

40 Head of Scotch - bred SHORTHORNS

WILL BE SOLD ON

OCTOBER 24, 1906

At the Home Farm, near Woodstock, Ontario.

**20 Imported Cattle,
7 Imported Bulls, Herd
6 Canadian-bred Bulls Headers**

A number of the females are young cows in calf or with heifer calves at foot.

No inferior cattle will be found in this offering.

Capt. T. E. Robson's dispersion sale will be held at London the day before. Attend both sales.

For catalogues apply to

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Important Auction Sale

AT WOODSTOCK, ONT., ON

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**OF 20 IMPORTED CLYDESDALE FILLIES
AND 30 SCOTCH AND SCOTCH-
TOPPED SHORTHORNS**

The fillies combine size, quality and breeding, being sired by sons of Baron's Pride and Hiawatha, were personally selected in Scotland by Mr. Geo. McLary, and are an exceptionally choice offering. The Shorthorns include all our young bulls, some good heifers, and a few young cows in calf or with calves at foot; also a select draft of 10 head from the herd of H. K. Fairbairn, Thedford. They are an extra well-bred lot, in good breeding condition, and will be sold under a liberal guarantee of future usefulness. The catalogues are now ready, and will be mailed on application.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. Miscellaneous.

VALUE OF SWAMP SOIL.

I have a swamp in my pasture with a soil about four feet deep, and grayish dark in color. It is packed with little tiny roots, and has the scent of pig manure. Has that soil any fertilizing value? If so, what would be the best way of using it? W. B. D. C.

Ans.—The swamp soils are simply a mass of partially-decayed organic matter. When air-dried they contain one to two, or even as high as three per cent. of nitrogen, but comparatively small amounts of mineral matter. The nitrogen in this half-decomposed vegetable matter is not immediately available to plants, and when applied in the raw condition does not give quick results. Composting favors decomposition, consequently if the muck is dug out and piled in heaps to allow the excess of moisture to drain away, and a small amount of farmyard manure, lime or wood ashes be added, fermentation will take place much more quickly, and a valuable manure will be secured. The farmyard manure not only aids in bringing about conditions favorable to fermentation, but also supplies the germs which are necessary for the action. The lime and wood ashes furnish the mineral matter needed to neutralize the acid material to such soils, and that formed as a result of the changes taking place in the heap. The muck and farmyard manure may be put into the heap in alternate layers, 8 to 12 inches in thickness, and the lime and wood ashes mixed with the whole, but more especially with the muck. Experience proves that the increased manurial value of the mucks after composting in this way will pay for the labor involved, provided the getting out of the swamp material is not too expensive.

R. HARCOURT.

Ontario Agricultural College.

THE VALUE OF TOP GRAFTING.

Is it a fact, or is it only imaginary, that the King of Tompkins Co. apple will bear a heavier crop when grafted on two-year-old Northern Spy stock?

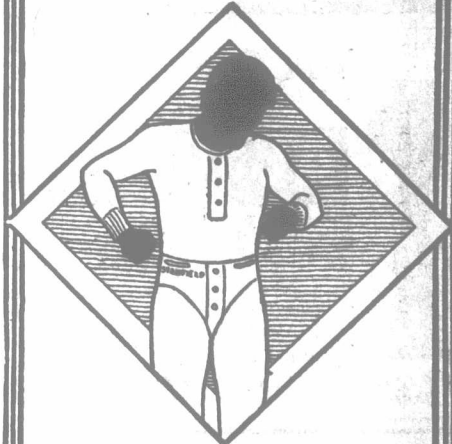
Ans.—As far as I know, there is nothing gained by top-working the King apple upon Northern Spy stocks, unless it may be to produce a trunk a little harder than the King grows naturally. The King is one of our finest apples for quality, and usually brings the best price either on the home or foreign market. The one great drawback is that it is not a heavy bearer. Then, again, it is not particularly hardy, and cannot be grown in parts of the Province where the Northern Spy will do well. It has been recommended to top-work the King upon some hardy variety, such as Talman Sweet, for the purpose of growing it in more northern sections, but experience has proved in many cases that although it may be top-worked upon a hardy stock in very severe winters, such as we had two years ago, the King wood was killed back to the stock upon which it was grafted. Apparently, then, a hardy stock does not impart its hardiness to the scions worked upon it. The chief advantage of top-working upon a hardy stock is that the trunk of the tree is made hardy and less liable to sun-scald and winter injury, and enables the tree to do well if winters are not severe enough to injure the bearing wood in the top of the tree. The matter of increasing the productiveness of a variety by top-working upon various stocks is one which requires careful investigation. No doubt, varieties which are shy bearers may be made somewhat more productive by growing them upon stocks which check somewhat the vigor of growth in the same way that dwarf trees are checked by top-working upon slow-growing stocks. Much more can be done, however, in propagating heavy-bearing trees by selecting buds or scions used in propagation from trees having a heavy-bearing habit. There is great room for the improvement of our cultivated fruits in this way by careful selection of scions from productive trees of the best quality for each particular variety of fruit.

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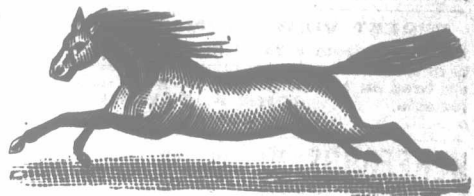
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