

THE BEE HOUSE.—As those who have a bee house are sufficiently posted, and as it is too late to build one for this winter, I will not describe it now.

THE CELLAR.—This must be dry, and should be so arranged as to be easily ventilated, and so that the temperature may be kept about 40° to 45° Fahr. from the middle of November till the middle of April. The bees should be kept on their summer stands cushioned down, and have a small entrance to their hive till they have clustered for winter and all chance of very warm weather is over. Choose a sunshiny day to "carry in." Mark each hive to match its own stand so that it may be put into its own place when brought out again; remove the cover and replace the cushion by a thin factory cotton quilt, which will allow of the escape of the moisture through it. Between the frames and quilt have two or three corn cobs or pieces of stick to form passages for the bees over the combs. Open the entrance wide, or if the bottom board is loose, remove it (this is much the better plan) for ventilation. Place the hive upon racks made of two 2x4 scantlings set across the cellar a foot above the floor, and so spaced that one will come near the front and the other near the back of the hive. If other racks are required let them be sufficiently high to allow a hive to be conveniently placed upon the one below. Space the hives upon the racks so that one may be removed without disturbing others. Regulate the temperature of your cellar carefully.

THE CLAMP.—This is merely a long box with slanting top to shed the rain. It may be made any length to suit convenience, and should be large enough to allow a space of six inches below, before, behind, and at each end of the row of hives within it, these having between them a space of two inches; above the space should be eight inches at its shallowest point. The hives should all face the same way; I prefer the south. A covered passage from the hive entrance to the outside of the clamp should be constructed, half an inch high by the width of the entrance itself. A board should be arranged to break the wind and prevent the sun shining full upon the opening.

To clamp the bees, commence at once, and move them a little each day towards where they are to be wintered; when in position leave them undisturbed two or three days, so that they may mark their position well. Then put them into the box and pack all but the space above with straw chaff or sawdust (sawdust is best if it can be obtained cheaply, but must be dry). Remove upper and half stories and cover, leaving only the cushions on; put the roof on the clamp. After the bees have clustered for winter, carefully remove cushion, and arrange the frames so that the cluster is all at one side, or front end, of the hive. Place corn cobs or sticks across the frames, then a light factory cotton quilt, and then fill up with dry straw to absorb the moisture. Leave entrance full width for ventilation.

THE PACKED HIVE.—In this arrange the cluster as in the clamp, and use the passages over the frames. Use cushion instead of quilt and straw, and protect entrance from sun and wind.

Correspondence.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—1. Please write on one side of the paper only. 2. Give full name, Post-Office and Province, not necessarily for publication, but as guarantee of good faith and to enable us to answer by mail when, for any reason, that course seems desirable. If an answer is specially requested by mail, a stamp must be enclosed. Unless of general interest, no questions will be answered through the *Advocate*, as our space is very limited. 3. Do not expect anonymous communications to be noticed. 4. Matter for publication should be marked "Printers' MS." on the cover, the ends being open, in which case the postage will only be 1c. per 4 ounces. 5. Non-subscribers should not expect their communications to be noticed. 6. No questions will be answered except those pertaining purely to agriculture or agricultural matters.

Voluntary correspondence containing useful and seasonable information solicited, and if suitable, will be liberally paid for. No notice taken of anonymous correspondence. We do not return rejected communications.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the views of correspondents.

SIR,—I have just had the pleasure of attending two exhibitions in the North-west, held at Grenfell and Indian Head, and I must say that both reflect great credit on the inhabitants in this section. The exhibit of horses, cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry was large, some being only grades, while the majority were purchased direct from importers. The field produce was good, there being excellent samples of wheat, oats, barley, peas and flax. There was also a very large exhibit of dairy and garden produce. A little over two years ago this was a vast prairie without a house to be seen, now the land is pretty nearly all taken up with good men who are taking to farming in earnest. The weather has been delightful, enabling the farmers to push their work rapidly forward. Is there any variety of wheat earlier than the Red Fife? GRENFELL, N. W. T. J. W.

[There is so little difference in the time of ripening of the best varieties of spring wheat that no safe advice can be given.]

SIR,—Our fair was a grand success. We had fine weather, and everything was as pleasant as we could wish. There were about 1,400 entries, and over 3,000 people were present. It was remarked that it was the best show that we ever had. Our receipts from every source were \$300, and we received \$140 government money. We have a membership of 204, and we paid in prizes \$300. We have added more to our grounds, and made a good many improvements in other ways, which cost us a large sum. Our Board of Directors are determined on keeping our fair up to the standard it has attained, for we think we can compare favorably with the Industrial at Toronto in the exhibits of horses, cattle, fruits and vegetables. AMELIASBURG, ONT. J. R. W.

SIR,—What is the cause of reasty pork? N. S. A.
[It is caused by too high a temperature and a deficiency of brine.]

SIR,—When reading the able prize essay in the columns of the *Advocate* on the subject of clover seed, the idea struck me that the writer has scarcely laid sufficient stress on the necessity of preserving that very useful insect, the bumble bee. We have no other insect with proboscis long enough to extract the honey from the red clover blooms, and consequently all our red clover blooms must be fertilized exclusively by the bumble bee. Farmers, boys are more numerous every year, and they should be strictly enjoined not to destroy the nests of the bumble bee, which they are very apt to do for the sake of the honey. The farmers in New Zealand import all their clover seed, as they have no bumble bees there. Some attempts have been made to naturalize them, but hitherto with very partial success. SARAWAK. PRESQUE ISLE, ONT.

SIR,—Will you please publish in your next issue the law in reference to ditching; how deep a man is compelled to dig to give an outlet to a neighbor, and the law in full concerning the same. F. G. WINCHELSEA.

[The following, clause 3, 46 Vic. (1883), chap. 27, covers your question:—"In case of the owners of land, whether immediately adjoining or not, which would be benefited by making a ditch or drain, or by deepening or widening a ditch or drain already made in a natural water course, or by making, deepening or widening a ditch or drain for the purpose of taking off surplus water, or to enable the owners or occupiers thereof the better to cultivate or use the same, such several owners shall open and make, deepen or widen, a just and fair proportion of such ditch or drain according to their several interests in the construction of the same; and such ditches or drains shall be kept and maintained so open, deepened or widened, by the said owners respectively and their successors in such ownership in such proportions as they

have been so opened, deepened or widened, unless in consequence of altered circumstances, the engineer, hereinafter named, otherwise direct, which he is hereby empowered to do upon application of any party interested, in the same form and manner as is hereinafter prescribed in respect of the original opening, deepening or widening; and in case the engineer finds no good reason for such application, all costs caused thereby shall be borne by the applicant, and shall be collected as in this Act provided." The rest of the Act refers mostly to the duties of the engineer and legal modes of procedure, which are unimportant matters of detail.]

SIR,—If not troubling you too much I should be glad to know of the most economical food for rearing young calves without milk. In England there are several "calf spics" and foods made, which answer admirably, even from the very first; but I am not aware of anything of the kind made in Canada. Would a well-boiled gruel of oat meal or corn meal, with the addition of crushed linseed, do? If so, in what proportion should it be given, starting say with a calf at two or three days old? I intend rearing a large number of calves next season and cannot get milk for them. W. H. B. BIRD'S HILL, MANITOBA.

[Many calves are reared in Canada without milk, but whey is generally used as a basis of the ration. The substitutes used in England are compounds of the same constituents that are found in milk by analysis, and they seem to be growing rapidly in public favor. There are no substitutes advertised in Canada or the United States, there being as yet very little demand for them. Calves have been successfully raised on hay tea, made by steeping good early cut hay in hot water. Bean soup has also proved a success, made by boiling the beans until they are quite soft, then mixing with water in the proportion of one pint of beans to two gallons of water; but the change to any of these diets should not be suddenly introduced. A little experience here will be your best guide, regard being had to the state of the calf's bowels, its appetite and general thriftiness. The bowels may be lax by putting small quantities of oil meal into the ration, in which case small portions of oat and corn meal should also be added, which should be scalded so as to prevent scouring. You may now gradually introduce an exclusive diet of your oat or corn meal with linseed. The calf will now be able to eat small quantities of grass, and the other food may be given in the following proportions:—3 parts corn meal to one part linseed meal; or 4 parts oat meal to one part linseed meal. If any of these rations is too laxative, pea or bean meal may be substituted for the linseed in slightly larger quantities, or the substitution may be made only in part. This is a vast subject and we shall treat of it more fully when the calf season comes round.]

SIR,—Is there any difference in the thoroughbreds with regard to the quality of their beef? A. J. L. LONDON, ONT.

[Of the beefing breeds, namely, the Galloway, the Polled Angus, the Hereford and the Shorthorn, their quality is in the order named.]

We have to thank many of our subscribers for their promptness in renewing their subscriptions, and for their compliments contained in their letters as to the merits of the *Advocate*. We hope none of our subscribers will stoop to flatter us, but will state their conscientious convictions, favorable or unfavorable. If we through oversight have overlooked anything that would be of use to the plain, practical farmer, we want to be condemned for it, our object being to make the *Advocate* as practical and useful as possible. It must be remembered that our columns are limited, so that many articles must be cut shorter than would sometimes be desirable. In all the letters which we have received during the past few months, we have found no condemnatory remarks. The following letter which we have just received is a fair specimen of those which we are receiving:—"Inclosed you will find my subscription for next year's *Advocate*. I have obtained more valuable and reliable information from it than from any other paper which I take. J. J. BOWMANVILLE, ONT." During the past few days we have received an unusual number of letters containing questions, which came too late for our November issue. Correspondents will please remember that letters run the risk of being answered unless received not later than the 20th of the month. Some questions, of course, must of necessity be late, and they demand an immediate answer, in which case we usually answer by postal card, but our correspondents should not expect us to do so unless a card is inclosed.