of seed per acre varies according to circumstances. If the seed be of a very good quality and well cleaned, less will be required than if the seed were otherwise. Much also depends on the soil. A heavy clay soil requires heavier seeding than a sandy loam. There are well authenticated instances of fertile, well-prepared loamy soil being sown with one bushel of seed per acre, good, well-cleaned oats without any inferior grains, producing from seventy to eighty bushels of good oats. Two bushels per acre is the more general seeding, and from the state of the land at the seeding two bushels is not too much. Some report having sowed three bushels of seed, and having good crops. But this was on stiff, heavy clay. They say that they find the heavier seeding produces the heavier crop. Fresh seed, newly imported from good seed-growers, may be sowed thinner than that which has been raised on the same land. The variety of oats has also to be taken into account. Some varieties, the Norway oats, for instance, will, if well saved and well cleaned, need less seed than other varieties.]

The Care of Sheep.

In reply to "Shepherd" we give the following from an American paper:

A sheep to be well and hearty must not be half starved at any period of its growth. It must be personally comfortable to grow wool every day of its life. Three hundred and sixty-five days make a year. If from any cause a sheep is uncomfortable asingle day, he will grow wool only 364 days in a year. If for four months at a time from ill health or lack of food or water it produces wool only eight months in a year, there is a loss of one-third of the profits he would have given his owner.

A sheep out of condition is subjected to ailments that in good condition would not have affected him. Sheep fat in the fall will go through the winter and the ordeal of lambing with safety and success. If in thin, weak condition, the relaxing of the system in spring and the extra demands on the system of the ewe at lambing time, bring a series of diseases quite disgusting to the flock-master. No animal rewards its owner so for liberal feeding and painstaking care as does the sheep. The idea has so often been expressed that a sheep can do without food and water, that many have concluded it was true. It may live on less food (and do well) than any other animal in proportion to its live weight, but that they live by eating is sure, and the more they eat and the better hygienic treatment, the better results they give in fleece and lamb, and vigorous, long-lived usefulness.

A Quebec correspondent who desires to know something of the value of soot, will find this extract from the Prairie Farmer of interest:

SOOT IN THE GARDEN.—Those who have soot, either of wood or bituminous coal, should carefully save it for use in the garden. It is valuable for the ammonia it contains, and also for its power of reabsorbing ammonia. It is simply charcoal (carbon) in an extremely divided state, but from the creosote it contains, is useful in destroying insects, and is at the same time valuable as a fertilizer for all garden crops. It must not be mixed with lime, else its ammonia would be dissipated, but if the salt is dry and hungry a little salt may be used with it. Soot steeped in water and allowed to stand and settle for a day or two is also most excellent fertilizer for house plants, possessing precisely the same qualities that the parings of horses' hoof do. For flowers out of doors it is especially valuable, since it may be easily applied and tends to increase the vividness of the bloom, and mixed with salt it is a most excellent fertilizer for asparagus, onions, cabbage, &c., in connection with compost, in the proportion of one quart of salt to six quarts of soot. For two bushels of compost this quantity makes a heavy dressing for each square rod, to be worked in next the surface of the soil.