

GOOD SEEDS.

SIR,—I would like to set you right on the Pea question—Day's Early Sunrise is not a first early variety in this locality; nor, as far as I can learn, on this side of the water. It is as good as Champion of England, but not any better, nor does it bear any more freely. Telephone is the largest wrinkled Pea I have seen. The best early Pea, and the earliest, is Bliss' American Wonder; and is a credit to a Canadian horticulturist—L. B. Arnold, of Paris—to have invented it. Its very dwarf habit, and its wonderful productiveness, will cause it to take the place of the Little Gem, as soon as it becomes cheap enough to get into general cultivation. It can be planted in rows a foot apart, dropping the seed like beans, which is better than thick sowing. Tomatoes can be planted every fifth row and trained on trellises, and when the pea vines are pulled, celery can be planted; thus getting three crops on the same ground. Bay View is a splendid Musk Melon—as good as Montpelier Green, but a little larger and different shape. The finest Lettuce, new or old, is, in my opinion, Bruce's Gardener's Favorite; no one who has grown it will have any other. White Elephant Potato I found last year to be unusually prolific and very large tubers. It ought to become a standard variety. C. W. Y., Stratford, Ont.

SIR,—I wish when you get on the wing, you would wing your flight as far as British Columbia, so that we could get your opinion of Spillamacheen. C. A., Okanagan P. O., British Columbia, Feb. 1st, 1882.

[We are in receipt of kind invitations from friends of the ADVOCATE requesting our presence in British Columbia, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba and Quebec, and from nearly every county in Ontario. We sincerely thank you for such marked appreciation; we feel honored and should feel great pleasure in being able to comply. We wish to return our sincere thanks to all that have invited us, and particularly to those whose hospitality we have already partaken of, for, in every instance where we have responded to the invitations, we have had every attention and kindness shown to us and really enjoyed our trips. But time is, or ought to be, equal to money, and those long journeys cost a good deal of both time and money. We purpose, if all is well, to take a few trips this year, but we have not yet decided to which part we shall go; it will be to the points that duty and business may happen to call us.]

SIR,—Are there any good ditching machines which you can recommend; if so, would you kindly give me the address of a good reliable farmer, who has given it a good honest trial, and what is the price of such a one. I have seen several, and none are satisfactory to my mind. I have about 40 acres of land which want ditching badly, and I want to do it as cheaply as possible. I am not a practical farmer myself, and would be pleased to receive any instructions, and pay for the same, from a friend or practical farmer. G. Z. P., St. John, N. B.

[We have seen four kinds, but none have, up to the present time, proved satisfactory. Many improvements are yet required to lessen the cost and adapt them to anything like ordinary use. Further enquiries will be made and reported as to the Carter-Rennie ditcher mentioned in Oct. No. 1881.]

SIR,—In regard to breeds of sheep, if there was a step taken, same as registering shorthorns, it would be much the better. In show fairs, Leicesters, Lincolns and Cotswolds, all come from one flock. If Leicesters should have top notes on shave them off; but as you cannot put them on, take them in Lincoln class, and out of 25 lambs, surely there will be 3 or 4 Cotswold lambs. I would put them in that class. It has been done in township shows, county shows and other great shows. I have been a breeder of sheep over 20 years myself. G. G., Florence P. O., Ont.

KEEPING PAINTS.

SIR,—Can you inform me if there is a good reliable paint or coating of any kind that will cover and preserve a roof of either tin or wood and prevent leakage? QUERIST, Wilton Grove, Ont.

[We are not prepared to recommend any that we have ever tried. If any one who has had satisfactory experience with any to stop leakage we should be pleased to hear from them.]

SIR,—What would be good to give a stallion to make him fierce for mares? He is three years old I only got him to serve two last year, and they are with foal. I tried him to ten others, but he would not get ready. He is fat. Please let me know through your paper. SUBSCRIBER, Bath, Ont.

[You will commence by removing a part of the superfluous fat. Work him or drive him, and do not feed him so well, until you have made him quite thin in flesh. Give him a purgative ball once every couple of weeks. When you commence to fit him again for the season, you will feed him some boiled barley, or what is better, give him a little malt in his feed; this you can get from the brewery.]

SIR,—I have two fall pigs that are crippled in their legs. What will cure them?

Yours truly, R. M., Odessa, Ont.
[Give a dose of purgative medicine. The following you will find to answer well: E som salts, from 2 to 4 ounces; calomel, 2 to 10 grains; ginger, 2 drams; dissolved in a little water, and give as a drench. See they get plenty of sulphur in their feed. Keep them in a comfortable and well ventilated place, allowing them plenty of exercise. The strictest cleanliness should always be observed.]

Mr. Weld, Sir,—Inclosed please find my subscription for another year. I thank you for sending the paper right along, as I am well pleased with it and consider I never get better value for my money. H. P. JEFFREY, Blythwood.

A correspondent sends the following. Can anyone suggest a better plan? "Which is the best way to exterminate wild oats? I have been trying to kill them, but they beat me so far. The nearest I have come is to plow the ground in the fall; harrow good in the spring, and give them a chance to grow a few inches, then plow them under. Harrow again and let them come up again a few inches; plow them under again, and let them lie till they rot. That will be two batches killed. Then about the 20th of June sow about ½ bushel of buckwheat to the acre. If that comes up well there will not be many wild oats to be seen."

SIR,—In your February issue, I noticed an article in direct opposition to what I have been daily taught; namely—that dairy farming tends to enrich and restore land from an impoverished condition, without the application of any other manure than that made by the cows. This, if any dependence can be placed on science, cannot be correct; as those elements sold in the milk butter, or cheese, as the case may be, taken from the soil, cannot possibly be left in the manure to be again returned to the soil. I can quite understand that dairy farms in the vicinity of large cities, are, as a rule, rich in all those elements necessary for plant food; but, I think your correspondent will find that the owners of those farms purchase large quantities of grain and other food which they convert into milk at a profit, and consequently increase the quantity of their manure, quite as much, or perhaps more than it is diminished, by the products sold; or they enrich their land by procuring manure, which is easily obtained in such localities. Johnston's Elements of Agricultural Chemistry and Geology state that every ten gallons of milk contains three and one-half ounces of phosphate of lime, and therefore, if a cow yields annually seven hundred and fifty gallons of milk, she takes forty pounds of common bone dust and converts it into milk. This is taken directly from the soil and the ability of the soil to produce the same returns, as before diminished by the forty pounds previously disposed of. The writer admits that science is correct, in asserting that selling milk carries away much mineral matter, but denies that the soil is impoverished thereby. He gave no theory for his assertion, and I must confess that I am at a loss to know upon what ground he could possibly base it. If the soil improves, there must be a reason, either from direct application of matter required for plant food, or by improving its mechanical properties. Dairy farming cannot claim to do this, as it involves none of those principles upon which mechanical improvements are based. Had your correspondent compared dairy farming with grain raising, I would quite understand his position, and would acquiesce in his conclusion. Until I am convinced of the truth of his article, I shall follow what appears to me the safest course, namely, return to the soil, as nearly as possible, an equivalent of what has been taken from it.

H. C. W., Richmond, Que.

EWES IN PAIRS AGAIN.

SIR,—As Mr. Snell again asks, "why are ewes shown in pairs?" I would just say that it is because most people think it is the proper way to show them; but as I am not a large breeder when compared with such men as Mr. Snell, or the prominent exhibitor that he refers to, as my flock of breeding ewes seldom exceed thirty or forty, he cannot fairly charge me with the selfish motive of his prominent exhibitor, and, rather than be thought advocating any system of exhibiting, in any department of our exhibitions that would be against the interest of our "Mildmay Amateur," or any small exhibitor, I would say show ewes singly, but for the above reason only. I think some of Mr. Snell's arguments are rather weak, for instance in regard to his American customers—certainly showing in pairs does not debar him from selling to them singly or any way they choose to deal. Again, as to the best ewe in the show appearing in a second or third prize, I contend that there are very few men but know better than to mate such a ewe in that way. Again, he alludes to time honored customs interfering with progress and improvement. I fail to see where the improvement comes in by taking lessons from our "American Cousins," who are admitted to be behind us in both breeding and exhibiting stock. And, now Sir, one word to the "Mildmay Amateur," who asks if I ever saw two ewes that were equal in size and quality? I say no, but I have often seen them near enough alike to prevent the best ewe in the yard from being humiliated by accepting a second or third prize. There are not many farmers for a good many miles around Mildmay who, when they had secured one such, would be satisfied with any thing less than a pair of ewes, and which they would like to exhibit as a pair. R. R., Springhill Farm, Walkerton.

Farming for Boys.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "TEN ACRES ENOUGH."

CHAPTER III.

A POOR DINNER—WHAT SURFACE DRAINAGE MEANS—THE VALUE OF DRAINAGE—THE YOUNG PEDLAR.

As might be expected, the party thus invited to dinner had anything but a hospitable time of it. In a general way, the boys received pretty fair treatment from Mrs. Spangler; but on that particular occasion they saw that they were called in merely to be fed, and, the feeding over, that it would be most agreeable to her if they would thereupon clear out. Things had gone wrong with her on that unfortunate day, and they must bear the brunt of it. The good man of the house was absent at the neighboring tavern, it being one of his rainy days; hence the wife had all the remaining household at her mercy, and, being mostly an uncomplaining set, she could serve them with impunity just as the humor of the moment made it most convenient. The dinner was therefore nothing to speak of, and was quite unworthy of the great noise which the tin horn had made in calling them to it. There was a bit of boiled salt pork, almost too fat to eat, with potatoes and turnips, while the dessert consisted of pumpkin-sauce, which the dinner party might spread upon bread, if they thought proper.

Uncle Benny devoured his share of this rainy-day repast in silence, but inwardly concluded that it was next of kin to the meanest dinner he had ever eaten, for he was too well-bred to take open exception to it. As boys, especially farmers' boys, are not pictures, and are generally born with appetites so hearty that nothing comes amiss, Joe and Tony managed to find enough, and were by no means critical,—quality was not so important a matter as quantity. It is true there was a sort of subdued mutiny against the unseasoned pumpkin-sauce, which was a new article on Farmer Spangler's table, that showed itself in a general hesitancy even to taste it, and in a good long smell or two before a mouthful was ventured on; which, being observed by Mrs. Spangler, she did unbend sufficiently to say that she intended to give them pumpkin-pies, but an accident to her hand had interrupted her plans, so she gave them the best she had, and promised the pies for next day.

As Uncle Benny and the boys all knew that they had been called in merely to eat, and not to lounge about the stove, and were therefore expected to depart as soon as they had dined, when the scanty meal was over, they stepped out on the way to their wonted rendezvous, the barn. The rain had ceased, and there were signs of a clearing up.