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SIR,—In your next number please give an account of, 1st—The proper time to cut clover for seed, how ripe, etc. 2nd—The process of curing the clover before bringing it in. 3rd—The best time and how to thresh it, and about the average bushels per acre for a fair crop. We never raised a pound of clover seed in this township. Tell us the best kind of a machine to buy to thresh it. You have a good many readers here and will have more. Wm. A. W., Lansdowne, Leeds County.

[In reply to the above we would say that clover seed can be cut any time after the heads have all well turned and you can rub the ripest out in your hand. The usual way of cutting now is to take a self-rake reaper and lay it off in bunches, and these bunches can with care, on the part of the chiver, be put in nice rows. These bunches, if the machine works properly, will be laid with the heads all standing up. In this position it can remain till ready to go in the barn, which is, when sufficiently dry that it will not heat. When laid in rows you can drive between and lift the bunches with a barley fork on to the wagon.

The best time to thresh is in frosty weather during winter. Nearly all the machine shops that manufacture grain separators make clover seed hullers, and there is a great diversity of opinion as to which is the best machine.

The yield is from 2 to 4 bushels per acre and 5 bushels is considered a very large yield. When a good crop and a good price it is a very profitable crop to the farmer.

SIR,—Please confer a favor on a subscriber by answering the following questions: 1—Would cedar for ornamental hedges do to plant in fall, and what time is best? 2—How far apart will two-inch tile drains stand to be put, that are six hundred feet long and three feet deep, with medium fall, in ground that is so porous that I have seen water soak from one hole to another eleven feet away, almost as fast as it was being lowered in order to put in gate-posts? 3—What time is best for sowing salt in order to benefit fall wheat; before the wheat is sown, or next spring?

CANADIAN, Chatham.

[1—The tree Arborvitae, commonly found in our swamps, and generally known as cedar and as American cedar, will answer; it will do well for ornamental hedges, can be readily kept and will look well at any season. 2—The distance apart for tile drains varies according to the kind of land to be drained. On very stiff lands they should be nearer to one another than on lighter soil. They should on very stiff lands be not more than 24 ft. apart, and we have laid drains on such land at 16 ft. apart. On light lands of ordinary porosity they need not be nearer than 10 or 12 yards. In some lands a few drains to tap the springs and to draw off the water from wet places will be enough, instead of thorough draining. 3—All soluble manures, such as common salt, are to be applied during the season of growth. This is the rule practised by English farmers, who use salt, as well as other fertilizers, liberally on their lands. And this rule is sanctioned by the authority of such writers as the author of "Cyclopedia of Agriculture." The common cedar may be planted either in the fall or spring without risk of failure, if done carefully. We have transplanted cedars in August, September and October, as well as in spring. September planting is especially recommended by some.]

SIR,—Will you kindly inform me, through the columns of your valuable magazine, how I shall keep hens laying eggs the year round. I have now twenty-five hens, and all the eggs I get per day is seven or eight—a very small yield. I feed them on oats, barley, wheat, grain, wheat-bran and coarse wheat flour, with boiling water, mixed together quite dry, all they want. They have

plenty of fresh water, and quite a large field to run in, but I never let them out of that one field after the spring crops are sown, until gathered in in the fall. Then they have the full run of the farm from the first of May until the last of July. My 25 hens averaged about 15 eggs per day. I thought that was pretty good, but since then they have not done so well. Some of them eat their eggs. Can you tell me the reason, as they have lime, gravel, and all the kinds of earth, nearly, in their field or yard. The lime I keep in a dish in the building. I intend to increase the number to about 50 or 60. I keep a small stove in their laying apartment in the winter. Will hens lay in winter if they have a good warm place? Is Cayenne pepper good to increase their laying? What kind or breed of hens are the best layers? Mine are all part Spanish. Can you give me a description of the best laying hens. E. A. B.

Lower Sackville, N. B., Aug. 22, 1878.
[Your hens require fresh meat. Sour milk or buttermilk would be a valuable addition to their food. Kill any hen that has ever broken and eaten an egg. Do not let eggs freeze or crack, or the hens may learn the habit. Your hens require salt, also. The Black Spanish are good layers. The Leghorns may lay a larger number of eggs, but they are much smaller than the eggs of the Black Spanish. Hens will lay well in winter if properly fed and their house kept warm. Cayenne is sometimes beneficial. Perhaps some of our subscribers will furnish us with the results with their laying hens during the winter season.]

Keeping Apples in Winter.

SIR,—I hope I don't trespass on your precious time with my correspondence. You are so willing to indulge that we take license in asking questions about one thing and another. My first query is:—I saw in one of the numbers of the ADVOCATE some directions about packing apples in buckwheat bran. That may do very well where it can be got handy, but I am sure we could not get as much of it in this country as would pack thirty barrels of apples. I would like to know what is the best thing to pack them in. How would planing-mill shavings or dry sawdust do? I have tried wheat chaff but the apples rotted in it. I have been told that oat chaff is good, as it absorbs the dampness from the apples—some say dry sand. I have been thinking about the hull of oats that have been kiln-dried. It is of some importance to preserve winter apples here, for in fall or winter we cannot get more than fifty cents per bushel, whereas in spring or late-winter we can get one dollar per bushel—and a treat at that same. We have not as large a crop of apples as we expected earlier in the season. The worms are still doing their work amongst the apples—notwithstanding all our remedies.

Plums are scarce in some places—others about half a crop. Red plums were all blasted by frost and fly—the fly rolling up the leaves with green lice. I dredged my plums and pears with hell-bore water, but it failed to affect or dislodge them, as they were in the leaves rolled up. A blight has attacked our plums; the South-Orleans is the first that is attacked; a dark brown spot shows on one side of the plum, and in two days it will be all over—black and rotten like a hatched egg—and those I have pulled green have rotted in a few days. Some others have caught the same blight. What must the cause be?

I hope you will give us some useful information in the next number of the ADVOCATE about packing apples. M. B. C., Walkerton.

[Saw-dust and shavings will injure the flavor of apples. We think the hull from the kiln-dried oats would be a good material to pack in. A good plan is to have a lot of square boxes made of the same size, so as to hold 1 bushel, 1½ or 2 bushels; then pack the boxes in a cellar and keep the temperature right. If the apples are sound when put in the boxes they will come out all right. Perhaps some of our fruit-growers or entomologists may furnish us with more light about the plum and insect questions.]

Wheat Growing.

SIR,—In 1877 Mr. William Hewgill, Lot. 17, Con. 12, had as the yield of 48 acres of fall wheat 1176 bushels; Mr. Thos. Irwin, 9th Con., from 2 acres had 115 bushels of wheat; Mr. Joseph E. Alexander, 9th Con., from 3 acres had 141 bushels of spring wheat. Many others had from 40 to 50 bushels per acre; from appearance of crops throughout the township this year, heavy yields may be expected. The following figures will give some idea of the value of land in the same township.

Mr. Nicholson, 12th Con. paid for 20 acres at the rate of \$57.50 per acre, and has been offered \$60 per acre for 100 acres; Mr. Spaul, 10th Con., has been offered \$6,000 cash for 100 acres, his price is \$7,000; Mr. John Anderson, 9th Con., bought 100 acres of bush land (no improvements) at \$20 per acre; Mr. Todd, 9th Con., has been offered \$4,200 cash for his farm of 100 acres, his price is \$4,500; Mr. James Kinner, 11th Con., paid \$1,600 cash for 50 acres of unimproved land. The future of this township, who can tell?

J. N., Collingwood Tp.

SIR,—Would you please inform me through the columns of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE of the proper way to cure tobacco without a drying-house and fire. N. K., Lynedoch.

[Would some of our readers who have experience in growing tobacco reply to the enquiry of 'N.K.'?]

Drain Tiles.

SIR,—A correspondent of the ADVOCATE in the May number wanted to know where drain tiles could be obtained; if lumber would not be preferable to tiles, etc. I would say to every man that owns a piece of land, drain tile is the best and most durable; but if tiles are not obtainable, use stone or lumber made into boxes, two boards nailed together or three pieces nailed together.

Three straight poles about four inches thick make a very good drain. Dig the drain ten inches wide, lay two poles in the bottom of the drain and one on top, and put in a small quantity of straw or brush to keep the soil from falling through the joints.

We commenced to drain twenty-five years ago, using pine lumber, slabs, rails, poles, etc. The lumber or wood drains were all right for twelve or fourteen years, when the wood began to rot, and we had to re-lay with tile. This summer we opened a tile drain that was laid in 1863, to run a lateral drain into it, and the tiles were so hard that I could not cut a hole into them without breaking them.

Drain tiles are made and can be obtained at the following places in the County of Oxford: Plattsville, near the G. T. R. Road; Woodstock, on the G. W. R. Road; Tavistock, on the G. T. R. Road. In the County of Waterloo: New Hamburg, on G. T. R. Road; New Dundee, on G. T. R. Road, and Doon, on G. T. R. Road. They make about twenty thousand tiles in each of the above-mentioned yards weekly.

W. C. S., Wilmet, Waterloo Co.

The Weevil (*Calandra granaria*).

A correspondent wishes us to publish in our journal an account of the insects that are to be so much dreaded by farmers who keep their wheat stored in the granary for some weeks or months. The following article on the subject is from an essay by Prof. Hind, of Trinity College, Toronto, a standard authority on such matters:—

A snout-beetle, about one-eighth of an inch in length, with a slender body of a dull reddish-brown color, furrowed wing cases and long punctured thorax. A single pair of these insects may produce six thousand descendants in a year. They are destructive to stored grain in both the perfect and larva state. The female lays her eggs in wheat in the granary. The young maggots burrow into the grain and consume its contents, leaving only the husk. Their transformations are perfected within the husks they have chambered out in the larva state, and so secretly are their operations conducted that it is impossible to detect their operations by simple inspection of a heap of wheat.

On the approach of cold weather the weevils retire from the heaps of wheat, and seek shelter in crevices and cracks of the floor and walls. They remain torpid for a while, and after having paired, soon die. They avoid the light, hence one reason why constant turning of the wheat and sifting is advantageously employed to drive them away. They lie in general four or five inches below the surface of the heap, and here the majority pair. Kiln drying appears to be the only certain destruction to this pest. Frequent turning and airing of the heaps, whitewashing the walls, and keeping the granaries clean, with abundant ventilation, are artifices strongly recommended for the purpose of diminishing the numbers of this pest. It is not likely, however, that farmers in Canada will suffer much from its depredation for some years to come. Where large quantities of wheat, and particularly of foreign wheat, are allowed to accumulate in store, there, no doubt, the ravages of this insect will be felt.