

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

1st.—Questions asked by bona-fide subscribers to the "Farmer's Advocate" are answered in this department free.
2nd.—Questions should be clearly stated and plainly written, on one side of the paper only, and must be accompanied by the full name and address of the writer.
3rd.—In veterinary questions, the symptoms especially must be fully and clearly stated, otherwise satisfactory replies cannot be given.
4th.—When a reply by mail is required to urgent veterinary or legal enquiries, \$1 must be enclosed.

Miscellaneous.

OWNERSHIP OF SLABS.

Farmer employed millman to saw lumber, and did not sell the timber to him. There was nothing said about slabs in the bargain. I would like to know who the slabs belong to?

Ont. A SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—In the absence of a well-established custom to the contrary, they would belong to the farmer.

STITCHWORT.

Give name and habits of the enclosed plant. It grew profusely in a hay field this year.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—This is one of the European stitchworts. In the absence of flowers and leaves, having only the seed capsules and stems to judge from, we are not sure which one, but think it most probably the plant called by botanists *Stellaria graminea*. The weed just named is a perennial, with small white star-like blossoms, slender, angular, spreading flower stems; in short, it looks like a straggling, narrow-leaved chickweed. It is not likely to prove troublesome. J. D.

A COLT KILLED.

A and B are farmers, and live side by side. A owns the back half of fence, and B the front. B's stock pastured beside A's line fence all summer till the crop was off, and did no harm. B built a new fence—but not a lawful fence—on part of his share of the fence. B turned his stock into the part where the new fence was as soon as the crop was off. A turned his stock in his own field beside the fence where B's stock was. B's mares and colts got over into A's field, and A's colt was found dead and marks on colt showing it was kicked, and marks on the colt's mother. A went and left word at B's what had happened, and B never came to see about it; and some time after A met B at the fair and asked him what was he satisfied to do about it, and B said he would do nothing—that his mares never were in the field. There were five saw B's mares in the field; and A and his hired man put them out, and they jumped over B's share of the fence. There was one person who saw the mares fight. Can A make B pay for colt under the circumstances, as B refuses to settle in any way?

Ont. D. C.

Ans.—We think that A is in a position to legally recover damages from B for the trespass and consequent loss of colt.

DRAINAGE FOR ICE-HOUSE—PROPAGATING GRAPES.

1. Is it necessary to provide drainage for an ice-house built on the top of a bank, or hill, or will it be all right to put down sawdust, and let the melted ice seep through it?

2. I see in the issue of Dec. 28th that grapevines can be propagated by planting slips. Please explain. Can trimmings be used?

3. How many buds must be covered?

4. Will it be necessary to cut early and bury in sand in cellar until warm weather?

G. S.

Ans.—1. Unless the soil is very retentive we do not see any necessity for special drainage provision beyond that suggested.

2. Cuttings of two or three buds' length are taken in the winter from trimmings of vineyards. They are cut as soon as the vines are trimmed, tied in small bundles, and the bundles buried half their depth in damp sand in a cool cellar. By spring, the cuttings will be more or less calloused. On the approach of warm weather, the cuttings are planted in the open in a loose loamy soil, well and deeply prepared. The cuttings are inserted until only the upper bud stands at the surface of the ground. They are set 6 to 8 inches apart in the rows, and the rows are far enough apart to admit of horse cultivation. These cuttings may give plants large enough for the following fall, but it is usually better to let the plants grow two

years before being put upon the market. In such cases, it is customary in many nurseries to transplant at the end of the first season.

CLIPPING WINGS OF MARKET POULTRY.

Would it be practical to clip the wings of pullets and cockerels destined for the market, to prevent them getting over the poultry enclosure?

P. L.

Ans.—Clipping the wings of market poultry is a cheap and practical way of raising the poultry-yard fence. We have often done it on the farm.

CREAM HARD TO CHURN.

Why is cream sometimes hard to churn? We have spent half a day churning some cream. Cows are fed corn ensilage and straw (mixed) twice a day, and hay once. They are milking well. Is there anything than can be done to avoid this?

G. S.

Ans.—See answer to similar question on page 70 in this issue.

FEEDING MARE TO BREED IN FEBRUARY.

I have a mare which I wish to breed during the first part of February. How should I treat her to make her show in heat?

L. L. P.

Ans.—Gradually increase the feed, giving a fairly liberal ration of oats and bran, also mixed clover hay, dampened, if necessary, to lay the dust, and a few carrots or turnips to keep the bowels laxative and the health good. Keep blanketed in a comfortable warm stable, and give moderate regular exercise. In a word, try to simulate June conditions as far as practicable and safe.

PREPARING SOD FOR ALFALFA.

I plowed a ten-acre field this fall that had been in sod 30 years, and intend planting half of it with beans and half with corn, and the next spring seed to alfalfa. Would it be better to leave sod down next fall and disk the next spring, or to fall plow it? Land rolling and drains good.

R. H.

Ans.—Many excellent farmers would answer without hesitation surface-work only in spring, but our own preference would be to have it also plowed in fall. The extra stirring would, we think, give more favorable conditions for the alfalfa to get well rooted.

T. B.

RATION FOR STEERS.

Am feeding some two-year-old steers, and have barley, oats and peas for chopping. How should they be mixed to get best results? Would it not be advisable to buy bran, as I have considerable blue grass hay to feed? How much bran should be mixed with chop?

W. C.

Ans.—You could scarcely get a better grain ration for fattening cattle than a mixture of equal weights of oats, barley and peas. Bran, we think, would not be much needed in addition to above, but would certainly be helpful, as it would lighten the meal and have a beneficial action on the bowels, besides making the meals go further to avoid a shortage, and one-half to a pound a day of oil cake might be added to advantage.

T. B.

TENANT'S IMPROVEMENTS—IN LITIGATION.

1. If A lives on a rented farm for a term of years, the lease having run out, and A still lives on farm and pays the same rent; if A does any improvements, such as building fence and shingling house, nothing being said by either party in regard to improvements, can A hold the amount out of rent, or how can A make good his expense?

2. A having a case non-suited, with the privilege of bringing it before a jury, has it to be brought before the jury within a certain time, or is there a limit to the time?

3. If A gives his case to a lawyer, and the day of court, he is under the impression that his lawyer has betrayed him; if A can prove to that effect, what is the law in regard to such offence?

4. In pleading a case, if the lawyer is not giving you justice, could you take it out of his hands and plead it yourself?

A. L. T.

Ans.—1. No; he is not legally entitled to compensation therefor.

2. Yes, having regard to statutes of limitations of actions.

3. A could have the matter brought before the Benchers of the Law Society of Upper Canada at Osgoode Hall, Toronto, and have the lawyer disciplined.

4. Yes.

Great Dispersion Sale by Auction

THE ENTIRE HERD OF

42 head of Scotch and Scotch-topped

SHORTHORN CATTLE

The property of MR. HENRY B. WEBSTER, will be sold at his farm, adjoining the Village of Fergus, G.T.R. & C.P.R., on

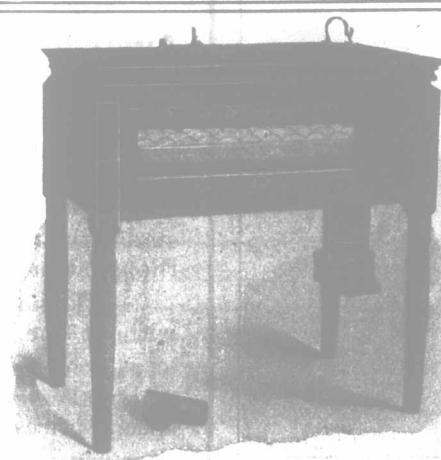
Wednesday, Jan. 24th, 1906

This offering represents Matchless, Claras, Marr Beautys, Missies and Margarets, among which are about 30 breeding cows, all in calf or with calves at foot; 13 heifers and 7 bulls, including the stock bull, Royal Chancellor = 44688 =. No reserve, as proprietor is giving up farming.

Sale will commence at 1 o'clock sharp. Send for catalogue.

TERMS: 10 months' credit will be given parties furnishing approved joint notes, or 4% discount for cash.

THOS. INGRAM, Auctioneer.



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All goods sold under a guarantee. We also manufacture the famous Jones' Patent Elevator, for unloading Hay and Grain.

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HAMILTON, CANADA.

GOSSIP.

Messrs. S. J. Pearson, Son & Co., of Meadowvale, Ont., breeders of Short-horns and Berkshires, write: We are offering some of as fine young Short-horn bulls as we ever bred, being the low-down, thick, even-fleshed sort, with a good coat of soft hair—the right kind to head a herd. We also have some of our best young Berkshire sows for sale that are due to farrow in February, March and April, bred to the first-prize boar at Toronto and London Exhibitions in 1904, and a fine lot of early fall pigs, bred from prize stock, and all from a very prolific strain. As the Berkshires are growing very popular, this is a good chance to secure the right kind. Meadowvale is a station on the Streetsville and Owen Sound branch of the C. P. R., and the farm is only one mile from the station. Call and see, or write Messrs. Pearson for prices, etc.

H. B. WEBSTER'S SHORTHORN SALE.

The dispersion sale of Scotch and Scotch-topped Shorthorns, to be held on Jan. 24th, on the farm (adjoining Fergus) of H. B. Webster, Fergus, Ont., Wellington County, will be a very good opportunity for breeders to strengthen their herds and for beginners to lay a good foundation. Among the offering are several heifers, safe in calf on recently bred; among which is Maid of Springfield 11th, a roan of straight Scotch breeding, sired by Lord Stanley 4th = 22678 =, kept as a stock bull until eleven years old. Her dam is by Clan Stuart = 14381 =, a Village Blossom, and a first-prize winner at Toronto as a three-year-old, and her grandam was by the celebrated Barmpton Hero = 324 =, great-grandam by a son of Heir of Englishman. On her dam's side, she traces to Beauty (imp.) = 31 =, imported from the herd of W. S. Marr, Aberdeenshire. Clara F. C., a dark roan, purchased from the herd of Messrs. H. Cargill & Son, as her name denotes, is of the Clara family, and just the kind so many are looking after. Among the young cows is Matchless, a straight Watt Matchless. She is of good quality throughout, and very thick-fleshed. Another young cow of genuine Scotch type and pedigree is Maid of Springfield 5th = 42420 =, by Hillsburg Tom = 26756 =, a Toronto winner. Another of merit is Peeress, by Scottish Peer (imp.) = 40424 =. She was winner of first prize as a calf at Centre Wellington Show. Her heifer calf looks like making a show heifer. Catalogues

NOTICE!

INFORMATION WANTED OF HAROLD PAGE Left home on evening of January 5th. 16 years old. Brown hair and eyes.

GEO. A. PAGE, Marnoch, Ont.

will be mailed on application. The entire herd are catalogued, and every animal will be sold without reserve, as the proprietor is giving up farming. Watch next issue for further particulars.

Several carloads of lambs sold for \$7.90 per 100 lbs. at the Chicago Stockyards last week, which certainly speaks well for the future prospect of sheep-breeding.

Feeds have a great influence on the quality of the pork of the hogs to which they are fed. Experts can tell by looking at the dressed carcass whether certain classes of feeds have been given.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Miscellaneous.

HEATING OF MANURE TO DESTROY WEED SEEDS.

Will heating manure in a heap destroy mustard, ox-eye daisy and yellow dock seed, and how long do you consider would it take before the germ of the seed is destroyed?

W.

Ans.—One can scarcely give a categorical answer to this question. Different kinds of seeds vary as to their thermal death point, and the same kind varies in different conditions. Seeds of the same maturity and vitality greatly vary, according to the moisture of the hot air to which they are subjected. A seed will survive a greater degree of heat in a dry oven than it will in a moist chamber or in hot water. Jensen's hot-water method of treating grain for smut subjects them to brief immersion at 140 degrees, Fahr. This treatment injures only the weakest seeds in a sample. When the vitality of weed seeds is considered in respect to manure, the question is simplified because the treatment of manure will destroy the seeds by germinating them, and not by "firing" them. The moderate heat that produces a mild fermentation and sprouting of the seed is best, both for the manure and protection against the weeds. J. D.