













## AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.

(We receive communications from farmers giving their experience on matters relating to the sheep, and we are anxious to publish them, but we cannot accept of any article, or of any remarks, unless accompanied by name and address, though not necessarily for publication.)

## SHEEP AND DOGS.

In the *Country Gentleman* of March 31, 1892, a number of correspondence writers on the above subject are to be found.

Our State shows its loyalty to the sheep industry by paying a liberal bounty for the scalp of the wolf. Meanwhile the sheep's worst enemy is overlooked, or rather protected, by the schedule of personal property. The result is that the trapper is the one chiefly benefited by the law, and the dogs continue their deadly raids upon the sheepfold. Only a few days ago my next door neighbor caught a dog at the throat of a fine lamb right at midday. He had no gun at hand and before he could rescue it, the lamb was dead and the dog was gone. The next day he caught a dog at the throat of a fine lamb right at midday. He had no gun at hand and before he could rescue it, the lamb was dead and the dog was gone. The next day he caught a dog at the throat of a fine lamb right at midday. He had no gun at hand and before he could rescue it, the lamb was dead and the dog was gone.

At the annual meeting of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union, held in January last, the Hon. John Dryden read an able paper on the future of the sheep industry in Canada.

In the course of his remarks he expressed the opinion that sheep keeping is not progressing in this country as fast as other departments of farming, and when asked if he considered that the ravages of sheep-killing dogs were the greatest cause of the prosperity of sheep husbandry, admitted that this was the fact, and contended that more stringent laws were needed to abate those ravages.

The Dominion Government has issued a blue-book containing a very elaborate report on the production and manufacture of best sugar, prepared by Prof. Saunders, of the Dominion Experimental Farm, at Ottawa.

Prof. Saunders is well known to be a thoroughgoing man, and expert in all matters connected with farming and fruit growing, but after a careful perusal of his statements about the production and manufacture of best sugar, I can hardly avoid the conclusion that this report was made for some other purpose than the fostering and encouraging of the aforesaid "infant industry" in Canada.

Prof. Saunders concludes that it would require capital to the amount of \$4,000,000 to enable Canada to raise and export all the sugar required for home consumption, from which we are led to infer that it would not be wise to make any more sacrifices to keep the life in such an expensive "infant," therefore, it should be left quietly to starve to death.

At the present time there is only one best sugar factory operating in the Dominion, at Farnham, and last year they used up over ten thousand tons of beets in the manufacture of sugar, and received from the Government, by way of bounty, nearly \$50,000, but after the present year this bounty will be withdrawn, leaving Mr. Mory and his friends to develop the Canadian best sugar industry without Government aid.

Now I am not an advocate of the custom of using public funds to pamper exotic industries, but it seems to me that the manufacture of best sugar may be prosecuted in Canada as advantageously as in any other country in the world, and if it pays Germany to produce such large quantities of sugar for foreign consumption, Canadians ought to afford to make their own. At any rate fifty or sixty thousand dollars spent yearly in developing an industry with large possibilities can scarcely be considered extravagant for a people who are themselves the owners of three quarters of a million dollars in order to prosper the sugar refining industry which does not require one-tenth of the labor required in the production of best sugar. A little over nine years ago I visited the best sugar factory at Coaticook, then in charge of Mr. Lomer, who informed me that beets grown on the Island of Montreal were equal to the best in the world, and that from a ton of Montreal beets he had made 255 pounds of sugar.

Now, an acre of beets here should produce fifty tons of roots, or say 4,275 pounds of sugar, worth, at four cents per pound, \$171. In California they estimate the yield of beets at three dollars per ton of beets, or \$45 for manufacturing the product of an acre, and if the beets cost five dollars per ton or \$75 per acre, it would still leave \$51 per acre profit to the manufacturer.

It is probable that Mr. Lomer's estimated product of sugar per ton of Montreal beets, was based on the amount of cheap brown sugar which could be extracted from them, which, valued at three cents per lb., would leave the value of sugar from an acre of beets at \$127.25, from which we must subtract \$75 for the cost of the beets and \$45 for the cost of manufacturing, leaving a profit of \$7.25 to the manufacturer, or \$7,250,000 for the acre of beets in a season, or about three per cent on the capital employed. But beets will keep good in Canada twice as long as in California, therefore twice the quantity can be worked up at a Canadian factory and that would double the profits, making them equal to six percent on the capital, without counting the value of the pulp for feeding cattle.

By this showing it would appear that after the best sugar industry was firmly established in Canada it would require very little Government aid to work it successfully. There is another idea that ought not to be forgotten in connection with Canadian farming, namely, that beets are the best crop, excepting turnips, to be harvested, so that the same help that cultivates the soil in summer could be profitably employed in winter at work in the sugar factory. These considerations ought to have considerable weight with our legislators, if they really had the interests of the farmer at heart, but so long as the gentlemen of the Red Parlor "rule the roost," the farmers need not expect fair treatment from Ottawa. Let me give an illustration of the way that Red Parlor protectionists manage to pull the wool over the farmer's eyes, while they pull the money out of his pocket. The cloth of the pants I was wearing last winter cost 1.25 per yard in the retail store, but it cost only under 75¢ in the factory. The Canadian laborer gets only five cents more for making that yard of cloth than he is paid to the British laborer, but the Canadian manufacturer gets nearly twenty cents more in profit than the British manufacturer, yet they call this sort of thing protection to Canada, still these Red Parlor gentry manage to pull more money out of my pocket wrongfully, on account of my clothing, than would pay for all the sugar I eat; yet our paternal Government pretends to strangle the best sugar industry, which would be of such benefit to the farmer.

fit to the farmer, while they help their manufacturing friends to continue a system of legalized robbery.

**FARM GLEANINGS.**

**THE MEMBERS OF THE SPARROW CLUB** at Rickling, in the north-west corner of Essex, have destroyed upwards of 1,000 sparrows this winter. Several of them have been fined for not killing the number they were bound by the club to destroy, and to the extent of their holdings, one paying as much as 10s.

**AN ORANGE TREE** will bear fruit till 150 years old, and there are recorded instances of orange trees bearing when 200 years old. In Malta and Naples 15,000 oranges have been picked from a single tree, and one in the island of Sicily was estimated to bear 20,000. In two instances in Southern Europe 35,000 were picked from one tree.

**THEIR ARE THREE THINGS** that our common schools should be compelled to do: First, get the young to love wisdom; second, home-made home so intensely interesting that the children will prefer it to all else; third, teach them to make agriculture profitable and third, make farm life healthy, useful and morally on a level with the best possible life elsewhere.

**THE WHEAT CROP OF CALIFORNIA** for 1891 is estimated at 1,050,000 short tons, based on 3,000,000 acres. The wheat crop of the year amounted to \$41,000 short tons. Exports of flour for 1891 amounted to 1,225,000 barrels, valued at \$1,000,000. The value of the shipments of the preceding year was \$1,000,000. The output of all our mills was about the same as 1890, say 2,400,000 barrels.

**THE FOLLOWING FIGURES** are given on general crops as returns from the Dominion land in Kent last year:—Strawberries are taken as giving a gross return of 227 per acre, and net return, after all expenses were deducted, of between 50 and 47 per acre. Raspberries are put 221 per acre, with a return of over 17 net profit; currants £300 gross, and over 211 net. Apples, pears, and plums, together, gave a gross return of 225 per acre, but the net profit are not taken at above 50.

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**THE AMERICAN PASTURE**, started last year, is assuming larger proportions than ever. It is a system of raising cattle on a small piece of ground broken and worked mellow. Rich compost was worked in with the soil, and the cattle were kept on it. The vines were a long time coming up through the soil, but they did, and the finest ones I ever saw. Many vines when stretched up were 4 ft. high, and the tubers were the finest I ever raised.

being entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. In like manner, the farmer has a just claim to have his flocks protected against the ravages of sheep-killing dogs, and every member of the community has a right to walk to and fro without danger of molestation and injury from these animals.

There is a way of harmonizing the love of dogs with the safety of sheep and of human beings. It is by the imposition of a heavy dog-tax, and also the enactment of a law requiring that every dog at large on his own responsibility shall be muzzled. An annual dog tax of \$5 per head, and a bounty on every dog scalp taken from an unmuzzled wanderer, would quickly abate the dog nuisance, as it now exists. The result would be the great gain to the community, not only in the increasing development and prosperity of the sheep industry, and the immunity from exposure to constant annoyance and peril which the community would enjoy, but also in the vast amount of money now thrown away on useless canines, that would be saved for better purposes. It was asserted some years ago that it cost more to keep the dogs of the United States than it did the clergy of all denominations. When the statement was challenged, the party who made it looked up the census returns and found that there were upwards of 3,000,000 dogs within the bounds of the United States. Computing their yearly cost at \$1 per head, it was contended that the statement had been justified. But it costs more than \$1 per annum to maintain a dog. That sum will not more than keep a hen. Considering the uselessness of most dogs, and the mischief done by many, the cost of their keep must be put down under the head of the "wilful waste" that "makes woful woe."

LINDENHALL.

## NO PROTECTION FOR THE FARMERS.

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fruit buds, should be supplied with fertilizer, containing the necessary ingredients to promote the growth of both wood and fruit. Wholesome food, and plenty of it, is as necessary in the vegetable as in the animal kingdom, and the farmer who starves his orchard will be no more successful than a farmer who starves his flock. I like the early spring for fertilizing fruit trees, and the winter for manuring them, and the occasional use of almost indispensable, wood ashes contain all the mineral ingredients of plant food. Here is the analysis: One hundred pounds of the material contained, 1.25 lbs. soda, 3.5 lbs. magnesia, 4.5 lbs. lime, 73.5 lbs. phosphoric acid, 5.5 lbs. sulphuric acid, 1.5 lbs. potash, 0.2 lbs. silica. I will be sure that an application of 200 or 400 lbs. of wood ashes to the acre, would furnish a fair supply of these elements, and be the most direct and economical way to use them, is to scatter them direct over the roots that absorb the food supply.

In an orchard of bearing apple trees, the greater part of the feeding roots will be found near the base of the tree, but out near the extremities of the limbs, a certain number of roots go beyond. The writer has obtained good results, by applying the fertilizer three feet inside, and two feet outside the extremities of the limbs, and the result has been that there are but few large roots, or far be the feeding roots of the branches, where the feeding roots are found.

**DEEP FERTILIZATION.**—It is not difficult, however, to give a few rules that may be of assistance to some who want to know how deep to plough, even without such a series of experiments as would determine the value of it in every case. If land is very wet, when it is wet, and very dry after a short rain, the soil is so hard that the water is so hard to get through that it is not worth the trouble to plough it. If the soil is very wet, when it is wet, and very dry after a short rain, the soil is so hard that the water is so hard to get through that it is not worth the trouble to plough it.

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**THE OLD-FASHIONED NOTION** that manure from pigs or fattening hogs is richer than that of cattle is still very common. It is a mistake. The manure of the pig is rich in phosphorus, but it is not rich in nitrogen, which is the most important element in manure. The manure of the cow is rich in both, and is therefore a much better fertilizer.

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