

Beets vs. Sugar Cane.

SIR,—Since the last issue of your paper I have received a number of letters from parties reading it in different parts of Canada, saying they saw my name in your paper. We know from the letters that the farmers value the ADVOCATE very highly as a guide in farming.

We would like to ask the farmers—What is the use of growing beets when they can grow the genuine sugar-cane itself? Beets require more labor, more machinery, more loss and less profit, than sugar-cane. We would like to give you a few varieties of cane that are best for farmers in Canada:

The Imphu or African sugar-cane came from the south-eastern coast of Africa. Mr. L. Wray, a well-known American writer on sugar culture, during his stay at Natal, in South Africa, in 1851, found in cultivation there some fifteen varieties of Imphu. He sent a quantity of the seed to France about the time sorghum was sent there from China, and from there it was introduced into the United States as a sugar-plant; and in crossing Oonsuana and Liberian, they have now what is called the Early Amber. The reason it is called by this name is that it is a little earlier and the syrup is the color of amber. Of the four different kinds we have tried in Canada we find the Oonsuana the best. We can with confidence recommend sorghum. Liberian, the Mearana, is a good Imphu. The Oonsuana is the best adapted to the soil and climate of Canada. The seed is planted in chick-rows, 3 ft. 6 in. apart, the same as corn, and from 8 to 10 grains in a hill. The seed should be soaked in warm water four to six days before planting.

We would, through your widely-spread paper, advise the people of Canada not to grow beets, as they begin to sour as soon as cut, giving them a great deal of trouble for nothing.

C. W. W., Grimsby.

Influence of Stock on Graft.

SIR,—Has the stock any influence on the graft or bud? If so, please state what. J. A. C.

[The influence is so slight, if any, that it practically cuts no figure in modifying the fruit. The top, however, does undoubtedly have a very considerable influence on the root, and the root on the top. As a rule, the root-growth corresponds to the top; and slender-branched trees have slender or fibrous roots. Strong-topped trees have strong and rugged roots. Hence it should be avoided, if possible, in grafting, to work a variety having a strong top upon a variety naturally of slender or weak growth. So we should not advise working the Northern Spy, for instance—which has an upright, rather sturdy growth—upon a variety of drooping or slender growth. In root-grafting the effect is not so characteristic, since the graft makes roots of its own, the section of root being in the character of a nurse until the tree is enabled to make its own roots.]

Ticks in Sheep.

SIR,—I bought some poor sheep in the fall. I do not like to use a wash, it is so cold. Would you give me the next best remedy through your valuable columns? S. H. O., Windermere, Ont.

[To kill ticks on sheep, throw into the barnyard a few small, thrifty, second-growth fir-trees. The sheep will eat the leaves and small twigs greedily, and often strip off all the bark. The ticks will all leave the sheep in a few days, the strong odor from the oil of the fir driving them away from the body of the sheep; then the cold soon kills them, or they fall off.—R. L. H., in Montreal Witness.]

SIR,—Please let me know if there is any remedy against sheep pulling their wool in the winter season. W. H. D., Pounal, P. E. I.

[To Make Mercurial Ointment.—Take 3 ounces of quicksilver and 1 pound of hog's lard or refuse butter, put them into a smooth earthen vessel and mix thoroughly until every particle of quicksilver is blended with the grease, and the whole becomes a slate-color. (Some would add a little spirits of turpentine to make it work easier.)

This is sufficient for ten sheep, to be administered by shedding the wool in several places from the head to the tail on each side. The shedding is done by the forefinger and thumb of each hand, having a small tin affixed to the rest of the hand, in which you have the ointment.

Sometimes, in country places, quicksilver is dear; but you could always get it at respectable drug stores at one dollar a pound. This ointment will also cure the scab in sheep, if made strong enough.]

Grafting Wax.

SIR,—Please inform me how grafting wax is made; also how apple-trees are grafted, as I am desirous of learning. J. K.

[A grafting wax, which may be used immediately or laid away and kept for years, is made by melting and stirring together four parts of resin, one of tallow and one of beeswax; then pour into a bucket of cold water. As soon as cool enough to be handled, work the mass over and draw it like shoemakers' wax until it is entirely pliable. Or take one pound each of resin, beeswax and tallow; melt all together and thoroughly mix; spread a thin layer on a cotton rag or paper, and wind firmly around the graft. For instructions in grafting see article by Hortus on page 78 in this issue.]

SIR,—Do you know anything about a kind of oats called here "English Centipede" oats. A man offers them for sale here; they have been grown in this section; they are white. He says half a pound is enough seed for an acre. I have not seen it grow. He wants \$2 per pound.

W. R., Reaboro.

[We know nothing about such oats; have not seen them advertised in any English or other catalogue. Be careful about purchasing new seeds, even from established dealers, but particularly from travelers. We have been informed of two or three unheard-of wheats having been sold this spring by travelers. If any one has a really good seed or implement it is pretty sure to be advertised, as it will stand the scrutiny of inspection. Talk alone will sell useless articles to green-horns.]

Sugar-Cane.

SIR,—The sugar-cane grown at Grimsby by me was planted about the same time as common field-corn. The seed should always be soaked in warm water before planting. Plant in hills the same distance as corn, and from eight to ten seeds in a hill. The cane should be hoed while very young, and kept clean until it is eight or ten feet high; it will do for itself. The cane will do to cut in the latter part of August and September, and should be worked while green. The yield of syrup is from 250 to 300 gallons per acre on good ground; and the sugar 5 to 7 pounds to the gallon of good, thick syrup. The sugar-cane is no more trouble to harvest than corn, and there is as much fodder, or nearly as much, to the acre—the leaves and seed are not used in making syrup; that is what you get for fodder. The stocks grow from 12 to 16 feet high; the juice from the stock is much sweeter than from cane grown in the South or Southern States. Here in Canada it takes about five gallons of juice to make one of syrup, while in the Southern States it takes about seven. Imphu is the best corn to grow in Canada, as it is better suited to this climate, and grows faster and ripens quicker than other canes.

C. W. W.

The Elections and the Requirements of Farmers.

Choose members that are farmers, or who have evinced their interest in the prosperity of agriculture, and the requirements of farmers. As a test, inquire of the candidate has he been a subscriber to an agricultural paper, and proved his desire for the advancement of agriculture by the interest he takes in all its requirements. If he does not let him not be your candidate—his interest is in some other line.

Farmers need encouragement in forming Agriculture Societies and Clubs in townships and counties. They require less expenditure of the country's money on high salaries, and superannuation grants to men who have never done good service to the country. They require the levying of a tax on patent rights vendor, and on unnecessary travelling vendors of wares. And they require a more searching examination into the standing and the accounts of insurance and all chartered companies.

On the Wing.

(Continued from Page 75.)

OTTAWA.

Many persons ask us—"Did you see the Princess?" We did not see either the Marquis or Princess. We might have seen the Marquis had we waylaid him on his way to the Parliament Buildings, but our mind was not intent on that

subject. However, curiosity prompted us to see the residence of the Queen's daughter in Canada,

RIDEAU HALL.

We took the street-cars; they run about 1½ miles from the Parliament Buildings, to within a short walk of Rideau Hall. The scenery along this road is not as pleasant as along a third quality avenue in this city; the houses were poor and dilapidated—nearly devoid of paint and floral decoration. We were informed that there were 900 houses to rent in that city, and that some of them were offered to any person who would pay the water-rates and taxes. We inquired at the waiting-room about the Marquis and Princess, and was informed that this was the main road from Rideau Hall to Ottawa, but that they had not yet seen the Princess, although the Marquis and Her Royal Highness and other ladies had walked past there frequently, but the Princess and ladies wore clouds over their heads and were not seen. The only way they knew the Royal party was by their walking-sticks and short walking-dresses. We were informed by highly respectable parties residing in Ottawa that they had not yet seen her; she seemed to court retirement and formed no acquaintances, but that she interested herself in some of the charities and schools.

There was a good body of snow on the ground at this time. We heard there was a plank sidewalk from the Hall to the City, but we could not see it; no snow-plow or shovel had been used to clear the walk, and the only way that the Princess and party had to walk was on the road, where the horses had beat down the snow. These Lower Canadian one-horse sleighs used by the habitants or French people are not very inviting to the eye, neither are the expressions used to urge their horses on very pleasing to the ear; in fact, we really thought of the danger there might be in walking this road, as we hear Her Highness is a frequent pedestrian on it. We walked past the lodge or gate-house, which is a very plain affair, not half as neat or tasty as the gate-houses of private friends we visited while in England. There are two roads for sleighs or carriages from the gate to the Hall—one to go there and the other to return. These roads are lined by trees that would look well in summer. There were some evergreens a short distance to the left of the last road. Not far from the gate is a plank walk to the Hall; this we preferred. The snow was taken off this walk. We entered the gate and approached the Hall. A plain wire fence of the cheapest kind, which was strung along on posts that had no paint on, flanked the walk to the Hall; to the right of this fence was a plain field. Near the Hall were some miserable specimens of ill-formed apple-trees, on which the borer had been reveling at will; the bark was off in many places, and the trees were really hard-looking cases. On the further side of this field there was some straggling-looking brush growing, which appeared to us like the neglected fence-side of a careless farmer. As we approach the Hall we expect the road to lead to the front of the building, but in vain; we pass a large unsightly building, which appeared to us like a country meeting-house; no adornment to relieve the eye, either on the top or side. We pause, look around; but this is the Hall or part of it; no road or chance to get around to the front, if front it has. We are obliged to remain content, and approach what we take to be a back-door or side-entrance. There is a kind of porch at this door, which has been painted on some previous occasion, but now decayed, rotten wood is visible. On the roof of the building two men were at work laying some rough pine boards. We suppose the shingles were so rotten that there was danger of our Princess being drowned or getting wet. Thus far the public are admitted without questions.

Notwithstanding the poor external appearance, we hear the interior is very comfortable.