

Inquiry.

SIR,—Are there any laws laid down anywhere, or by any authority other than the Society's by-laws, that you know of, whereby judges of fruit are governed at our exhibitions? An incident which occurred at the Westminster Township Show relative to the judging of some fruit, set me to thinking on this subject. In apples, for instance, is it size, color, symmetry or flavor which has to be taken into consideration? Say, for instance, that I have a plate of splendidly formed and colored Alexander apples; you have another plate of the same variety, larger, but poorly shaped and not colored well. A great number of people would say that the largest specimens should rank first, whilst others say the best shaped and colored should have it. In desert apples, we will say, I might show a variety unequalled for flavor, but not so showy as others, though wanting the flavor. Now, in melons, for instance, flavor must be the test, but in a great many other things size and color will go a long way.

INQUIRER.

Good Seed, Making Pork, &c.

"Caledonia's" contributions are always received by the ADVOCATE with pleasure. To-day we give his letter as written in the old style—abbreviations, absence of capitals and old-time spelling. We have here now had some valued correspondents who delighted to follow the same old method, but to many of our readers the letter as printed will doubtless possess all the charm of novelty.

Our sistem o' getting good seeds: we, t' farmer's club, organized f' t' furtherans o' welfare, protection & intelligence, after a large number o' our members being humbuged or anoid—wh' ever you like to call it—resolved to contrive at our next meeting some plan of remedying t' annoyance, 'tis, in the first place we will say turnip seed t' will stand testing, and after it is properly tested, grow what supposed to grow; carrots & field beets t' same or any seed o' t' cind t' are wanted.

Our plan, after finding t' work well f' a number o' years, is simply to deside before hand what cind & quantite o' seed we wish to h', & employ some one to raise them; any one can do it w' profit, as he knows he will sell all he raises at a reasonable price, t' price being agreed on at t' time o' making t' contract always.

Making Pork.—I will also explain to you wh' we have done in t' way o' making pork; after many discussions, we decided that it was profitabel to winter hogs wher' roots were plenty & easie razed, but unless a farmer had land t' is exelent f' razing root crops, we considered t' a frootless peece o' husbandry; we adopted t' plan o' razing spring pigs and having clover fields purposely f' them to be turned in as early as posibel, having rings in all their noses. Three years ago, after desiding upon which w'd be t' most profitabel breed, one o' our members agreede t' purchase a thurrow bred bore wh' he new he c'd get f' 25 dollars, unprofitabel, f' in three years t' bore drew f' t' members o' t' club 40 dollars, for other parties 20 dollars, & at t' present time c'd be sold f' 30 dollars.

FROM A MEMBER O' T' CLUB IN HALDIMAND CO.

[The method of your club for getting good seeds has some advantages, if it be carried out with care and skill by the person employed. You will have your seeds fresh—a great object, as old seeds of many varieties are sure to fail—of some, for it is not so with all, some doing better the second year than the first. One disadvantage attending your method is that you will not be so apt to have new, improved varieties as if you got them from a seedsman whose business it is to procure for his purchasers the best and most improved varieties to be procured. Another disadvantage is that there is not that change, that is so very profitable, from a different soil and locality. The failure of seeds to grow is not always the fault of the seeds. Often when seeds have been sown we have an entire want of moisture for such a length of time as to retard the growth, and in many instances destroy the vitality of the seed sown. Garden seeds should be sown when there is some sign of coming rain, or if there be dry weather, the ground should be cultivated and the seed sown that evening, and, after

being rolled or pressed heavily, covered with boards or mulch for a few days to prevent the evaporation of the moisture, and there will be fewer complaints of failure of seed. Your method of raising pigs is one that we knew to be practised in the old country, and very profitably. The hogs were pastured through summer in a field of clover sowed especially for their use. In the autumn they were turned in to the stubble field, and then put into the yard for fattening. It is the most economical method, and the hogs thrive well, and they are healthy and their flesh healthy and lean.—Ed.]

Government Lands Open for Settlers.

Some of our subscribers have been making enquiries of us relative to the Free Grant Lands and other Government lands open for settlement. In reply we give the following extracts from such authorities as we think are qualified by their personal knowledge to give information on the subject:

MUSKOKA.

As to the nature of the district, one-half of the land contains for the most part as good soil as any in Ontario; the other half is very middling or perfect rock. The land will produce excellent crops of any kind of vegetation that may be covered with snow in winter, or that is spring sown or set; but fruit trees that are above the snow have the greatest difficulty in growing. For the raising of sheep and cattle, no part of Canada is better or more productive.

With regard to settlers, there are scores of families throughout the district who are satisfied and comfortable, are living on their own farms, ranging in value from \$1,000 to \$4,000. Many of these are right glad that they went to Muskoka. Of course they have been there many years, and have "borne the burden and heat of the day." The foregoing is the bright side of the picture; but there is a dark side as well. There are hundreds going to Muskoka who ought never to go there at all. No man ought to go unless he has a strong constitution, is prepared to endure all sorts of hardships and privations, to work like a horse and continue at it steadily for a quarter of a century. If he can do all that, there is hope of his making himself a comfortable home and fortune to rest upon in his old age.—[From Rev. J. Marples, late of Bracebridge, to the *National*.]

MANITOBA.

Manitoba winter is colder, somewhat longer, and much steadier. Summer weather is about the same in temperature in day time, but the nights are usually cool.

We believe that chill fever and ague are unknown.

The country is well watered for a prairie country. Small spring creeks are not numerous. Settlers on the large rivers depend mostly upon these for their water supply. In some parts natural springs of excellent water are frequent. Settlers have encountered scarcely any difficulty in getting good water. Wells are obtained from ten to forty feet.

The prairie land is usually pretty level, yet sufficiently undulating. Land is nearly all good. Hills are so scarce that they are at a premium.

The staple timber of the country is a kind of cottonwood called poplar. This grows to large size, and is manufactured into lumber. Usually, however, it is of small growth. Oak grows in abundance in some parts. Ash, elm, birch, cedar and spruce are found in localities.

In and within reasonable hauling distance from Winnipeg, white pine imported from Minnesota is almost exclusively used. It sells at from \$25 to \$45 per thousand feet.

The prairie is excellent pasturage. The hay it makes is not quite so nutritious as timothy, but stock do well upon it, and horses never have heaves.

But very little effort has yet been made to cultivate grass. We have seen excellent samples of cultivated grass.

First-class imported general purpose horses are worth from \$175 to \$250 each; good native horses about \$100 each. Oxen are worth from \$150 to \$175 per yoke; oxen are much used. Cows sell at from \$40 to \$60 each.

There are sheep in Manitoba, and they do exceedingly well.

Cattle require to be fed from about the middle of October to the end of April.

The soil is alluvial, varying in depth from one foot to four feet. Government lands sell at one dollar per acre, but \$160 acres is the most they can sell to one person. Every actual settler is entitled to 160 acres free.—*Manitoba Free Press*.

Milk a Scavenger of the Cow's Body.

Written for the Farmer's Advocate by Prof. L. B. Arnold, of Rochester, N. Y.

It is a fact which must have been noticed by all observing farmers and their families, that medicinal agencies, taken into the stomachs of all milk-giving animals, re-appear in the milk of such animals. No fact is more notorious than that any medicine—cathartic, emetic or alterative—given to a nursing mother, effects the child in exactly the same way it does the mother, the medication being carried through the milk of the mother to the stomach of the child in such large proportions as to make the effect upon the child as active as upon the mother. This inclination of the milk glands to carry of medicinal matter from the body of the milk-giving mother is not an isolated inclination to carry foreign matter from the system. Disease is carried as readily as medicine. Any and every disease which taints the blood, as small-pox, measles, typhoid fever, scrofula or consumption, are transmitted through milk as readily as the effects of medicine. The excretory power of the milk glands does not stop with carrying off medicine and disease, it extends to all foreign matter floating in the blood of the milk-producing animals. Nor is this power confined to the milk glands. It belongs to other glands as well. All the large glands of the body act as scavengers. But each has a function of its own, to which it is more especially adapted. The liver and the kidneys are more active in carrying off foreign and waste mineral matters, while the central glands are more active in ejecting organic substances. These functions, however, run into each other. The oil of turpentine will appear in the secretions of the kidneys in fifteen minutes after being swallowed, and nitrate of potash will about as soon appear to some extent in milk as well as in urine. While the milk glands are not very different from other large glands in their general action, their functions have an interest above all others, in a sanitary and economical point of view, because of the part their secretions take in our food and commerce.

The very large amount of liquid passing through the udder of a cow, makes that liquid an efficient flux for removing everything from the blood that is not needed there. There are a great many things which creep into the blood in some way, which circulate and pass out with the nutritive elements. The essential oils of plants which give them distinctive flavor or odor, as of turnips, onions, &c.; the putrid matter in rotten potatoes, decaying grass, or any and every other food in a state of decomposition, find their way out of the system through milk. I have just been witnessing a striking instance of this from feeding the whey of a cheese factory to the cows furnishing milk for the factory. The whey in the factory was not different from that of other factories. It was one of six factories owned or controlled by one man, under whose personal supervision they were managed. The whey of all factories, as now managed, is stale before it leaves the factory; incipient decay is started in it, and the cows partaking of it carry the seeds of destruction into their milk, and thence into the cheese. In this instance only a part of the cows supplying milk to the factory used whey. But it was enough to infect the cheese. The curds acted badly and smelled badly; the cheese puffed and was off flavor, and quite unlike the cheese of the other five factories managed in just the same way, so far as manufacturing was concerned. The quality of cheese was depressed a dollar per hundred. The depreciated value brought out a strong remonstrance to feeding whey to the cows, and it was stopped. The effect abated gradually, disappearing with the third day. The cheese of the fourth day became like those made in the other five factories controlled by the same superintendent, demonstrating, beyond a doubt, that the whey, though very slightly affected, carried into the bodies of the cows the seeds of putrefaction, which were cast out again in their milk. So with all other fermenting, stale or decaying food. It is sure to make its impress upon the milk of the cow using it, making it objectionable and unsafe to feed milk cows with any food, or giving them any water, which contains anything that would not be proper to be taken into the human stomach.

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