



Flagsnip, Champion Shire Stallion, Ottawa Spring Stallion Show, 1901. Owned by J. J. Anderson, Dominionville, Ont.

## Correspondence

### Keep More Sheep

Editor THE FARMING WORLD:

Still you return to the "sheep." We think that if more of us farmers had this on the brain, as much as "ye Editor" it might be better for this Canada of ours. It cannot be that all can go into "sheep." Too many farms in the fire is not always wise. Many have doubt as to sheep being more profitable than the dairy or beef. We think we should not class bacon here, we have always had doubts, even after going through many writings and figures of real live sheep men.

We love the sheep, and for years have given some attention to them, and have read with much interest all writings we see about them in the papers. Sir, there is not half written about them that should be, even by those who have much invested in them, and farmers on the whole seem profoundly indifferent about them. Even with our own doubt we feel this is to be regretted. There is, no doubt, but that our climate is very suitable for sheep and disease is hardly known amongst them. With ordinary care they thrive and multiply grandly. We think it is sad that they are so neglected—whole sections of country with hardly a sheep.

We read and know that there are many and grave causes for this. We will name one or two that are not much named. "Yes, I should like to keep a few," some say, "just a few good ones." A few will not be much trouble. They can take care of themselves, hence they are left much to themselves. Soon they become wild and worthless, and sheep raising is given up with disgust.

We feel that it is a misfortune to our country that our sheep are still on the decrease, "as we read," and that so few have a word to say in their favor. Our country should have more sheep. Pray, brother farmers, let us hear more about them. Sir, we, with you, say "keep more sheep," but not just as a side show.

ROBT. TURFS & SON.

Tweed, Ont.

### Save the Ashes

Editor THE FARMING WORLD:

This is about the season when the travelling ash-gatherer begins his

rounds among the farmers, collecting the winter's ashes, and giving in return a bar of common soap worth about two cents.

Our cousins across the line evidently understand the value of this fertilizer much better than we do for they buy enormous quantities of what we throw away each year as almost useless. This fact is shown by the large number of advertisements offering "Canada unleached ashes for sale," to be seen in any of the agricultural papers of the Eastern States. These ashes are used chiefly by the fruit growers and gardeners, with whom they are very popular and command high prices. Owing to the fact that the Canadian farmer is gradually waking up to the great waste in selling his ashes from the farm, they are steadily increasing in price, and on account of their popularity they are often above their real value when the same fertilizing material could be bought cheaper in the form of some one of the potash salts.

The prices in the Eastern States are based upon a standard of 6 per cent. potash and one and one-half phosphoric acid, which at the valuation of six cents per pound, the value given by the chemist of the Inland Revenue Department at Ottawa in their latest fertilizer report, would make standard ashes worth 45 cents per 100 lbs. Fresh ashes usually exceed the above value. A recent analysis gives 7.10 potash, 1.99 phosphoric acid and 4 of lime at the above valuation, and allowing one-quarter of a cent a pound for the lime which is useful on many soils, especially heavy clays, black peaty ones, and wherever the land is inclined to become acid or sour, the above sample is worth 64 cents per 100 pounds and can be taken as an average sample of fresh hardwood ashes.

Leached ashes differ in having lost a part of their potash and are usually considered as being worth about one-half as much as the unleached. Their value depending upon the extent of the leaching process.

Wood ashes have a lasting influence upon the soil, the good effects being seen for a number of years.

As seen from the above, ashes are valuable, chiefly for the potash which they contain, so therefore, the gain to be derived from their use will depend upon the amount of available potash in the soil, but no farm is so rich in this material but what an application of wood ashes will do good. They are helpful to all impoverished soils, but especially to sandy and peaty land which is very deficient in potash.

A recent bulletin, No. 93, from the Illinois Experimental Station, gives the results of using potash on black peaty soil with corn, as an increase from nothing to 72 bushels per acre. Surely we have enough black swampy land in Canada to use all our ashes without taking into consideration our orchards.

As may be supposed from their large potash content, ashes are of the greatest value to plants of a woody nature, consequently are one of the best fertilizers for orchards, vineyards and gardens. On leguminous crops, such as peas, beans and clover they are of great value, and especially on freshly sown clover fields. They also give good results on corn, potatoes and meadows.

G. F. MARSH,  
Simcoe Co., Ont.

### To Relieve a Choking Cow

Editor THE FARMING WORLD:

In reading over one of your numbers of FARMING WORLD I chanced across a recommendation you gave for the removal from a choking animal, of a small turnip, apple or potato, the remedy you gave being the same as the choke-rope of former age, which was considered faulty from the fact that when the pressure came against the obstruction, the animal was apt to lounge forward to the pressure, and might thrust the instrument to the other side, bursting the wizen, which would be fatal.

Now, I have a far swifter and safer plan to offer you and the public gratis. Take a piece of round stick about twelve inches long, about as thick around as a pitchfork handle, open their mouth, put the piece of wood crosswise as a bit in a horse's mouth, with a piece of small cord reaching round the head to keep it in place as bit and bridle in an animal's mouth. The work is done, and you need give the animal no more attention.

It is the great flow of saliva from the irritation of the throat which causes the bloating which soon proves fatal, and also swells whatever may be lodged in the throat and suffocation takes place. I have stood by an animal dangerously bloated, and after this treatment in a few minutes he was witnessed at least a gallon of slimy saliva discharged from the mouth, and the swelling entirely gone. The animal can cough the offending obstruction out with very little effort, when the throat is entirely freed from saliva.

WILLIAM JAMIESON,  
Missoula, Montana.

### Why Wool is Low

Editor THE FARMING WORLD:

Since writing my last letter on the sheep situation, I have gathered some further evidence to strengthen my arguments. I will quote an extract from a letter in the "American Sheep Breeder," entitled "The Canadian Territories," by J. McCuaig: "Good as the Canadian range is there is something required to make the conditions ideal for the producers of beef and mutton. The quality of the product in the first place prevents it from drawing a high price as all our range stuff being for the most part unfed,