Forest Conditions in Frontenac County, Ont.

Editor, Farm and Dairy:—The article in Farm and Dairy, November 4th, dealing with reforesting waste lands in Ontario was of much interest, so much so that will you allow me a little space in which to make some suggestions as concern reforesting in our locality, where trees will grow luxuriantly without having to be planted.

I am living in a part of Ontario where people are trying to farm on land that is natural bush land and where the brush comes up in spite of all that can be done to work the land among the rocks or stone piles. It seems to me that the country is starting to work at the wrong end of this reforesting job. To appreciate this one ought to see the way in which lumber is still wasted around the mills, as for instance, by using circular saws that cut out one-quarter of an inch to every cut, making I am told some 25 or more feet, board measure of saw-dust per log; sawing nothing less than nine feet long under which length all stuff goes over to the slab table to be sold in four foot wood at $2.00 a cord, f.o.b., the cars, so that only about one half of the log, even when sound, is sold as lumber—and all this but 60 miles from a city and well settled country.

TIMBER MENACED BY FIRE

This whole country, if left to itself, would be covered with good timber in a few years. That is, if it were looked after. But it is only very thinly settled in this township, as is the case with a lot more of the northern part of Frontenac County, and as even the J.P.'s never seem to think of fire laws, all timber is menaced by fire. Someone, maybe, has a brush pile to burn, or perchance a beaver meadow. He takes the first windy dry day to do this work as then he will tell you it will "run good." And it generally does run good. It gets well into this second growth brush and often will run for five or six miles or until a rain puts it out. In this way, the second growth is all killed off again and again.

It is quite safe to estimate that not five acres out of every 200 in this locality and in adjoining townships are worked as farming land. The remainder is covered with second growth soft and hard wood, of various ages. Much of the second growth is poplar, a very good wood for inside work and for purposes where basswood is used. I have seen fine strips of poplar trees, four, eight and 10 inches in diameter and from 25 to 40 feet long killed by fire, only to fall to feed some fire three of four years later, should someone set a fire near. After this second fire, the only thing that comes up is buckhorn "brakes" that is no use for anything and scrub poplar that will grow only a few feet high. Besides all this, the land is useless even for pasture.

FIRE LAWS INEFFECTIVE

The fire laws, like most other laws, ought to be taken out of the hands of men in politics. No man should be allowed to set out fire without a permit, even in his own door yard, as some men seem to have a love for fire and the bigger it is the better. More is being wasted even now at the mills and by fire than can be grown in the way of reforesting in 50 years.

The money that will be used to reforest some other place would buy out practically every settler in some of these townships and ship them out west where they could farm and live, which is something that some of them cannot do now, as many of them do not get enough ahead to pay their store bills. And these people never will get much ahead. They have been used to clearing a new piece of land on which to grow their crops. Since that kind of practice is a thing of the past, they can barely live, they not being given to reading or to posting themselves on anything or on other ways of handling their land. The sandy soil in our locality will grow good corn and potatoes, but on it tame hay and grain only end in failure.—Chas. Blake, Frontenac Co., Ont.

Feeding Value of Alfalfa

The feeding value of alfalfa is largely in its chemical compound known as protein; its extreme digestibility is another desirable quality to be considered, and not least is its appetizing character. Not only do all animals like it, but when given in moderate quantities it seems to increase the general appetite for more fat-making feeds. Steers beginning to "fall off" on a heavy diet of corn will come to their appetities after being fed only a few pounds of alfalfa daily, and will eat and assimilate more corn than before.

Alfalfa alone is not a fat-making feed. Animals fed upon it grow in weight, but the weight is principally of bone, blood and muscle. It is with out a sufficiency of fat and carbohydrates, and these should be added in such feeds as corn, corn meal Kaffir corn, or Kaffir corn meal, or to a limited degree even in corn stover, sorghum or millet. When alfalfa is fed alone all the protein cannot be digested, and, therefore, it is always economical to add some carbonaceous foods, if animals are to be fattened. —From Coburn's "The Book of Alfalfa."

Our Legal Adviser

CHARGES ALLOWED EXECUTOR.—What percentage can an executor charge when the farm is left to one daughter and cash paid to the others? Can executor charge on both farm and cash, and how much?—A. A., Huron Co., Ont.

An executor is entitled to a fair and reasonable allowance for care, pains and trouble, and for time expended in and about the executorship and in administering, disposing of, arranging and settling the same. The amount to be allowed him is not necessarily a percentage, although it is not unusual for the Judge in determining the amount, to allow five per cent. of the value of the estate.

The farm passed through the executor's hands, and he is entitled to be paid for any trouble he has in connection with it. It is impossible to say what amount would be allowed an executor in the case stated. It all depends on the amount of work necessarily performed and the responsibility involved.

Our Veterinary Adviser

DISTEMPER.—My horses are all sick with distemper. What treatment do you advise? Is the disease contagious, and if so, to such an extent that a horse would catch it by standing in a shed where an affected horse had been?—J. N., Peel Co., Ont.

Keep in comfortable, well ventilated stable. Rub throats twice daily for three days with equal parts liquor ammonia, oil of turpentine and raw linseed oil and wrap throats with flannel. As soon as the abscesses are well formed, lance and then flush cavities out three times daily with a five per cent. solution of carbolic acid. Give three drams hyosulphite of soda three times daily. If complications arise send for your veterinarian. The disease is considered contagious and may be contracted as you suggest.

PARTIAL DISLOCATION OF PATELLA.—(1) Two year old colt has stiffe trouble. My veterinarian blistered the inside and front of joint three times but the colt is not quite right yet. Some say the outside of the joint should be blistered. (2) The sire of the colt had venereal disease for three years. Would the firm or company that owned the horse be liable for damages in my case?—J. E., Halton Co., Ont.

1. Your veterinarian treated the colt properly. Those who tell you that the outside of the joint should be blistered do not know what they are talking about. The trouble is due to a relaxation of the internal and anterior ligaments, the outer one already being too strong. The colt will never be right but may make a serviceable horse. All that can be done is to keep it quiet in a box stall and blister once every month until the grass grows.

2. The disease you mention in the stallion is not responsible for the condition of your colt, neither is the owner of the horse liable for damages.

Beginning on Monday December 13th, a series of two-day Short Course Classes in Judging Live Stock were held at Barrie, Orillia and Penetang, Ont. These classes were well attended and great interest was manifested.

Manitoba Agricultural College is full to its capacity. Two hundred and one students are now registered. Every available room and bed in Roblin Hall is being made use of, even store rooms have been converted into sleeping apartments, and students are still coming. It has been necessary to decide to refuse further applicants this year, as it is impossible to do justice to a larger number until the teaching staff can be increased and the equipment enlarged.

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