

Legislation Needed.

SIR.—As you have invited us to show up abuses, allow me to call attention to an extraordinary anomaly which now exists in our laws: While manufactured goods may be sold with equal freedom in every municipality, farm and garden produce can only be sold within many of our towns and cities upon the payment of certain sums of money.

He who sells the produce of the soil within the bounds of those corporations must pay a specified fine, which varies according to the greed of each particular corporation. This tax upon an ordinary market gardener will usually double the sum total of all his taxes in his own municipality. He pays this for a privilege which all other men already enjoy, and yet those who cultivate the soil in this Canada of ours are supposed to be free! This market fee tax not only discriminates against a class, but against the residents of outside municipalities.

This sweet privilege of taxing men who are now voters is enjoyed only by town and city councils. Will they voluntarily, from a sense of justice, forego the luxury? Yes!—a few days after the Millennium comes. As the majority of the members of our Local Legislature represent rural municipalities, it will be as well to expedite matters by removing this power which is possessed by only a few corporations, comparatively speaking.

Let every municipality and every class of people stand upon the same level. Let no tribute be paid for the privilege of selling the products of the soil. E. MORDEN, Drummondville, Ont.

SIR.—I would like to ask a question or two, and would feel much obliged if you would answer in the next issue of the *Advocate*, not only for my benefit, but for the benefit of others. On two occasions this summer, when driving on the highway, I had to pass other buggies, but the Canada thistles being so very high and thick—I may say almost in the centre of the road—my horse refused to go into them and give sufficient room for the other buggy to pass without some difficulty. Now, sir, if a collision took place and caused damages, must I or the other party be at the loss of such damages? Could we get redress from the Township Council or Pathmaster? Much has been said and written on the subject of Canada thistles, and still there remains gross neglect, especially on the highways.

My next question is—Can the Superintendent of public rural schools grant holidays to the teachers of such schools for the purpose of pleasure? I also think it is high time that those five days granted to teachers for visiting schools should be stopped, and that the teachers had better teach in their own schools, as those days are generally applied to other purposes than those intended. J. W., Bondhead, Ont.

[1—If you were aware that the thistles were so bad on the road, and neglected to notify or prosecute the Pathmaster, you could not recover damages. If you drove on such a road in ignorance of its bad condition, using every necessary precaution, and another man drove into your buggy and did it damage, the Council would have to pay the costs. 2—We believe the Superintendent has the power to grant the holidays. We agree with you in considering that holidays are too easily and too often given, not only at schools, but by numerous city and other corporations. If the proper system were adopted—no work no pay—there would be less cause for your just complaint.]

SIR.—A word from Napanee may not be out of place, though it only tells you how much we value the *Advocate*. We hope you will keep it up to the standard, a true Canadian farmer's paper. This year has been a good one for farmers in this country—good crops and good prices. Our market has been crowded with produce. This week business has been very brisk—the barley trade being especially lively. Over one thousand loads of barley and other grain have come to our market within the week. Wheat brings a better price than barley this year, though barley pays well, and this is a great section of country for the crop. Potatoes have been a great crop this year. Some very large specimens have been shown, weighing 2 lbs. 4 oz., 2 lbs. 8 oz., and 2 lbs. 9 oz. One farmer has raised 70 bags from two bags planted, or about four hundred bushels to the acre, and this no prize crop. AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

Farming for Pleasure and Profit.

SIR.—I have chosen this heading for a series of articles detailing some of my farm studies, thoughts, successes, and failures, because of its appropriateness.

IMPROVING THE FARM.

I have no doubt that more money can be made in a few years by taking a good farm and selling off the crops, without giving it much cultivation, or using much manure; that is, to keep but little stock and sell most of the hay, without buying much grain or fertilizer—in other words, skinning the farm; but I have no taste for such farming. I can take no pleasure in seeing the farm grow poorer every year, under my hands, but prefer to improve it from year to year, even if but little. I have seen the farm upon which I was reared grow poorer and poorer for a number of years, under this system of keeping a light stock, planting but little, and only half tilling that little, until the soil was not only impoverished, but filled with weed seed and twitchgrass roots; but now, for a number of years, I have been trying to get it back to its original fertile condition. I find it is hard and slow for a young man to hire such a farm, and, without much capital of his own, to work it up, but it can be done, and there is pleasure in such work, especially if, as in my own case, it is soil one has learned to love by labor done in his boyhood. And who will say that farming does not pay when such a farm is made to support two families, and increase the productiveness year by year, through such times as we have recently been passing?

Improvements should begin nearest home. I have made the same mistake that others often do; that is, in working and improving lands some distance from the buildings before those nearer home were put in their best condition. The nearer the land is to the buildings, the more it is worth, other things being equal, for nearness saves much labor in carting manure and crops, as well as in travel to and from work. The more compact the work of the season is, the better it can be overseen and managed, especially if much help is employed.

UNDERDRAINING.

I know of no farm operation from which I have derived more pleasure than from what little underdraining I have done. It pays well too, although, like most permanent improvements, it takes several years to get all of one's money back. I have done but little draining, and that at odd jobs, as I had time to spare without hiring extra help. The first was three years ago last fall and the following spring, when I put in fourteen rods in an orchard near the house, and there I did my first ploughing last spring, and have raised early potatoes this season. A part of this orchard was a slight basin, in which water stood until late in spring, and after every great rain in summer. It had not been ploughed for some twenty years, and the grass was nearly run out by moss, which covered the ground, but a drain three feet deep, and filled with stones, has changed it into dry, productive land, from which I have taken good crops of cucumbers, oats, clover and potatoes, and have sown it to turnips after digging the early potatoes this fall.

A year ago last spring I put in twenty-one rods of stone drain, 3½ feet deep, thereby converting a very wet, heavy spot of about one-third of an acre, which was nearly surrounded by dry land in a large mowing lot, into a mellow, productive soil, which is now neither too wet nor too dry. Before draining, this spot was very wet, and would only grow grass of poor quality, being full of ferns and buttercup, and when ploughed was very lumpy, the principal crop being Roman wormwood. The surface soil was a dark vegetable mould ten or twelve inches deep, underneath which was a very hard subsoil, eighteen or twenty inches deep, so hard that a pick would make but little impression upon it, and under that a stratum of gravel, full of water, which worked out of the hill near by, and in spots this water came up through the hard pan of the surface, where it escaped only by evaporation. By digging through the hard pan to the gravel, I have drawn the water off below the surface, which is becoming very mellow and productive under cultivation, and produced, last year and this, better crops than the naturally dry soil surrounding it, and especially this season has it shown indications of great fertility. It is a pleasure to work on such land, after one has reclaimed it. I really enjoy going to the out-let occasionally to see the drain discharge, while the surface is so dry and mellow, and to think what it was before. I put in another drain last fall,

and am digging for more now. I believe that a great deal more underdraining might be done to advantage, if done a little at a time, when other work is not pressing, and then what a nice opportunity it gives to put those unsightly stone-heaps and useless walls where they will be out of sight and out of the way, besides making themselves useful. Try it, brother farmers, and see if it does not pay both in profit and in pleasure.—[J. W. P. N. E. F.]

Warts on Horses.

SIR.—I have a valuable horse that is troubled with bleeding warts. Would you be kind enough to tell me some remedy that would not be so severe as to lay him up from his work? J. W., Collingwood, Ont.

[There has been many remedies prescribed, but the simplest we have met with is by a correspondent of the *Farm Journal* (England); it is at least worthy of a trial. "Inquiries are made for a cure for warts of different kinds on horses, mules, and cattle. Many remedies are prescribed—many barbarous and cruel to the animal. I will give you a remedy often tried and never known to fail. Anoint the wart three times with clean fresh hog's lard, about two days between times. I have had warts on my horses—bleeding warts of large size, rattling warts, and seed warts, to the number of more than one hundred on one horse's head. I have never been able to find the warts for the third application of the lard. All disappear after the second application. I have sent this prescription to several agricultural papers, hoping it would be of some use to farmers. But they all seem slow to believe, perhaps because the remedy is at hand and costs nothing. I own I was slow to believe myself; but, having a fine young mare with large bleeding warts, that covered parts of the bridle and girths with blood whenever used, I thought there would be no harm in trying lard on them. When the mare was got up for the third application there were no warts, and the scars are there now, after more than fifteen years, with very little change. I may say that for cuts, bruises, galls, &c., the application of fresh lard—either for man or beast—is worth more than any patent liniments in use. It will relieve pain instantly, and does not irritate raw flesh, as all liniments do."—[*Farm Journal Eng.*]

Spring Wheat.

SIR.—Spring wheat in this locality has been a miserable failure. I sowed between nine and ten acres of the red chaff wheat, and after threshing I only had 35½ bushels. The wheat looked first-rate until the middle of June, then it began to fail in appearance, as if a blight or rust had taken it. My land is clay loam. A neighbor of mine, Mr. Thomas Shipley, of Falkirk, sowed salt on his land, and he threshed 17 bushels per acre. Can you inform me if there is any better wheat than the red chaff? THOS. GIBSON, Duncreeff.

[There is no other new variety of spring wheat that has been sufficiently tried that we can commend to you from present information of any more service to the country than the red fern, lost nation or white Russian. We are rather pleased to hear that the red chaff wheat has ceased to yield better than other varieties. The quality of flour made from that variety of wheat has done more to injure the reputation of Canadian flour than any other spring wheat now in cultivation. It would be of advantage to Canada if a fine was imposed on any one offering it for sale. The red chaff yielded well in several localities a few years ago, which caused it to be widely spread throughout Canada. Buyers purchased it and put it in the same bins with other wheat. It was sold to millers and for export under the name of Canadian club, but on trial by the bakers it was found to be of a very weak nature, and reduced the market value of our spring wheat many cents per bushel. Would it not be well to check its production?]

SIR.—Can you inform me how burdocks and wild parsnips can be exterminated from a garden? A. K., Sussex, New Brunswick.

[Keep a garden clean, as it should be kept, and burdocks or wild parsnips will not be seen. If hogs are allowed to run where burdocks grow they will eradicate them in two years. The wild parsnips and burdocks will both be eradicated if you do not allow them to breathe through the leaves for two years. This is easily done by planting a hoed crop and keeping it properly cleaned two seasons.]