

the affair may lead to complications with Russia. The Government organs repeat the statement previously made to Russia by Lord Lansdowne, that the British have no intention of trying to annex Thibet.

Since the occupation of Wiju by the Japanese, and the consequent retirement of the Russians beyond the Yalu River, but little significant news has been received from the Far East. In the meantime the opinion grows that Gen. Kouropatkin's plan is to lure the Japanese forces across into Manchuria, and on in the direction of Harbin; it remains to be seen, however, whether the wily Jap will be so easily caught. The Russians are still making extensive preparations. They are sending 18 torpedo boats by rail to Port Arthur, and have bought four cruisers built for the Turkish Government, two by Germany, and two by France, at a cost of \$20,000,000. They are said to be much worried to account for the persistent presence of General Ma, who with a large force of Chinese soldiers still remains on the Chino-Manchurian frontier. In case China broke her neutrality in favor of Japan, this army would be indeed a serious menace to Russia. A late unofficial report says that Admiral Makaroff's fleet sailed from Port Arthur on April 8th to give battle to the Japanese squadron, and that an engagement took place, but no details are given.

NOTES AND NEWS.

A party of trained nurses from the U. S. are en route for Japan.

Medical health officers of Montreal report that 1,200 calves recently shipped to the city for food consumption have been destroyed as unfit for food.

One of the mines at the outer edge of Vladivostok has been exploded by a whale. The mutilated carcass was washed up on shore.

J. Pierpont Morgan has sailed for London, Eng., where he will probably make his home for the future.

The debate on the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway is proceeding energetically in the Dominion Parliament.

Breaking ice swept away the bridge erected at a cost of \$21,000, which spanned the Moira River near Belleville, Ont.

On the morning of Easter Sunday a fire occasioning loss to the amount of \$40,000, occurred at Rideau Hall, the Government House at Ottawa.

Premier Bond, of Newfoundland, has stated in the Legislature at St. John's that the people of Newfoundland have no desire to confederate with the Dominion of Canada.

Meetings which decided enthusiastically in favor of union of the churches have been held in various parts of Canada, notably in Halifax and Winnipeg.

Another gushing oil and gas well has been struck near Leamington, Ont. It is said that a flow of thirteen million cubic feet of natural gas is escaping daily.

The harvest of this year's wheat crop in Australia is nearly over, the yield being estimated at 11,000,000 bushels above the best previous record; 17,000,000 bushels are now ready to be exported.

On April 2nd the factory of the Magnet Cream Separator Co., at Guelph, Ont., was almost completely ruined. The loss, which was chiefly on the machinery, amounts to \$60,000. One hundred men are out of work in consequence of the fire.

The New York World states that John D. Rockefeller, Sr., has been seized by the money-giving impulse. He has already, so it is stated, given away \$35,000,000, and he intends to make the amount \$100,000,000 before he dies. As he wishes every dollar he gives to be as useful as every one that he keeps, his gifts are being made very systematically.

"After a hen is set and has become settled, dust her thoroughly with lice powder, and repeat this every week during the hatch, and especially a few days before the hatch is due. This will destroy all the lice before the appearance of the hatch, and the dusting should be repeated often afterward. . . . More chicks are lost each year through the ravages of lice than from any other cause."—[The Poultry Tribune.

Training a Hedge.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":
I have been reading the articles in your paper on training a hedge. I have always found the best way to get a thick bottom to a hedge is to lay it. First clean out all the rough wood and rubbish, then drive in stakes, about one to two inches through, about 4 ft. apart. These stakes can often be found in the hedge if it is much overgrown. Now cut each bush three parts off, so that it will be lengthwise in the hedge, going from one side of the hedge to the other round the stakes, which should be about six inches lower than your hedge when finished. If this hedge is always trimmed the same way it will very soon be impregnable.
B. C. FARMER.

Are You Going to the Pacific Coast?

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—We have now got our clearing one year advanced. It is chopped, burnt, seeded, branded up, fenced, and the cordwood cut, stacked and ready for hauling next summer.

At the end of the first year's clearing there will probably be only one boundary permanently cleared, and that is that part of the clearing fronting on the road. A permanent fence, either post, board and wire or a straight post-and-rail fence, can be built on this. The same kind of a fence can be built on the side lines, if your neighbor has also cleared up to the line, but on the back line a temporary snake fence of sixteen-foot rails should be built. The next year, if you have done some more chopping, it may be necessary to take this down before burning, and, in any case, after the burning it will want moving so as to include the new clearing. It is as well not to build any permanent fencing for a year or two, except on your boundaries, until you have a good amount of clearing done and can get a pretty good and permanent idea as to how you are going to divide your fields.

The process of clearing so far described should be repeated every year till all the farm is cleared to the same degree, and in pasture. The following summer the ferns should be cut three times, if possible, as before described. You will find that while the first cutting will take about a week for ten acres, the third cutting will not take over a day. About August, after you have finished chopping your second clearing, and before you burn, get a small camping axe (seventy-five cents) with a short handle about a foot long, and spend a day or two in cutting out the willow, hazel and vine maple sprouts growing up from the roots of last year's clearing.

It is a good plan during the time you are chopping your next ten acres, whenever you get an extra warm day, to burn off a few piles of the "branding-up" heaps, taking care not to burn any of your cordwood. These branding-up heaps can be burnt almost any time between April and September. Immediately seed down the burnt spot. If rain falls before you can seed, drag a handful of brush (two or three cedar branches) over the ashes after you have thrown the seed on. This will cover them and give them a good start.

Whoever is going to haul the cordwood should start as soon as possible after the first of April, or as soon as the roads dry out, as all the cordwood should be hauled away before you start your main burning in August, otherwise you are liable to lose some of it. The average ten acres will give from fifty to eighty cords from the old logs and second-growth fir. There is a good deal of land in the Lower Fraser Valley that will give no cordwood at all, and again there are other blocks that will give from one hundred to one hundred and twenty cords to the ten acres.

When you have got all the "branding-up" piles burnt, and also the piles of branches from the trees which you have made into cordwood, and the cordwood hauled away, the clearing is finished so far as the pasture stage is concerned; that is, there is nothing further to do to it so long as you are only going to use it for pasture. The bulk of the old logs will have been used up—the fir for cordwood, and the cedar for fencing, buildings, etc.—all that will be left will be the stumps, and a few fir logs too rotten for cordwood. The following year your pasture will be first-class and as good as you could possibly wish. Last year, by the first of June I had clover two feet high on a piece of clearing at the same stage as that described above, and it was very thick. If it had been cut for hay it would have gone two and one-half tons to the acre at least on June 1st. The second year you should cut the ferns about twice, the third year once. Each cutting they will get perceptibly smaller and fewer in number, and after the third year they will be so few and small as not to be worth while bothering with at all. It is also as well to spend a day or two a year in cutting any willow or hazel sprouts that may not have been killed out, but the chances are there will be few if any of these after the first year.

If it is the intention to stump and break up this land as soon as the stumps are ripe, then the following winter it will be as well to spend a few weeks in preliminary work, which will consist of a few underdrains and logging off the old rotten logs. The draining should be done first, as it dries out the wet places and helps the rotten logs to dry out too. Anything that is too rotten to handle with a team can generally be burnt off without handling at all during August, by taking a couple of bottles of coal oil and shaking a spoonful or two here and there along the old log among the rotten wood, and using a torch of gum-stick, touch them off. These fires will smoulder away for perhaps a week. A day or two at this for the first two summers will get rid of most of the small stuff and leave only the heavy pieces which will need piling or hauling away with a team.

If you intend to get this ground ready for plowing, the next step is to drain the low places. On the average bush land on the Lower Fraser very little of this is required as a rule, but as the land is generally rolling, there will probably be some few swales or wet places which will be none the worse for a little draining, but no systematic underdraining is required as a rule. A careful survey or prospecting should be made not only of your present clearing, but of the whole of your land, to see which is the lowest place or the natural outlet for the drainage. If this is not readily ascertainable it is better to put off any draining until you have got all your block

cleared for pasture as a general bird's-eye view can then be got to much better advantage. If your outlet will be in an uncleared part of the farm, then put it off till that part is cleared, as the ditching is done much more cheaply when the land is chopped and burnt. If, however, your outlet is in a part already cleared, start to dig a ditch about two feet to two and a half feet deep and twelve inches wide, following the hollow or wet place you want to drain. If this wet swale is much over four rods wide it is better to dig a ditch on each side of it at the foot of the rising ground, and let these two little ditches come together again when the swale narrows. In prairie ground, in alluvial clay, the underdrains should be three feet deep, and in peaty land or black muck, three feet six inches deep, unless three feet brings you into the clay; in upland clay or clay loam two feet six inches is plenty deep enough, and often two feet is ample. The character of the soil will determine the depth. Twelve inches is wide enough in all cases, but if you are digging a ditch which is to be an open ditch, it should be one foot six inches wide to two feet six inches wide at the top, and about twelve inches at bottom, with sloping sides. If there is much water, of course the ditch will need to be wider in proportion, but there will be few such cases in land such as we are discussing. These ditches should always be left open for a year or thereabouts, as it gives the land a good chance to thoroughly dry out. The best time to dig ditches is when the ground is soft, but there should not be too much water (say just enough water to give you a grade). Early summer or early fall is perhaps the best time, but they can often be dug to advantage in the winter.

Many clearings have been spoiled and their productiveness set back for two or more years by careless or over-burning, and although it is sometimes impossible to avoid it, still by using care and judgment this evil can be greatly minimized by digging out burning pits, twelve or fourteen feet square, in gullies or depressions, and logging and burning the refuse stuff there. The ashes can be spread over the land subsequently. The same system of burning can also be applied when you come to take out the stumps, particularly the smaller ones, and the second-growth fir that have been cut for cordwood. It is no exaggeration to say that, even allowing \$4.00 a day for a team and man, the cost of logging by this system is only one-fourth of what it is in the old way, and all the "hard work" is taken out of it.

When your logging is completed, and all the small roots which can be taken out by a team are taken out, it is time to complete the underdrains. Lay two 4 x 6 rails at the bottom of the ditch, and cover with a six-foot board (start with a three-foot board so as to break joint with the rails). Lay them neatly and make them fit. If the rails are inclined to fall in towards each other drive in a small peg (of cedar) to hold them in place. Long before the peg rots out (if it ever does) the rails will have bedded themselves and will not move. On the top of the boards lay all the cedar chips, slivers and odds and ends, and then fill in, taking care to fill in the top soil first and the stiffer clay on the top; the drain will drain better this way.
CHAS. E. HOPE.

The Settlers' Association, Vancouver, B.C.

Maritime Seed Fairs.

The second annual Seed Fairs at Charlottetown, March 15th; Truro, the 18th; Woodstock, the 25th; and Sussex, 28th and 29th, were a decided improvement on those held last year. The Sussex Agricultural Fair assigned one forenoon during the Seed Fair to the judging of horses and cattle. In the former, Thoroughbreds and Clydesdales were critically examined, the audience taking part freely in the discussion. An Ayrshire bull and four fine dairy cows formed an object lesson, and at the same time served to illustrate the remarks of Duncan Anderson, of Rugby, and of Robert Robertson, of Nappan, N. S., who discussed the good and bad points of dairy cattle, and leading features in their care and handling. This stock-judging feature was particularly successful, and will probably be extended in the future.

At the Woodstock (N. B.) Seed Fair there were 2,800 bushels of seed oats offered by thirty exhibitors. Much of this seed changed hands at moderate prices. The classes in seed wheat, peas, beans, buckwheat and timothy seed, and potatoes, were also well filled. There was but one lot of seed barley for sale. All the seed, except the timothy, was exceptionally free from noxious impurities and of good quality. Several of the samples of timothy seed contained ox-eye daisy. Local-grown samples of red clover seed that had been hulled in an ordinary grain-thresher caused some special comment, because of the large size and bright color of the seed.

A notable feature of the Charlottetown and Woodstock Seed Fairs was the exhibits of pedigreed seed of wheat and oats, brought out by members of the Macdonald-Robertson Seed-growers' Association. The supply of this high-class seed, however, was limited, and brought fancy prices.

Below are lists of the prizewinners at Woodstock and Sussex:

SUSSEX PRIZE LIST.

- Wheat—1, Orin Hayes; 2, H. B. Parlee; 3, H. T. Hayes.
Barley—1, S. J. Goodlife; 2, H. T. Hayes; 3, McIntyre Bros.
Barley (hullless)—1, Orin Hayes.
Oats (white)—1, O. W. Wetmore; 2, Orin Hayes; 3, H. T. Hayes.
Oats (black)—1, W. J. Patterson.