

Correspondence.

WATER FOR SHEEP.

Some time ago I read a letter published in your excellent paper, in which your correspondent asserted that sheep both could and would live without water. I have been breeding sheep for the last 13 or 14 years, and beg to offer to the public my experience on this subject. In winter, when there is two-third or three-fourth inches of snow on the ground, no doubt sheep will manage tolerably well without water. Some winters ago the ground was left quite bare for several days. I had a number of sheep, and from their bleating, and the way they were rubbing against the bars, induced me to think that they required water. I immediately got a trough, which held about five pails of water, and I can assure you that did not last many minutes. I have heard of sheep drinking at an ice hole as regularly as cattle, but my experience is very different.—Sheep are very timid about going on ice, and must be badly in want of water before they will venture; neither will they drink out of an ordinary pail. The best plan is to accustom them to the trough, or, if you have not one, dig a hole in the field and fill it with water; they will rush to that immediately. In summer, when the dew is heavy, they will get along better; but by far the best plan, and the one that ought to be adopted by every humane farmer, is to water his stock regularly.

Rosedene, March, 1872.

FARMERS' CLUB.

Our farmers' club is getting on very well. We hold meetings every week, and every two weeks we have a debate on some subjects principally about agriculture, and every second week we have a general discussion on farm subjects. We thought it best to alternate the subjects, as the debate keeps up the interest of the meetings. We had a very good discussion the other evening on the subject of manures, and I for one learnt many things I did not know before. Most of the members, among whom are some of the best and most successful farmers in this neighborhood, think that the manure from the cattle stable, pretty well rotted but not too much heated, is the best manure for the general purposes of a farm. They also agreed that it should not be ploughed in too deep, and some advocated not covering more than two inches, others from three to five, according to the nature of the soil; on light soil not more than two inches, and increase the depth as the soil increases in stiffness. They all agreed that plaster is one of the most remunerative manures we have got, some going so far as to say that it increased the clover crop fully a half. Salt as a manure was also brought up, and received the favorable opinion of most of the members. Salt has not been used on account of the cost, but now when we can get the refuse from the wells in the west at \$4 per ton, I think it will come into more general favor. This was the opinion of the majority of the members. The superphosphates of lime was tried by some of the gentlemen, but they agreed that it did not pay. One member who used a good deal one year on turnips, potatoes and other crops, considered that it did not pay him for the labor of applying it, without taking the first cost into consideration. We had also a discussion on the clover crop and plant, the best time and the best crop to seed with, the amount of seed per acre, and also the difficulty of raising now to what it was when the land was new, principally on account of heaving out in the winter. Most of the members advocated putting on about two bushels of mixed seeds per acre. Say one bushel of common red clover, one peck of Alsike clover, and three pecks of timothy. The advantage claimed by mixing the seeds is that there is more surety of a crop, as it is not likely that all kinds will fail, or if one fails there will be enough of the other two to make a crop. Again, we all agreed that barley or spring wheat were the best grains to seed down with, as there was more chance of the seed germinating than if sowed on winter wheat in the spring. Last summer most of the grass crops that were sowed in this vicinity failed, and nearly all the fields have to be broken up again. The plants seemed to grow until the dry weather we had about May, and some of the fields were a pretty good catch till the grain crops were taken off, then the dry, hot weather killed nearly every field about here. I only know of two or three pieces that will be left for a crop. I tell you, sir, it is a great loss to lose your whole seeding; I would very nearly as soon

lose my wheat crop, as when the clover fails, it throws the whole farm out of rotation of crops, besides showing a poor chance for the next winter's feed.

Now, my dear sir, I will have to close this letter, as it is quite long enough, and if you find anything in it worth publishing, you are welcome to it. If other sections should get up farmer's clubs, I have no doubt the members would find mutual benefit from them. Please acknowledge receipt, and let me know about the wheat.

THOS. A. GOOD.

Brantford, March 6, 1872.

PLANTING TREES.

SIR.—As you invite communications on any subject pertaining to agricultural interests, I venture to write a few lines about planting forest trees. I saw an enquiry in the last ADVOCATE as to the best plan of transplanting them, so I will give my plan, as it does first rate; I have planted somewhere in the vicinity of one hundred. First, I take a spade and cut all round the tree a distance of from three to four feet in diameter; then, I climb up into the top until I can swing it over and pull it down to the ground; then cut the top off from ten to fifteen feet high, leaving only a few little twigs. Then rear it up and pull it down on the other side, when the roots are all loosened. I tie a rope to some of the roots near the trunk and to a hand-spike, and lift it into a wheel barrow or spring wagon, according to the distance they are to be moved, taking as much earth as will hold on. Dig the hole large enough to set it in without crowding the roots; have a pail of water at hand to put a little on as you put them in the soil, taking care to have it as good as possible, and work it well in among the roots, shaking the tree up and down a little; trample the soil down solid, and it is done. It is best to put a few stones around it to keep it solid.

The sizes I have planted are from one and a half inches to three inches thick, and they have done well. Sugar maple are to be preferred.

It is wonderful how a few nice trees improve the appearance of a place. I have heard the remark passed more than once that my place would sell for a thousand dollars more since I planted my trees. If any person would offer me five dollars a-piece to have them removed I would not take it. Let every reader of the ADVOCATE plant a few trees this spring, and you will be well pleased that you did so, if you do it well. If the summer be dry it will be necessary to water them sometimes. I have some that have made shoots over two feet long the first season. Plant; it will pay.

TIMELY HINT.

See to it that your implements are all mended if they require it, before they are needed. Get a stock of firewood cut ready for summer, so as not to have to do it when you want to do something else. Try and make your calculations beforehand. Drive your work; don't let your work drive you.

M'CARLING WHEAT.

The peck of McCarling Wheat which I got from you did very well; it yielded seven bushels of good, plump wheat. I like it very well.

SEED HOPPER.

I have had a sowing Hopper made this winter, which is a thing a great many farmers have not got. It is made of the best tin, and cost one dollar and a half. The bottom is ten inches wide by two feet long, rounded at the ends. The sides are ten inches deep and dished a little at the ends and one side. A good stiff wire is put in the top, and the side that is dished is bent inwards so as to make a rounding hollow to lie against the belly. A piece is put across the centre to strengthen it and serve for a handle. Two holes are made half way between the middle and ends, to fasten the strap to, which should be crossed behind the shoulders.

This is my first attempt to write for the press. If it is of no service throw it in the waste basket. I like your paper much, and wish you every success.

PROGRESSION.

Rothsay, March, 1872.

No, sir! Such communications as this are not thrown in the waste basket. It is really useful and practical information, just the kind we are in search of. Never mind about the polish, the facts are here. The above article will do more good to the farmers of the country than the \$95,000 already expended at Mimico, or ten times that sum expended in issuing blue books filled with abstruse, long-drawn, technical orations. We say this article is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars to the

country. What nonsense! some will be saying. Take your pen and estimate it if you can. First, a practical farmer commences by noticing that the real requirements of farmers are oppressed by both political parties as they gain the ascendancy, which induces the really practical men to give their experience and publish to the world their practice without aid.—But the reverse shows the great advance in the value of property by the mere planting of a few trees. Our correspondent has increased the value of 100 acres \$1000, and how many hundred acres can be similarly increased in value. Is rain to be obtained for our crops; is shade to be had for our stock; is beauty, harmony, and pleasantness to adorn our country? Where is comfort, refinement and prosperity? where trees are, or where they are not? What has been done by our Government to encourage the protection of our trees, and what has been done to have the poor settlers' land denuded of timber? We speak with knowledge, feeling heavily the loss of timber taken from us. This article by "Progression" is right; it is what the country requires.

Trees, trees, trees, to fill the naked waste. The Government robbed us of our timber that we had nurtured and protected for our life, and from the immense surplus they now have on hand, derived from this kind of robbery, they have not yet had the honor to pay the settler his just and honorable dues. Never mind; the day will come, and that before long, when the farmers will be heard, when the destruction of timber must cease, when planting trees must be done, not only in a small way for ornament, but to save our country from famine, occasioned by lack of moisture for our crops. Go through our desolate tracts of country where once noble forests stood, where settlers could raise crops, if protected by trees. See the poor sheep seeking in vain for shade; the parched, wilted, starvation crops, not half the average they were. Still the trees are destroyed, and who plants or protects them? Is it our laws? no! it is progress that has to do it.

Write again; you have caused us to make this comment on your short letter.—The ADVOCATE is open to you or to any one else. Let our voices be heard; the country in reality belongs to us. Let us rule it!

"YOUNG CANADIAN" SPEAKS.

SIR.—Your correspondent "Rustic" pitches into "Young Canadian" for not following up his prelude, and showing the reason why "farming as a general thing is not made to pay."

Well, I suppose he will admit that the greater number of those engaged in agricultural pursuits do not realize six per cent. on the capital invested, besides paying for themselves. They may have done it in years gone by, when the land was new and in good heart, and when they took no thought for the future, but the question is: is it done now?

They have no regular system or proper rotation of cropping, but keep on in the same ruts that their fathers made. If a field raised a good crop of wheat this year, there is no reason why it will not do the same next, and so raising the same crop year after year till their land is so run out that it will not raise half what it used to, and of poor quality at that. Then they raise the cry that the grain is run out, when in reality it is the soil. They try some of the new varieties, with little or no difference in the yield, and then the "Agricultural Emporium" and its seeds are pronounced a humbug. They never clover any except what is used for meadow, which is mowed as long as any can be taken off, none being pastured except what cannot be put under the plough.—Cattle are turned on the highways to do or die, and in the winter they are required to go nearly a mile after water, where the best part of the poor manure is lost. Implements are left where they were last used; a plough is left where it will be necessary to have a winter road, and in

the spring it is minus a handle; a harrow is left in the same path, and the best horse rendered useless by the teeth. But it is not necessary to enlarge on this, for it has been seen over and over again, and none of those will see this for they do not read agricultural papers.

Here is another proof that the general run of farmers do not make farming pay: Not one-fifth of the farmers of Canada ever see an agricultural paper. If you ask them to subscribe, they refuse, being "penny wise and pound foolish," and they think you are going to make a fortune if you manage to squeeze a dollar out of them. Of course there are honorable exceptions to all this, such as "Rustic," but there is also vast room for improvement, and a great many more, like him, must make up their minds to be the "best farmers" in their respective townships, before farming as a "general thing is made to pay," as it ought to.

Perhaps "Rustic" will give practical ideas that will be of benefit to others besides

YOUNG CANADIAN.

March, 1872.

BORROWING MONEY, ETC.

SIR.—Your number for March has just reached me, and perhaps you will allow me space for a few remarks. First, with regard to your article headed "Cheap Money" I cannot quite agree with you. As a rule, a steady, industrious, saving man will get on very well, though perhaps not so fast, without borrowing, and a man who does not possess these qualities is pretty sure to lose his farm. In some instances an active man might gain independence sooner by borrowing at a low rate of interest for a few years, but an unfavorable season or two might render him unable to meet his payments, and unless he had a merciful creditor he would lose his farm. The only two things which would justify a farmer in borrowing money for are draining and manure. Building and planting trees yield no direct return, unless in the case of fruit trees, and then you must wait several years for your money, and an unusually severe winter or the attacks of mice would nip your expectations in the bud. So the surest and safest way is not to borrow at all; besides a borrower might be tempted to speculate, and perhaps lose all.

I was rather surprised at Mr. Vick's remarks respecting the consumption of fruit in England. The climate has nothing to do with it, for up to the time I left, in 1830, we always used fruit *ad libitum*, when we could get it, strawberries and apples especially. However, the cholera did not appear in England till 1832, and I acknowledge that a prejudice against fruit was manifested at that time, and I suppose has continued since.

I would like to know the cause of smut in wheat. Smutty seed may sometimes cause it, but not always. I have known fall wheat to be sown here so late, owing to continued wet weather, that the ground was covered with snow before it was all up; it escaped winter-killing, and in the month of June following looked as well as any wheat in the county, but when it headed out the smut appeared and destroyed about a third of the crop. The man who sowed the wheat used smutty seed, and treated it with pickle, but no lime. On the other hand, a few years afterwards my next neighbor summer fallowed a 22 acre field, part of which had not been broken up for about 15 years.—He used smutty seed, but having no faith in steeping, sowed it dry about the 20th of September. The fall was favorable, and it was about a foot high when the snow came; it stood the winter well, and he had a good crop with no smut in it. I have always been in the habit of pickling and liming both fall and spring wheat and barley, although I believe the Glasgow wheat is not liable to smut. But the steeping makes the wheat swell and it comes up sooner. The fall before last I used perfectly clean seed, pickled and limed, but, nevertheless, last harvest we found a few ears of smut in one corner, although the ground was as dry and clean

there as anywhere whom I sold so about the same had more smut mine. Some tend to produce

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SIR.—Will say a few wor have frequen the FARMER hood, and I, ha every farmer and more tha nal conducted to all to expr ium of com valuable booc and ought to ricultural cor so much wan ies as we w and informat have variety What, then, a journal acc mation on th cussions on in their way to such thin first attendi of the farm therefore s liberally su care, and it The pipe be still mor would start visited thes to take it a tion. Howard

SIR.—I of the agric Your edito mers of th tion in the they are ve they, as a est sons fo those who education farm.

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