

s of cheese it \$32.50 to make This would and when but- ty of milk in oportion some- will be safe for to 13 is the and cheese, to of milk would er, and but two case the cheese o equal butter

limb off as well as the most experienced person; but it must be apparent, in passing along our old gravelled roads, through the older sections of the country, on witnessing the decaying condition and unsightly forms of most of the old orchards, that the most deplorable ignorance and want of knowledge has been the cause of their present decay.

First, then, begin as soon as the tree comes from the nursery by cutting back its branches more or less, in proportion to the loss of roots by removal. If well grown, it should have three or four leading shoots, one on each side, forming a well balanced head; nothing more is necessary than annually taking out all superfluous shoots that would interfere with or cross each other. If trees are annually attended to at this period of their growth, there remains very little to be done in after years but keeping the outside or the extremities of the branches well thinned out, to admit the sun and air into all parts of the tree. If a tree is not in a good shape when first planted, with only one or two side branches, cut these away and head down to near the bottom of the last year's growth and commence and form a new head, as a tree not well balanced will never give satisfaction in health or appearance. Here let me caution every person never to allow more than three or four branches to remain to be the groundwork for the formation of the tree, and I am firmly convinced that there the great error has begun, in leaving or allowing too many limbs at first, which for a few years may not give much trouble, but which in after years causes the tree to become so much crowded with wood, that it necessitates the removal of many of the large limbs, which should never take place if it can by any means be avoided.

The great secret is to prune your trees from the outside, and not so much from the inside—that is, thin out at the extremity of the branches to admit the sun and air into the centre of the tree, instead of taking out every branch from the inside and leaving the outside crowded; never cut away all the small branches from the main limbs in the centre, as though they were being trimmed up for firewood, or made to look like so many bare poles—rather removing one or more of the leading limbs of the tree, if it becomes too much crowded, as it is from these small branches we obtain our first crop of fruit. I find a small saw attached to a long handle seven or eight feet long, excellent for thinning out the branches at the extremities of the limbs; they can be bought at most hardware stores, and with them a person can readily and easily reach around any tree 10 to 15 years old; after that a self-supporting stand is convenient.

Next, never cut off the branches close to the trunk or main limb (unless very small), but from an eighth to half an inch, according to the size of the branch cut off, and just above the swelling at the base of the branch that is to be removed, from the fact that when large branches are cut off level or close, the main limb from which the branch was taken increases so much in circumference before the wound heals over, that a hollow is formed where the branch was severed, in which the wet gathers and often causes great decay. The cut should be made parallel with the limb from which the branch was taken, never sloping up or obliquely, leaving one side of the cut longer than the other, which does not heal over satisfactorily, and which will also be the case if the cut has been made at too great a distance from the main limb.

Always prune the year the tree is not in bearing, as it enables the tree to fully recuperate from the weakening effects of the previous crop, and will give it new life, both in the growth of wood and formation of fruit spurs for the next crop—always bearing in mind to prune according to the state or vigor of the tree, never pruning severely if the tree is in a very thrifty condition, as it would be rather detrimental than beneficial to the health of the tree, as the sap would be so suddenly arrested from its usual channels as to force a useless growth of suckers throughout the body of the tree, causing a second pruning the next year worse than the first. If a tree is in an unthrifty condition, making but a feeble growth annually, always prune heavily, which will induce a more vigorous growth—remembering that if any tree does not make eighteen inches of growth annually, even in a bearing year, it is a sure sign that the tree needs stimulating, both by pruning and manuring. But in most cases

all that is necessary is to remove just enough to produce a healthy growth of wood.

Every tree, as a common standard, should be allowed to take its natural form, always following nature in its teachings, the whole efforts of the pruner going no further than to take out all weak and crowded branches; but by no means try and convert an upright grower, like the Northern Spy, into a horizontal grower, like the R. I. Greening, as it would assuredly be at the loss of part or whole of the tree, when it has to sustain the first heavy crop of fruit. And again, to prune intelligently and with a view to profit, all trees should not be pruned alike; this can only be acquired by practice, after a thorough acquaintance with the manner in which the fruit is borne on the branches of different varieties.

Never allow one leading limb to occupy a place immediately over another, as it excludes both the sun and air, causing the fruit to be discolored by the constant drippings from above, and the fruit would be worthless both in color and flavor.

In renovating very old orchards that have long been neglected, when the trunk and main branches are still sound, the trees should have the entire top cut off, cutting down to where the limbs would be six or eight inches through, which would cause a vigorous growth of young wood—selecting therefrom just sufficient to form a new head and at the same time scraping and washing the tree with weak lye, and manuring and cultivating the orchard for a few years following, always covering over the wounds when large limbs have been removed, with grafting wax, to protect it from cracking and to keep out the moisture and air, and to keep the newly cut wood in a sound state until it is covered with a fresh layer of bark.

Correspondence.

RAILROAD INJUSTICE

As you profess to advocate the farmer's interest, I wish to call your attention to the rascally imposition to which we farmers are subjected. In shipping a car-load of cattle from London to the Suspension Bridge, I have been compelled to pay \$33 for the distance of 119 1/2 miles; at the same time I meet with American drovers who have shipped their stock from Windsor or Detroit, a distance of 229 miles, for only \$28 in greenbacks for a similar car-load. It is my opinion that farmers have not, nor ever will have, fair play, unless some organization for their protection is formed. There can be no justice to us in compelling us to pay nearly three times as much for the use of our railroads, for which we have been indirectly taxed, or to which we have paid large bonuses. Many farmers may not see the way they pay the monopolists; the price paid for freight on stock is only so much money less in the farmers' pockets. Also, at the present time, drovers that ship at Windsor or Detroit can be furnished with a return pass, free, but a Canadian, after having to pay such additional charges as the railroad authorities deem fit to exact, is also compelled to pay for his return fare.

JOHN NIXON, Westminster.

[We have long since been aware that a species of extortion has been practised by the railroad Co.'s in many places where they can do so; but, as yet, farmers are not fairly represented among the controllers of affairs; we hope they may yet become more united. Ed. F. A.]

THE PATRONS OF HUSBANDRY.

SIR,—Seeing that this organization is creating so much interest amongst the farmers, I, for one, would like to see a lodge started in this vicinity. There are many farmers yet to be made alive to their own interests in the rural districts of this fair Canada of ours—those who do not take and carefully read such an invaluable paper as the ADVOCATE. There is the ground for the Patrons of Husbandry to work upon. Let this institution once get in and do the work it is intended to do, and the result will soon be made manifest. The fact of the matter is, if the farmers in general would organize and discuss the various subjects introduced in the ADVOCATE, instead of so much gossiping, as is too often observable, it would indeed be too to their advantage as well as to the advantage of society at large. Moreover, I cannot see why the farmers shall not have an association as well as the mechanic,

the merchant and the professional man. There might be a great deal said on this subject, Mr. Editor, but I will draw to a close—hoping ere long to see a lodge organized in this vicinity, and thanking you for the benefit I have already received by reading your paper. I am, etc., Plympton, April, 1874. T. DOHERTY.

OBNOXIOUS WEEDS.

SIR—I see in your March number that you give foreign countries a great deal more credit than they deserve in the way of obnoxious weeds. Now, I believe the most part, I don't say all, are indigenous. I think our old acquaintance, the Wild Oat, is, for I can show you a bed of them in the summer time in the wild woods, a mile and a half from any clearance or road. I came across them unawares, and immediately acknowledged them as an old acquaintance. I had forgotten the place where I had seen them, but a neighbor came into my house, and said he fell in with a patch that happened to be the very one that I had seen, so I concluded that they were natives. Then again, the Scotch Thistle, they are now growing in a cedar swamp belonging to myself. When first I saw them there was not a clearance for a mile or two from where they grew, and of course no road was or ever will be near them, and there they are to this day. There is also the Canadian Thistle. Now, you grass out a piece of land that you are sure is perfectly free of thistles, and let your hogs on it in the spring, and they will root and tear it to your heart's content, and if you have not a good crop of thistles after that you will have better luck than I or any of my neighbors had. The next I will speak of is the Wild Flax, a very troublesome weed. I had a piece of land that I thought was free of weeds of all sorts. I sowed it to grain, and the Flax came up nearly as thick as it could grow. I know that the land, after it was sown, before it was finished harrowing, got some rain and became sodden—that was the cause of it—a dead, heavy soil is its favorite. I could speak of many more, and shall at some future day, and if any of your readers can contradict what I have said, I wish them to write it, and I shall receive it with pleasure, for I think, above all men, farmers should exchange sentiments with each other, and give each other the benefit of their experience, and it will act for their mutual welfare. FRED. SQUIRE.

[We are pleased to hear again from our correspondent F. S., and though he differs in opinion from writers who are generally considered good authorities on agricultural matters, we publish his remarks on the subject referred to—Naturalized Weeds. We have not ourselves verified the statement we quoted from the New York Tribune, that "214 of our weeds have been introduced from foreign countries, and chiefly from England," but we have no doubt of its general accuracy. The reasons given by the writer for his opinion are:—Strong prima facie testimony in its favor, at least till rebutted by proof of a stronger character than is yet produced. The fact mentioned by F. S., that he has discovered a bed of Wild Oats in the wild woods, far from any clearance, is not sufficient testimony of their having been indigenous there. Might not the seed have been brought there by some agency unknown to us? and a similar agency may have produced similar results in the swamp where the Scotch Thistles are now growing. It is wisely ordained, by laws more unalterable than those of the Meles and Persians, that plants are perpetuated and easily propagated in different climates; and that many various agents are incessantly, though for the most part unconsciously, disseminating the seeds of plants to the most remote regions. A little bird, in its morning meal, carries a berry or seed to a place many miles from its native home, and there it is the germ of a tree or plant.

Little did they think, who deposited with the embalmed corpse of an Egyptian prince in the tomb a few grains of the wheat of the country; that they were thereby the means of preserving for seed for other continents and for a time in the far distance of thousands of years—and yet it was so.

It requires more enlarged opportunities of enquiry and research than have fallen to Mr. S. to determine the number of plants, weeds, &c. for which we in this continent are indebted to Europe. And, per contra, the Old World is indebted to the New for many valuable additions to her indigenous products. But we must give our correspondent credit for his use of that useful faculty—Observation, and for his communications to us. A farmer who sees things with keen, observing eyes and with common sense, possesses some of the elements of success.—S.]

SIR,—In your March number your correspondent, M. M. heads an article with—"Shall we show ewes or wethers," and as you solicit the opinion of exhibitors and prize takers, which I can lay some small claim to be classed with, I think sir, we shall continue to show our

wes and heifers instead of steers and wethers as suggested. One object in offering prizes is to encourage the importation of blood stock into our country, counties and townships, and another is to encourage the breeding and management of them. We think if the change was made, the prizes would go to the breeders of a more inferior or grade stock, as the breeders of our best blooded stock would not like to make steers and wethers of their best bulls and rams for the sake of taking a prize. I will admit that there are cases where good stock is injured from high feeding but I think there is far more injured for the want of good care and feeding. Your correspondent, M. M. advocates keeping young stock, which I agree with, and if that is done they will not be wanting when they come into the show ring. The main thing at our fairs would be to get competent judges, that would go for quality and purity of blood rather than fat, as is often the case. And if over fat, withhold the prize altogether. But I hold that stock should be in fair condition to entitle the owner to a prize.

There is one point on which the managers of many of our Agricultural Societies get astray, that is, in classifying sheep as "Long Wool." I think we should endeavor to keep our different breeds that have proved themselves worthy, as pure as possible, and if some one should by judicious crossing establish a new and valuable breed with permanent characteristics, then make a class for them. JOHN JACKSON.

Abingdon, April 13th, 1874.

AGENTS.

SIR,—I notice in your last issue a reply to my former letter concerning agents, from one of themselves. No doubt, looking upon the matter from his standpoint, he has made a good reply, but taking it from a farmer's point of view, I will show where his argument fails.

He states that farmers all over the Dominion and especially those in new settlements have the agents to thank for a great many of their necessary comforts, and if there had been no agents they would not have had their fruit trees, their sewing machines, their farming implements, &c. Now, this would be all well enough if the agents made presents of the articles to the farmers, or even if they did not charge enough to pay for their own time and heavy expenses. I agree with him when he says that few farmers go to the manufactory and purchase, or to the nursery and purchase, but wait for the agent and buy from him. But why is this the case? Simply from the fact that the manufacturer and the nurseryman have put 50 or 60 per cent. extra on their charges in order to pay the time and expenses of the agents, and, in order to protect these agents, will take no less at the manufactory or nursery. Now suppose they had no agents to protect or pay; they would be able to sell their goods just that much less, and make just as much profit for themselves.

Who is it that pays the time and expenses of these agents? Why, the farmers, of course. The manufacturer is not going to lose anything by them. He must set his price high enough to pay all this!

When a man commences to manufacture or starts a nursery, or anything of that kind, what calculations does he make in fixing the prices to sell at. Look at a sewing machine manufacturer, for instance; say one of our \$45 machines:

Table with 2 columns: Item, Cost. 1st—Cost of manufacturing material, time, &c. \$15.00. 2nd—Profit for manufacturer. 7.00. 3rd—Commission to canvassing agent. 15.00. 4th—Commission kept by general agent. 8.00.

Costs the purchaser. \$45.00. Look at that, my brother farmers, and see how dearly we pay for our whistles. Those self-sacrificing agents are very evidently working for your benefit. On a great many other articles the commissions do not run so high, but they usually run from 25 per cent. up to 75 per cent; and yet they profess to do all this work for our benefit.

But the gentleman says: "Oh, don't buy from the agent; no one forces you to do so.—Why don't you say NO to him, and then he'll stop?" But then, we want these articles he is selling; they have become necessary to us. What are we to do? Must we continue always to give \$50 for what is worth \$20, and sell our produce to some other middleman, who will take another shave out of us.

This agency business cuts us both ways. We have to buy dear and sell cheap. Who pays all these drummers that continually travel the country from the wholesale houses, selling to our merchants—these swells who dress so neat and look so sweet, who live on the fat of the land. Go to any hotel in the country and there are one or two of them on their travels. They have the best rooms, the chief seats at the table; the host and hostess run to do their bidding. Common farmers can wait. I say, who pays for all this? Is it possible that we do so when we buy a few yards of calico, or our tea, or sugar, or our Sunday suit with our hard-earned money?