

you will have a drain good for 25 years, if the lumber is sound, and the work well done.

I think the Ontario Government made a mistake in confining the material to tile, in the late drainage act. Tiles, if not well burned, are a very perishable article, and in this country where the frost penetrates so deep in the ground, soft tiles will give out, perhaps, the first spring, causing the drain either to choke or burst up, and run over the surface. If well burnt, I have no objection to raise, only the expense of purchase and freight to distant localities.

I find I have already drawn out to greater length than I intended, and, as I fear, I shall only be a nuisance as a correspondent, I think I had better subscribe myself.

J. H., Newford.

[Such correspondence is never considered a nuisance, it is the most valuable, plain, practical, useful suggestions from farmers that have put in practice their plans and found them beneficial, are most acceptable. The above plan will, we have no doubt, be put in practice by many of our readers. We shall be pleased to hear again from J. H.]

Compton's Early Field Corn.

SIR,—As I always take a great interest in any new varieties of seeds that are recommended, last spring I procured a small quantity of Compton's corn from the well-known seedsman, James J. H. Gregory, of Marblehead, Mass. This new variety was originated by Mr. Compton; it is a seedling of the Dutton, and resembles that variety somewhat in appearance, its main point of superiority being earliness.

The corn was planted on the 21st of May and given ordinary cultivation. The soil was a gravelly loam, and had been a clover sod, plowed in the fall, and had no manure of any description. A frost early in June cut the corn and retarded its growth for a couple of weeks, but after all it was ripe and fit to cut the latter part of August. In regard to its yielding qualities, it far surpassed our common corn. There was one-sixteenth of an acre in the land occupied by the corn; it yielded eleven bushels of ears, or at the rate of 176 bushels per acre. It was the finest sample of corn I ever saw, many of the ears being from 13 to 15 inches in length, and well filled out to the tips of the ears. Every one who saw the corn pronounced it the finest they had seen. A Yankee pedlar came along one day, and I showed him some of the finest ears. He would scarcely believe that such corn could be raised here in Canada. He said it was the best corn he had seen since he left Indiana four years ago.

One disadvantage of this new variety of corn is that the stalks are rather slender in comparison to the ears. Before fully ripe it broke down badly from weight of ears. It is a well known fact that many of the seasons here in Canada are rather short for the successful raising of Indian corn. With this new variety there will be no inconvenience from this source, as in our shortest seasons it will have ample time to become fully developed before any frosts, for it is decidedly the earliest variety of large eared field corn in cultivation. When earliness alone is taken into consideration, it is a very valuable acquisition to the farmers of Canada; its superiority in this respect alone can scarcely be over estimated. Every farmer who raises corn should procure a small quantity and give this new variety a trial the coming season.

My Snowflake potatoes were a splendid good crop, of medium size and with very few small ones. In productiveness they surpassed the Early Rose, and for good qualities as a table potato there is no variety can equal it. I planted one-half peck of the Early Ohio potato, and raised seven bushels of very fine potatoes. They were of a good fair size and of first-rate quality.

W. G. Thamesford.

SIR,—In looking over your paper I find enquiries about disease in young turkeys, and I thought I would just send you word as to how I treat them when afflicted with disease. I dissolve a little asafoetida in water and mix in food—enough to not make it too disagreeable to be eaten, as it has an unpleasant odor. I never allow them out in dew or rain, and a few doses is a sure cure. I never lost but one after I used it, and that was too far gone. For vermin, I put about the size of a grain of wheat of blue ointment under each wing, and some on the head.

I find young turkeys do better with the turkeys than hens, as they find food more suitable for the young ones.

SUBSCRIBER, Binbrook.

SIR,—In reply to "W. P." East Zorra, in your No. for March, concerning porkers, I have been beating it for a number of years. In 1874 I killed one pig 7 months and 22 days old, which weighed 347 lbs. In 1875 I killed two pigs 8 months old, which weighed respectively 346 and 363 lbs. In 1876 I also killed, but cannot give weights. In 1877 I killed two pigs 7 months and 16 days old, weighing respectively 324 and 336 lbs. All dressed weights. They were of the Chester White breed.

A. D., Picton.

Short Notes.

A RIVAL FOR WHEAT.

SIR,—I saw in your last number an article under the above heading, and will try to tell you a little about broom corn and broom corn seed. Broom corn grows best on rich alluvial soil, or on the vegetable mould of the prairies. In Massachusetts it is raised on the banks of the Connecticut River. It is a very uncertain crop in this climate, being very easily injured by late spring or early autumn frosts; sometimes, however, it does very well.

The seed, when ripe, is very nutritious and is good food for poultry, or for horses when mixed with oats. It is of an oily, heating nature, and will make a horse's coat shine. I never saw it used for human food, but have heard that it makes good pancakes when ground. A good crop of broom corn will yield a large quantity of seed, if allowed to ripen, but the brush would not be worth more than half what nice green brush would bring in the market. Brooms made from ripe brush wear well enough, but are not so saleable. There is a good deal of work about a crop of broom corn, as the seed must be scraped off without injuring the brush, and the brush must be dried under cover.

I do not wish to discourage your readers from experimenting with broom corn; yet, although I have been engaged in the broom business for many years, and have had a good farm at the same time, I have not raised a pound of broom corn during the last seven years.

WASHING YOUNG FRUIT TREES.

I have over a hundred young fruit trees, and they are noted in the neighborhood for their healthy, sleek appearance. I wash them every year with a mixture of weak lye and soft soap, or when I cannot get lye handy, I buy a pound box of concentrated alkali at the drug store, dissolve it in two pailfuls of soft water, and add about a quart of soft soap. This will be enough for 100 young trees, six or eight years planted, or 200 newly planted trees. When washing the trees I use a swab of rags tied on the end of a short stick.

A very good thing for trees, too, is to sow dry ashes in the tops of them when the trees are wet after a shower; the ashes cleanse the bark, and when washed down to the ground, are a good fertilizer for the roots.

When you buy young trees, avoid those that have been forced to a big soft growth in rich soil, for when transplanted they are apt to become stunted, and sometimes die outright; while trees that have been raised in a comparatively poor soil will grow much better.

Mulching fruit trees with coarse, strawy manure is of great benefit to them.

To keep mice from barking young trees, make a little sugar-loaf mound of earth around the stem in the fall.

J. A. S., Burford.

Apple Tree Blight.

SIR,—Can you inform me through the ADVOCATE or otherwise what is the cause of my orchard apple trees dying and the remedy? The disease starts about the base of the limb, the bark of which turns black, and the leaves and fruit on that limb begin to die, and so on until all the tree dies. The disease appears to go from one tree to another, so that I am likely to lose all my orchard.

DANIEL LAWSON,

East Fremone, Sanilac Co., Mich.

[It is a species of blight very similar to the fire blight on the pear tree, and like it, the best remedy is the prompt use of the knife, removing the diseased portions as soon as the discoloration appears.]

D. S. Sinclair, of Paradisc, Annapolis Co., Nova Scotia, wants to know the price of a good Ayrshire cow. Some of our breeders might reply.

SIR,—As I promised, I will now endeavor to give you an idea of our cows, if you think it would be of any use to your readers. I will give a statement of one cow and two heifers—three-year-olds. "Filly," the cow, and "Beauty," a heifer, came in April 25th. "Flory" calved July 7th; she milks well yet. We keep them in a comfortable stable in winter, and fed mill-threshed straw both winters; salt regular; water once and twice a day, just as they may require. We fed them one pailful of cut roots with about half a gallon of mulley once a day, until the middle of January; gave the salt with the roots then; in summer in troughs in the field.

Fed the first two calves and butchered, selling the first and using the second in quarters; sold for \$2, and sold both skins for 40c. each. Raised the last calf; being a bred one, it cost \$10 by New Years, and is worth that now; sold first made butter fresh at 20c.—100 lbs.; sold second salted in tubs and jars at 20c.—312½ lbs. Took milk to the cheese factory—2,467 lbs.; received \$25.50; cheese sold October 20th at 12½c. per lb. Sold last made butter in rolls—96 lbs., at 20c.; found it about the same at home and factory at these prices. Do not know how much we used, as we just take cream and milk as we require them, and use our butter fresh as we need it. Have made a stone jar of butter to use until the cows come in, which will be in May this year, as they pay best at that time; being near the grass they never fail any in milk. I have also got a flour barrel packed full of cheese, which I made since fall for next summer's use. I strew bran amongst it to keep moist.

To the above account of my dairy I have to add \$12 for pork fed on the milk. The total receipts in cash are as follows:—

Veal, \$2; skins, 80 cents; calf, \$10; butter, \$101.70; milk to factory, \$25.52; pork, \$12.20. Total, \$152.22. We have kept one hog to eat the waste, and some of the pork was packed.

MRS. S., River Raisin, Ont.

SIR,—My only apology for my long silence is that I have been away from home most of the winter. I have, during that time, made a very complete tour of the State of Michigan.

It has been a winter long to be remembered from the mud embargo laid upon all business of whatever character, in the State.

The disaster has fallen most heavily, perhaps, on the lumber districts. There has been a perfect dead stand-still, which added to the already financial pressure so long hanging over the country, has seemed to have been "the last straw that has broken the camel's back."

I am pleased to report, however, that wheat never showed a finer prospect for a large crop, and with the remaining possibility of a vigorous attack from the insect, there seems to be no fears of a failure.

The spring has fully set in a month earlier than usual. The fruit prospects were never better for Michigan than they are to-day, as compared with any season in the memory of the earliest inhabitant.

The Senawer County Farmers Club is still growing in its interest and usefulness, embracing in its membership some of the finest agricultural talent in the county.

S. B. M.

Adrian, Mich., March 21st, 1878.

THE CLIMATE OF MUSKOKA.—From the many inquiries I have received about Muskoka I find the majority of those who write particularly ask if our winters are very severe, and if the snow reaches a great depth here, some supposing that Muskoka must be in the Arctic regions. I have lived five years in the district, and find that the winters here are much less severe than in Lower Canada. We seldom have more than two or three days during the winter when the thermometer reaches 10° below zero, and the snow never reaches more than four feet in depth, and very seldom that. From two to three feet is the general depth, and during the past two winters it did not exceed 18 inches. This winter has been an exceptional one. The ground was bare till the close of the year, and plowing was carried on until Xmas. Now we have hardly enough snow to make good sleighing, and many of the settlers are busy under-brushing. A large influx of new settlers to this locality is expected during the next few months.

JAMES ASPDIN.

Aspdin, Muskoka, Jan'y 14, 1878.