

Correspondence.

Kohl Rabi.

(To the Editor of the CANADA FARMER.)

Sir,—Of late years I have not intruded upon your columns with any remarks of mine regarding agricultural matters; but as it seems to me that the above named root at the head of this article, is but little known, with all its advantages and desirabilities to the Canadian farmer, I have thought it would not be amiss to state through the medium of your widely circulated journal, what I know of the merits of this plant, and to suggest that the enterprising agriculturists of Canada, give it the consideration and trial which it is worthy of. In the first place, I may safely say that the failure in many parts of the country of the turnip crop, the two last hot, dry summers—but more especially the last one—has caused the cultivators of field roots to reflect seriously on a substitute for its failure, and I know of no root that can be grown for stock, that will always insure the farmer against so severe a loss as he has of late suffered from his turnip crop as the "Kohl Rabi." I have seen heavy crops of this desirable root grown in the old country to great advantage in dry summers, when the turnip crop has proved a partial failure on the same farm, with no other preparation than an ordinary one for turnips and other roots, and I have heard of the same success attending the cultivation of this root by farmers in this Province the last two dry summers, who thought themselves fortunate, as the seasons turned out, in having given it a trial, and this crop can be grown upon soil that you could hardly expect would produce a crop of turnips. It cares not how strong the nature of the soil is, provided it is deeply ploughed and well pulverized with as much manure as you can give it. And the reason you are secure of this crop is, that it is cabbage rooted, and consequently goes deeper into the soil and wider in search of food than does the turnip, and the moisture it finds prevents any stagnation of growth in dry weather, hence the bulk you get both above and in the soil.

There is not a more forcing or stronger green food than the head of this plant affords for fattening either sheep or cattle, as this has been proved and is freely admitted over and over again in the old country, and as a much heavier weight per acre can be grown than of turnips, it must be in every respect a very desirable root to cultivate, especially so, as it requires no more labor than the turnip to produce it, and I should say the quantity of seed, two pounds to the acre, would be sufficient, and thus out the plants the same distance as you would for the turnip.

After the head of the root is eaten off, towards the fall of the year when the grass keeps becomes so valuable and scarce, the roots will increase in growth if sufficient time is allowed, and they can afterwards be stored for winter feeding, and at that time I have known the bulbs weighing as high as from twelve to fifteen pounds each with good cultivation.

Just before commencing this article, I find that Messrs. Sharpe, of Guelph, with their usual liberality, offer five dollars for the best twelve roots of green Kohl Rabi. Thus, I presume, as an encouragement to the cultivation of this root.

I would in conclusion say to all cultivators of field roots, try "Kohl Rabi!" The cost will be but trifling, should it not meet your approval.

I am, &c.,

AGRICOLA.

County Wellington, 10th April, 1873.

The Veterinary Profession.

A Veterinary Surgeon of ability and experience writes us as follows:—

"The veterinary profession in this country is comparatively speaking a new branch of medical science, but nevertheless one deserving of greater consideration than it now enjoys.

"Well knowing that it has ever been the object of the CANADA FARMER to advance the status of the agricultural interest in this country, and all connected therewith, I ask space for a few remarks upon this subject.

"Years ago, when this country was new, and consequently poor, qualified veterinary skill was not

easily obtained; in fact the ability of those who generally acted as veterinary surgeons was not of a nature to give them a very high place in public estimation. But time has changed all this, and in the greater number of our towns and villages, the services of competent veterinary surgeons can be obtained. It must be acknowledged then that it is very unfair that the contempt with which quacks and horse farriers of days gone by were treated, should be visited upon the heads of the properly qualified practitioners of an art so necessary to the agricultural classes. The branches which a veterinary surgeon is expected to study, and in which a fair share of proficiency is required, are of a nature to give him who possesses a knowledge of them, the standing of an educated professional man. He must study anatomy and pathology of the domestic animals, clinical and pathological demonstrations, physiology, chemistry organic and inorganic, toxicology, therapeutics, materia medica, pharmacy, hospital practice, operative surgery, and the principles of shoeing animals. Great and unmerited disgrace has been thrown upon the veterinary profession by the statements and action of itinerant horse farriers, who roam about the country professing to cure such incurable diseases as confirmed bone spavin, confirmed ring bone, and thus duping credulous farmers, who, after having lost their money to no purpose, console their wounded feelings by completely denying the existence of any such thing as professional veterinary skill and knowledge.

"I trust the day is not far distant which shall see in this country properly organized veterinary associations, for the purpose of discussing subjects connected with our profession."

Data.

S. H. Cowichan, British Columbia, writes to know how he can get rid of rats, a Chinese junk having lately arrived and supplied them in overwhelming numbers. From the thousand and one appliances for the destruction of this pest, the difficulty is to select those only that are known to be effective. We have tested a large number of so called "rat-traps," from the plain box article, open at both ends and baited in the middle, to the ingeniously constructed "Patent Automatic Rat Jerker," that successively stabs its victim, then tosses it to one side, and lastly resets itself, all in the short space of "a jiffy," and our experience only confirms us in the belief that, as a rule, the more complicated the apparatus used, the fewer chances there are of success. The rat is very sagacious and cunning, and invariably gives a wide berth to everything that looks the least suspicious. Poison of various kinds has been resorted to with success, but this remedy is dangerous and objectionable, from the decay of the poisoned rats.

Scraps of tin or sheet-iron placed in their runs, will awaken suspicion, and if at the same time two or three are happily caught in a trap, the alarm will spread, a council will probably be held, followed by a general stampede from the premises. Chloride of lime scattered liberally about their haunts, frequently causes them to retire in disgust. Another effectual remedy will be found in the following mixture:—To 1 pound of melted lard add half an ounce of phosphorus, and a pint or so of good whiskey. Mix well, and when cold pour off the whiskey and stir into the residue, oat-meal or flour sufficient to bring the whole to the consistency of stiff paste. Flavor with a few drops of the oil of rhodium or anise-seed, and serve in shallow dishes.

Finely ground glass or porcelain made into a dough with flour, and flavored as before, is also very destructive.

Another simple method, much practiced in England, is to procure a large sized vessel with sides at least 2 feet in height—a wash tub of the proper depth answers admirably—and in it place oat-meal perched to a depth of about 2 inches. The rats will readily jump into the vessel, but the sticky clogging nature of the meal will baffle all their attempts to jump out again. A dog or a cat will soon end the scene.

Oil-Cake.

R. F. S., Sharon, writes us to know the merits of linseed oil-cake as a feeding material. Oil-cake made from flax-seed ranks with stock feeders as among the most valuable articles of cattle food, if not the most valuable. Experiments have proved that even the chaff of flax-bolls possesses the elements of nutrition in a very high degree. Palatable, easy of digestion, and of a cooling tendency, it is adapted alike to the sucking calf, and the aged sire, and indeed for all kinds of live stock. The seed should, when at all practicable, be thoroughly ground or bruised; water in the proportion of 1½ or 2 gallons to each pound of seed; flax should be added and the mass allowed to simmer for a couple of hours, stirring occasionally to prevent burning; when cold enough mix to each gallon two pounds of corn, pea or barley-meal, a sprinkling of salt, and a sufficient quantity of chopped straw to make a good ample feed. For fattening purposes, one pound of the flax-seed meal, and two pounds of either of the other kinds, will, with the straw, be quite sufficient, and this allowance may be given twice a day. Hay, or corn-stalks, or turnips can supply the intermediate meals. For ordinary feeding, the quantity may be lessened according to circumstances.

Preparation of Carrot Seed.

In reply to a correspondent, the following plan is suggested:—About eight or nine days before drilling, the seed is placed in a bag, and steeped in water for forty-eight hours; it is then taken out and spread on the floor, about nine or ten inches thick, according to the temperature of the weather, care being taken that it does not get too warm. In about six or seven days it will have begun to germinate, and it is then time to put it in the ground by means of the drill.

J. McL., Owen Sound, writes to know if Northern Spy, or Grimes' Golden Pippin, would do to graft on Talman's sweet apple trees in bearing. Answer: The Northern Spy will not come into bearing even when grafted upon bearing trees as soon as the R. I. Greening, or Baldwin, or Golden Russet. Grimes' Golden Pippin is not large enough to make a popular market apple, though it is a fruit of excellent quality. Scions could be obtained of any of our leading nurseries. We do not advise every one to grow the Spy for market. Those only will succeed with it who give considerable attention to their orchard, and care for the trees by judicious pruning and fertilizing. Besides this, the fruit needs to be gathered and packed with great care, a slight bruise being followed by an unsightly blenheim. There are very few apples that, on the whole, are as profitable to the planter as the Baldwin and Golden Russet.

A correspondent in Moulinette has a flock of sheep that pick the wool off their bodies with the teeth, and rub continuously against any object that presents itself. On examination there is observed a dense yellowish scurf which on loosening resembles fine dandruff or scales. No trace of ticks or parasites of any kind to be found. What is the remedy? Answer: Dress the irritated parts every second day with a little of the following lotion: "Corrosive sublimate two drachms, spirits of wine four ounces, and water one quart."

A. T., Angus, writes to know how to bleed a horse for the lamp. Answer: In bleeding the gums in cases of laminitis, make three small incisions towards the teeth; the one in the middle not to extend more than one inch backwards to avoid injuring the palatine artery.

BONE GRINDER WANTED.—J. A., Westminster, B. C., writes us to inform him where he can purchase a small and inexpensive bone crusher or grinder. We are quite unable to give the desired information. Any manufacturer or agent who has such a machine for sale would consult his interests by advertising it in the CANADA FARMER.

Mr. Wharton Hedgcock, of Exeter has purchased the heavy draught imported stallion the *Duke of England*, from Mr. Peck, of the township of Stanley, who imported him. He is black, stands 17½ inches high, weighs 1775 lbs., and not yet 3 years old.

W. S., Exeter, writes us that from the milk of his five cows he made last season 930 lbs. of butter—although one of the cows was only milked four months, in consequence of an accident.