

Sugar-Beets for Feeding.

SIR,—Having taken a great interest in all that has been said or written about the cultivation and value of the sugar beet, and having seen quite a few inquiring about them, I thought I would tell what little I knew about them. I put in a small piece last spring, not quite an eighth of an acre. Although the season was a very bad one for roots in this part of Kent, it being so very dry, I had 100 bushels; but owing to the very early frosts which came on so severe before I got them pulled, I was afraid to pit them away for spring use, so I have been feeding them all along to my cows. I never saw anything to equal them in making cows give milk, except boiled beans. I would give the cows two or three feeds of carrots once in a while, and I could notice them fail in their milk, the feeds in both cases being equal in bulk. The difference in favor of the beet, in my estimation, must be over 100 per cent., as I had carrots growing alongside of the beets, and they did not turn out half the quantity as did the beet. Besides, they come up so much sooner after being planted that the weeds do not get a start of them, like they do the carrot. All kinds of stock, horses, pigs, sheep and even fowls, devour them greedily. There is no table beet that can beat them, or I can safely say equal them, for pickles. I write this, hoping it may be the means of inducing some more to try a patch of them. I think if they once try them they will not regret having done so. Plant them a little closer than you would mangels or turnips, as they do not grow quite so large. The tops are quite small. Ask for the white sugar-beet seed.

A. H., Weldon, Ont.

Canning Peaches.

SIR,—I am extensively growing and canning tomatoes and corn. I have been engaged in this business now for several years, and since the high protective tariff has been put upon American canned fruits coming into Canada, I have thought I could commence canning peaches, provided I could obtain a suitable variety of Canadian-grown peaches at prices that would make it an object for me to start. I have understood peaches can be successfully cultivated along the southern borders of Western Canada, but to what extent I have not as yet ascertained. Should you in your travels obtain any direct intelligence in relation to the fact, and give me the names of some of the growers, etc., I shall feel very grateful for the kindness.

J. F. O., St. Mary's, Ont.

[This query, while of interest to all, concerns more immediately those engaged in fruit-growing. We hope to have a reply from some of them in the ADVOCATE.]

SIR,—I take the liberty of sending you by post some circulars of the "Anglo-Canadian Farm Agency" which has lately been established for the purpose of giving facilities to farmers and others wishing to purchase suitable farms on their arrival here from the Old Country. Unfortunately, many Englishmen are prevailed upon by the representatives of railway agents and others from the States to settle in that country, in preference to Canada, where they would find equal advantages as regards farming, and superior in many other very important respects; and therefore it is to be hoped that all who take an interest in the future of Canada will, especially at the present time, do all in their power to induce a desirable class of settlers from the Old Country to make Canada their future home. Much may be done by those having friends and correspondents in England, and I hope to be able to accomplish a good deal in that way myself.

H. F. P., Oakville, Ont.

SIR,—How can I cleanse sugar-cane and make it up into sugar and syrup? I had a small piece planted last year, and if I can make this into good sugar I intend to plant more extensively.

C. S., Odessa, Ont.

[Some few months ago we gave an article on this subject. It is now late in the season to take up the question, nor have we the space at present. We would merely say the cane is pressed in the mill; the juice is then pumped into the desiccating vats, and from there into evaporators. The evaporators allow the juice to be concentrated without undue exposure to heat, the scum is readily removed and the juice made into a syrup. We intend taking up the subject fully at an early date.]

Fermenting Feed.

In reference to an article on Fermenting Feed for Stock, with an illustration, in the last number of the ADVOCATE, we have received from Mr. Stone the following reply to our questions, which was received too late for last issue:

I beg to say that the quantity differs according to different persons' ideas, as also the quantity of roots they may have to use. When a party has a large quantity he feeds more freely. I never kept a correct account of quantity, but had it mixed more or less as was required for the feeding of different animals—generally a quantity of hay, or hay and straw, cut, then spread it about 6 inches deep over feedhouse floor; then set the pulper to work, which took one man to throw the roots in, one to fill the pulp into boxes, and another to carry it away and throw it over the cut hay, etc. And if we wished more or less of the pulped roots, the man emptied the boxes of pulp thicker or thinner on some parts; so in like manner with bran or meal as required; then another layer of cut hay, and so on until four or five feet high. I found the cattle eat it best when it began to ferment. We generally cut enough for three or four days at a time. A fair quantity of roots pulped to mix with a ton of hay, 30 bushels. It is such an open question parties must determine the quantity they wish to feed. FRED'K W. STONE.

Guelph, 3rd January, 1880.

SIR,—Knowing the profit from reading your paper, I showed it to some brother farmers. Some have become subscribers. One said he was taking more papers than he could read. One man told me that he sent \$1 to the States last year, and got no account of money or paper. It was one of those light, trashy novels.

G. F., Aberarder.

Homes for Settlers.

SIR,—Seeing that you invite correspondence from your readers, I will take the liberty of sending you a few lines, as I wish to ask for some information concerning the new parts of our Dominion. I am twenty-three years of age and single, and wish to know where I can go (in the new parts of the country) to get the best land and best situation. I am hearing reports of the different sections of unsettled country nearly every day, but am unable to decide what part is the best for the young settler with a capital of two or three hundred dollars. My attention has lately been called to Muskoka, in an article in the Montreal Witness over the signature of Mr. Archibald Thompson. He invites all who want a home to go to Muskoka, and calls it the "Eldorado of Ontario." Now, would you or some of your many readers kindly give me a little information concerning that part of the country? By giving this your attention you will greatly oblige.

C. T., Cressy, Ont.

[If you are not experienced in Canadian farming, we would advise you to go for a year to a good farm, or until you become acquainted with it, and save your money till then. Try by your money for the future, and for the present learn how and where you may after a time use it to the best advantage. In Muskoka some farmers have acquired an independence, and others have entirely failed.]

SIR,—Will you kindly inform me what is the matter with my peach-trees. I am afraid of the yellows. I noticed this once before, but it went away, and now it has appeared again on almost all my trees. I think myself that they are chilled. Please send cure. Those that had it on last year have not got it this year. It is the first leaves that come out that are affected in the spring, and the after-growth does not show it at all. Enclosed find some leaves for examination. It does not come on the budded fruit, being only on the natural fruit.

G. B., South Zorra, Ont.

[The disease affecting your peach-trees is, as you surmise, the yellows, as far as we can judge from your letter. Cut off every twig affected as soon as the yellows appear, and burn. Strew the ground around the tree with salt as far as the roots extend. If this remedy fails, as it sometimes does, grub up the affected trees and burn them. The disease is contagious, and spreads from tree to tree.]

Prickly Comfrey.

SIR,—I wrote to the editor of the American Agriculturist about this plant, and he says he has no reason to change his opinion of it, and that he considers it a very valuable addition to the forage plants of the country. Comfrey is recommended by the U. S. Board of Agriculture. There is, however, a great difference of opinion as to the real value of comfrey. There is no doubt that it is easily propagated and grows luxuriantly, but while some say it is very valuable for feeding stock, others say stock will not eat it under any circumstances. Chicago Farmer's Review says of this plant: "The prickly comfrey of the Caucasus, as a forage plant, is attracting great attention in England, and is certainly worthy of experiment in this country, especially at the hands of small farmers and dairymen. It does not seem to be a food that animals at first have a great liking for, but they 'learn' to eat it, and it contains a large percentage of nitrogen, about double that of Indian corn. It may be cut from four to seven times in the course of the season. A writer in the Agricultural Gazette says of the comfrey: 'We have in this foreign plant one of the earliest, heaviest, and most useful spring fodders known to agriculturists, and we may add the cheapest to cultivate.' The sets are planted in England in November, some three feet apart, and about two inches below the surface. In May the first cutting can be made, if the winter has been open like the present one, the plants yielding five or six pounds each. Each succeeding cutting will be heavier."

A. B., Point de Bute, N. B.

[Our advice would be that farmers who may be inclined to plant prickly comfrey would try it on a small scale, a few rods at first, and by this means be enabled to judge for themselves. Experiments are necessary to determine whose opinion on the subject is correct.]

SIR,—Believing you to be an honorable and impartial man, I wish to give my experience, through the medium of your valuable paper, on "prickly comfrey," as opposed to the letter of "A. P." in your last issue. He has evidently written on a subject which he is altogether unacquainted with. I would answer to what he quotes from "Old Farmer," what farmer does not know that the greater number of domestic animals have to be learned to eat turnips and other kinds of roots?

Just imagine any farmer crying "swindle" because his cow, horse or sheep will not fill themselves full of turnips the first or second time they are offered to them. Here is a plant that is well known in England, France, the United States and parts of Canada as one of the best soiling plants. He truly has undertaken to carry a heavy burden indeed if he thinks he can write up against this plant in the past two seasons. Seven cows were fed 60 lbs. a day for about two months, while running on pasture in the day-time, and it increased the flow of milk just double and very much richer than formerly. I had no trouble whatever in learning them to eat it. Six of the cows broke into the plot of comfrey, and eat so much that I was very much afraid that they would be injured by it. On land that will bear good mangolds or turnips, with good cultivation it will grow from 80 to 100 tons per acre. And this would give eleven cows 100 pounds a day for 180 days; and one-twelfth part of an acre would give one cow about 80 pounds a day for the same time. Cuttings may be made any season by the 1st of June, and continued until hard frost and snow sets in. These facts speak for themselves. Trusting that you will publish this for the good of your readers.

SUBSCRIBER, Durham, N.S.

SIR,—Could you or any of the readers of the ADVOCATE give me a plan of an apple-house, as I intend building one this summer? I will give you a plan of one I intended putting up. The building to be 30 x 18 and 8 feet high, built of studding 2 x 5, and filled in with concrete the width of the studding, and boarded and plastered on the outside and inside—the apples to be put in boxes, to hold about three barrels each, along each side of the building, and a hall in the centre. If you or any of your readers can give me a better plan, I would be obliged.

A. R., Oakville, Ont.

[We would be thankful to any of our subscribers for the required information.]

SIR,—Will you please inform me what kind of grass seed is best to sow on creek flats to last for a time? I have tried timothy and clover, but they soon ran out. Clay soil. W. L., Hawksville.

[See reply to J. C., Darnley, P. E. I., in last issue.]