

CAREFULNESS IS PROFIT.

I have been trying to tell you how I feed my dairy cows, but I am sensible that I have failed to give more than a slight general idea of it, for each cow has her own individual capacity, which differs from every other cow, which must be studied by close observation and acquaintance, before the feeder is able to do the best that can be done. I never could tell anybody just how to feed my cows. I never dare give instructions to have as much grain fed as I feed, for no one who is not intensely interested in it and in full sympathy, I might term it, with the cows, will be able to feed just right. Some cow might be fed a little too much grain, and it not be observed until she refuse to eat, when it will probably be too late—her digestive organs permanently injured. When I wish to instruct anybody how to feed my cows, I have to go, taking him with me, and show him, and show him more than once, too.

I will see what I can do to further give an idea of how I feed. If I only had my cows here I believe I could show you. If I only had you down there it would do as well, and I will have to take you there in imagination.

You may stay just as long as you have a mind to, if you only treat the cows well. Now, just imagine yourselves all down at my house three years ago, before I had a silo, because silos are not very plenty yet, and I want you to know how I fed them then. You will have to get up at half-past five in the morning, and go with me to the stable. I shall take some good clover hay and put it in the manger. You observe that I give more to one cow than I do to another. I know just about how much they will eat, and I want to give each cow all she will eat up without leaving any to breathe on.

After the clover hay is fed the milking is done. Every milker has the same cows to milk each time. He commences in the same order, and milks about the same rate, never hurries and never lags, but as near as possible every time alike. If they are going to talk at all they must talk all the time. Sometimes we have had a boy and a girl out there milking. Now, then, if they are going to do any talking they have got to keep it up, but as a rule that does not work very well. I want you to take a look at this cow and see how bright her eyes are. She has a long face and strong jaws, she can crunch an ear of corn down with perfect ease.

"Oh," but you say, "how sharp her back bone is." That is true; it sticks up six inches. But come around here and see what an immense girth she has; such a capacity for eating; how broad she is. "Yes," you say, "how her hip bones stick out." I tell you those are points of beauty about this cow. Her hams are thin, there is a place for an immense udder, and she has one. "I don't see as that is much of an udder." Yes, but I have just milked twenty-one pounds of milk, and that milk has one and a-half pounds of butter in it. Think of that. Now, this cow is the delight of my eye. But you say, "Is she hardy?" Ain't a cow hardy that will make three pounds of butter a day? But she can't stand hardship, she can't stand cold; the fact is I don't believe she has ever been where it was cold enough to freeze. In September, as soon as there are frosty nights, she and all the rest of them are put in the stable, and kept in nights if the weather is cold or stormy. I let them out to drink in the day time, but they drink and come right back. Lizzie will be just crazy to get back to the stable. This feeding and milking is all done before breakfast, you understand. After breakfast, say eight or nine o'clock, we go and let the cows out to drink, and they drink pure water that is warmed up, to say, fifty or sixty degrees, so that the chill is off; and if it is cold weather only a few are let out at a time, so they don't have to wait. If it is pleasant they stay out in the yard a little while and have some marsh hay. At noon they are given a good feed of cut corn fodder, and at night, about four o'clock, they are turned out to drink again, and what is left of this corn fodder is thrown out for bedding; and by the way, every time they are turned out there is a good lot of straw put in, so they have good bedding all the time. The last thing at night the mangers are filled up pretty well with good clover hay. All this is gone through with every day until they go out to grass.

They have good pasture and all they want to eat besides, and they will eat just about half as much grain in the summer as they will in the winter, except those cows that are nearly dry.

LEGAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Answers to legal questions of subscribers, by a practicing barrister and solicitor, are published for our subscribers free.]

Spraying Trees.

Q. Is there a law prohibiting the spraying of trees? If so, when did it come in force?

Yours, etc.,

M. PRITCHARD, Strathroy.

A. There is a statute of Ontario passed in 1892 for the purpose of the protection of bees, section one of which is as follows:—"No person in spraying or sprinkling fruit trees during the period within which such trees are in full bloom shall use or cause to be used any mixture containing paris green or any other poisonous substance injurious to bees."

It will be observed that this section relates only to fruit trees and during the time such trees are in full bloom, and other than as provided by the above statute there is no law to prevent spraying trees in Ontario.

FARM.

Plowing Matches.

BY W. A. HALE, SHERBROOKE, QUE.

In the October number of the Eastern Edition of the ADVOCATE, I was sorry to see the following paragraph:—"Don't forget that since plowing matches are dying out and we are plowing our land on the flat, with short plows, our boys are losing their interest in good plowing and farming generally."

This was a painful surprise to many of your readers in this province, who have long learned to look upon Ontario as the home of the most thorough and scientific tillers of the soil of any in the Dominion, or of the whole continent, for that matter, and unless a speedy remedy is at once vigorously applied against this unhealthy state of things, the trouble is likely to increase and become chronic, and be far more difficult to set to rights again. Happily the remedy is not patented, but lies within easy reach of all who are alive to their own and their country's best interests.

Annual plowing matches, under the management of plowmen's associations, one at least of which should exist in every county, will not only check this deplorable state of affairs, but will undoubtedly restore the standard of good, practical plowing; and, I can speak from long observation, will tend more towards keeping the young men at home and give them a keener liking for their noble calling than any other known method ever has. Agricultural exhibitions are good, in that they show us what has and can be done. Plowing matches are better, as teaching us how to do something. Associations should at once be established or re-organized, and this would be a most fitting subject for discussion at the farmers' meetings, or, where such do not exist, it may appropriately be taken in hand by the district agricultural society. All that is needed in any case is a proper public notice that a meeting will be held on a certain day for the purpose of establishing a plowmen's association. If before the meeting a set of rules and by-laws has been prepared, the organization can be regularly established and set in motion at the first meeting; if not, a committee should be appointed to prepare a set of rules and by-laws and to report at an adjourned meeting, and in appointing directors it is often wise, for many reasons, to include those of the county agricultural society. The following simple by-laws and rules will probably answer in most cases, or at least form a basis upon which to form others:—

BY-LAWS.

1. This association shall be known as the Plowmen's Association, and its competing and voting membership shall be limited to the county of—
2. It shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary-Treasurer, ten (or more) directors, and all residents of the county who have paid an annual fee of fifty cents (or more).
3. The President, Vice-President, Sec'y-Treasurer and Board of Directors shall be elected each year by open votes at the annual general meeting, to be held on the evening of the day of the annual match.
4. At all meetings of the Directors, the President shall preside, or, in his absence, the Vice-President; and in case neither are present, then any one of the Directors duly appointed by the majority of those present.
5. At all meetings of the Directors, five (or more) shall form a quorum.
6. Any additions or alterations of the by-laws can only be made at the annual general meeting, or at a meeting specially called for such purpose, two weeks' public notice of which has been given.

RULES GOVERNING THE MATCHES.

1. Plowmen must be farmers or farmers' sons within the limits of the association, or else in the employ of such farmers, and must have been such for at least one month before the date of the match.
2. No person will be allowed to interfere with the plowmen or aid them in any respect, except it be in the setting of poles or measuring of ridges. Plowmen must not allow any person to follow them or walk alongside of them. No one will be allowed to go over the "head rig" while the plowmen are at work, and no one will be allowed to fix the furrow of any competitor, on pain of disqualifying him; plowmen may do it themselves, but not with their hands.
3. Plowmen must be on the ground by nine o'clock, in order that the plowing may be commenced as soon as possible. Lots must be drawn for position, and any plowman coming late must take his ridge in rotation with those already drawn.
4. The time allowed for plowing will be at the rate of half an acre in six hours for single walking plows; furrows must not be less than five inches deep.
5. Members of the association may compete in any of the matches free; non-members, within the limits of the association, on payment of 50 cents each.
6. The decision of the judge in all cases shall be final as to merit, subject to an appeal where a competitor has not conformed to the rules of the association.
7. The Directors may make any other rules, even during the day of the match, though not to interfere with their advertised rules governing the same.

As soon as the association has been regularly organized, the following committees should be appointed:—1st, a subscription committee to assist the Sec'y-Treasurer in collecting annual fees from members and donations in money and produce from friends. 2nd, a land and entertainment committee, to secure a suitable site for the annual match and to properly arrange for the entertaining of the plowmen, the directors and the judges, and to do what is necessary in providing a room and arranging a programme for the meeting in the evening. 3rd, a prize list committee—the President and Secretary being, by virtue of their office, members of all committees.

Now, as to the best means for providing sufficient funds for all the expenses of the association. These may vary very materially in different localities, but it is of vital importance to the lasting stability of the association that they be not fluctuating. Government grants cannot well be depended upon permanently, and if such is given for a year or two and then discontinued, it is likely to produce more of a depressing effect than a benefit, and at present most of our governments do not seem to favor supporting plowmen's associations as such, but are, in some of the provinces, usually willing to allow a portion of their annual grants to the county agricultural society to be set apart by the society for a permanent fund for providing prizes, etc., for plowing matches. This is one reason why it may be wise to associate directors of the agricultural society with the plowmen's association. In our county association, which has since its inception, been steadily growing in strength and increasing in general usefulness, we have, so far, had no assistance from government nor from the agricultural society, but have depended entirely upon the generosity of the friends and members of the association and the entrance fees of the competitors.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Hedges.

BY D. NICOLS, CATARAQUI, ONT.

I would speak of "Hedges," because I have lately seen many scrub brush skeletons of what had at some time been intended for hedges. I have seen hundreds of rods of privet, buckthorn, honey locust, and other hedges, so-called, which served no purpose except to mar the natural beauty of the grounds on which they were eking out a miserable existence. A thrifty, well-kept hedge is an object of beauty which may be useful as well as ornamental; there are, however, few of such to be seen—they can be grown only under favorable conditions. I would not be understood as recommending the general adoption of hedge fences, because I am sure they would not give general satisfaction. To keep them in good order, the annual amount of labor necessary at the busy time of the year is greater than most farmers could afford to attend to, consequently they are very likely to be neglected, but there are places in which hedges are more desirable than any other kind of fence. Between villa lots I have seen stone walls erected and crowned with sharp cutting glass of broken ale bottles, while a formidable hedge would have served their purpose at less expense, without giving the jail-yard appearance. Back yards are enclosed with high board fences which need to be renewed every tenth year, while a good hedge will screen the view of everything objectionable to sight, be more healthful, and would last more than a man's lifetime, besides adding to, instead of detracting from, the beauty of the homestead. I cannot here enter into details, but with a view of assisting enquirers would mention some essentials. In the first place, the hedge plant must be adapted to the climate, soil and locality in which it is to be grown. I do not know of any kind of tree or shrub which will ever form a good hedge under the shade of large trees. Some kinds may do fairly well when only partially shaded, but there can be no dense foliage hedges without the free access of sunlight and air from morning till night. Sometimes hedges are planted close to a board fence with a view of having the fence taken away, but in every instance this scheme has proved a failure, because the sun and air was partially excluded from one side of the hedge. It is quite possible to have a fairly good hedge grown alongside of a wire fence, and in the country south of us the osage orange is now commonly used for that purpose, but it is too tender for the greater part of Canada. A question very often asked is, "What kind of tree or shrub makes the best hedge?" No one who has had much experience with hedges would say that any one kind is the best under all circumstances. For an ornamental hedge I would unhesitatingly recommend the American arborvitae. It endures close trimming well, and can be kept in neat and tidy dimensions for a greater length of time than anything I know of. I know of some hedges of it which are in good condition twenty-eight years after planting, and they are less than three feet high. It is never infested with injurious insects, intense frost does not hurt it, and dry, hot weather seems to be congenial to it. In this respect it is perhaps the hardiest tree that grows in Canada or elsewhere. That may be the reason why it was given the name "tree of life". In its native state it is found growing on dry, rocky hills, and also in water-soaked muck swamps. It