

Forage Crops For Summer Feeding.

The losses that occur annually to our farmers from the drying up of their pastures in July, August and September, should induce every stock man to grow a few acres of green feed. In most cases only personal experience with fodder plants will enable a farmer to ascertain which are best adapted to his own needs and district. In the past the chief objection to soiling has been that time is too valuable to be employed for this purpose. But it is becoming very evident that on high priced lands and with valuable herds or flocks, we cannot afford to neglect our stock during the summer droughts. Some suggestions as to the selection and growth of suitable crops for summer feeding are worthy of consideration.

In laying out the work it is necessary to know how many head of animals it is desired to feed. The following estimate has been made of the land required to produce sufficient green feed for a cow for one day. Of lucerne or other clover $\frac{1}{2}$ of a square rod per day; of barley, oats and pease, rye, wheat or millet $\frac{1}{2}$ a square rod per day; of corn or sorghum $\frac{1}{4}$ of a square rod per day. The above is a fair estimate for a day's feeding on land in a good state of cultivation and with no allowance for pasture. No cow can possibly consume $\frac{1}{2}$ a square rod of rye, barley, oats and pease or millet in a day's feeding where there is a good strong growth. But allowing that the above estimate is approximately correct, we find that one acre of these crops is sufficient to feed a cow for 320 days. The amount required by other kinds of stock can be calculated on this basis. It is always best to make a liberal allowance. There need be no waste since any surplus can be cut and cured for winter forage or plowed under as green manure.

Next it will be necessary to consider the most suitable kind of crops to grow, and the periods at which each will be available. For general feeding, rye, clover, rape, pease and oats, vetches, millet, sorghum and corn, will be found most satisfactory, and the list names will cover practically the whole season, if sown at suitable intervals. Rye sown in the fall will provide the earliest feed in the spring, but as grass is usually abundant at that time, this crop is not so likely to be needed unless a complete system of soiling is practised. Clover, where it will grow well, comes next on the list, and will furnish an abundance of good feed during the latter half of June. Lucerne, or alfalfa, where the soil and climate are favorable to its growth, should be given first place on the list of soiling crops. It can be cut almost as early in

the spring as rye, and furnishes at least three crops per season of highly nitrogenous food. It is greatly relished by all kinds of stock, but is apt to cause bloating if carelessly pastured. In the southern parts of Ontario, it generally stands the winter well, and lasts for years without re-seeding. It should be sown in the spring, on clean, very well prepared ground, either alone or with a light nurse crop of barley, wheat or oats, and at least twenty pounds of good fresh seed to the acre. It is a little slow in gaining a foothold and should not be pastured the first year, but after that it is very tenacious of life and withstands droughts remarkably well. Rape may be sown about the first of May on rich well prepared soil for early feeding, and additional sowings may be made at intervals as desired. It is advisable to sow rape in drills two feet apart and cultivate as for turnips. From one to two pounds of seed of the Dwarf Essex variety should be sown to the acre, if drilled in, or double the amount if sown broadcast. Rape produces large quantities of green feed and is one of the best foods for keeping animals, including pigs, sheep and calves, in good condition. It is not satisfactory for milch cows owing to its tendency to injure the flavor of the milk.

Oats and pease make one of the very best soiling crops for general growth, particularly for feeding dairy cows. They should be sown as early in the spring as the ground will permit, and at intervals thereafter, at the rate of about two bushels per acre (equal parts, or two bushels oats to one of pease).

Vetches or tares are now grown in Canada to a considerable extent, especially by dairy-men. They are likely to prove of value, not only in Ontario and Quebec, but in the Maritime Provinces and British Columbia and the West as well. The common spring vetch has been most generally grown, but recent experiments go to show that hairy vetch will yield a considerably larger amount of green fodder per acre in Ontario. It is very desirable for soiling purposes, especially on dry districts. It appears to be relished by all classes of farm stock. The greatest drawback to the more extensive cultivation of the vetch in Canada is the high price asked for the seed. At present prices it will probably be found best to sow vetches along with pease and oats, at the rate of one bushel of vetches one bushel of pease, and two bushels of oats per acre. This mixture will produce an excellent crop for July and August feeding and will also afford good pasture after the first cutting, if cut early.

Millet is another plant that is particularly good as a catch crop. It can be sometimes

sown after a forage crop of pease and oats has been taken off the ground and if there is sufficient moisture to start it, it will yield a fair crop. It sown early in June, at the rate of about thirty pounds per acre, it will furnish a large crop of good fodder by the middle of August. The Japanese Barnyard in moist soil and Japanese Panicum are the best varieties.

Corn (when it grows well) is the great standby for fall feeding. Another very valuable fall fodder plant for the southern part of Canada is sorghum. The Early Amber is the most suitable for our latitude. It should not be sown until the weather has become settled and warm, on land that has been prepared in the same way as for corn. If sown in drills like corn, three pecks of seed will be ample for an acre, but if broadcasted, more will be required. It is slow in starting, but, after it has attained a height of a few inches, growth is very rapid and the crop very heavy. It is greedily eaten by stock, but like corn it is carbonaceous in its nature, and some additional feed such as clover, oil-cake, etc., should be added to balance the ration.

Soy or soy beans have been rather extensively grown for fodder in the Southern States for some years and are gaining popularity in the North as well. They produce a great amount of rich forage, growing to the height of from two and one half to four feet, branching freely and producing numerous woolly pods containing two or three round yellow beans. Sow about the same as for corn on a fine, deep, firm and moist seed bed, in rows about 30 inches apart, and on the level, from two to four pecks of seed to the acre. They are likely to do well in Southern Ontario, and in similar latitudes, although they have not as yet been largely tried. On account of their richness in protein, and their nitrogen gathering ability they are worthy of attention and trial. The yellow soy bean has been the most satisfactory of all varieties tested in Canada.

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ORIGIN OF THE WEDDING-RING.

The Ancients Believed a Special Nerve Ran from the Ring-Finger to the Heart.

The wedding-ring is the subject of quaint historical facts and endless superstitions. It was probably chosen as the symbol of marriage more for convenience than anything else. It is supposed to be a symbol of unbroken love and of power, and to carry special curative virtues with it. The old good-luck saying about it is, "As our wedding-ring wears, our cares will wear away." The ancients, Pliny among the rest, believed that a delicate nerve ran directly from the "ring-finger" to the heart, and that the ring placed on that finger was very closely connected with the heart. In early Christian marriages the bridegroom put the ring first on the bride's thumb, then on the first finger, then on the second, and, last of all, on the third, saying as he did: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." The thumb and first two fingers represented the Trinity, the next finger was the one the ring was left on, to show that, next to God, a woman's duty was to her husband. —May Ladies' Home Journal.

The May Lippincott's Magazine.

The May number of LIPPINCOTT'S MAGAZINE contains a complete society novel, five short stories, five brief, pointed papers on subjects of present interest, some talk about books, many pages of bright, fresh "Walnuts and Wine," and plenty of seasonable verse.

The month's novel is "A Mock Caliph and His Wife," by Edith Robinson. This entire story covers a period of only two weeks in the whirl of New York's smartest society, where John Blair and his wife take up the reins of a social leader whose health has broken under so strenuous a life. The Blairs

are a young couple from the country, of gentle breeding but not used to modern ultra-fashionable ways. They get into and out of difficulties and teach a thing or two by the way. The revealing of some social sins, the pathos of a quiet little secretary, and the side issue of stock gambling are woven into a masterpiece of fiction that is remembered with pleasure.

The five short stories are varied in theme. Marie Van Vorst's name has come to the front as a writer of really brilliant fiction. "The Immediate Jewel," her contribution to the May LIPPINCOTT, is a study in the social value of a name, in which an American widow in Paris is the subject.

Why He Was Acquitted.

A young barrister not noted for intelligence succeeded in getting a client acquitted of murder. Meeting a friend a few days afterwards, the barrister was greeted with warm congratulations.

"Yes," said the lawyer, mopping his brow, "I got him off; but it was a narrow escape."

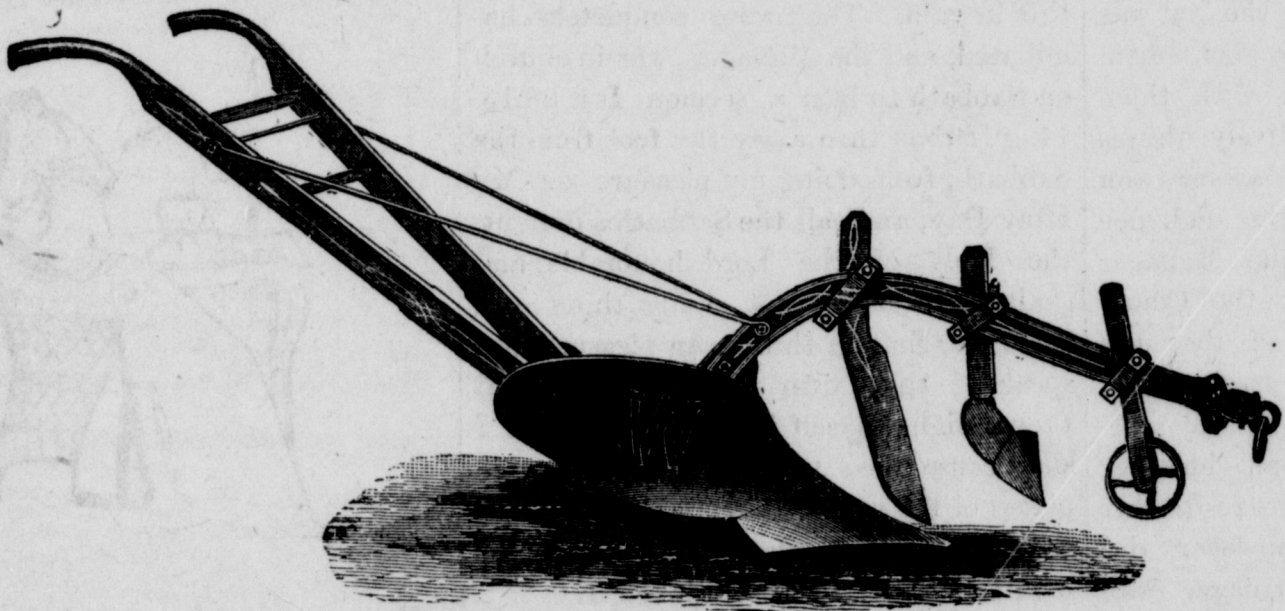
"A narrow escape! How?"

"Ah, the tightest squeeze you ever saw! You know I examined the witnesses and made the argument myself, the plea being self-defence. The jury were out two whole days. Finally, the judge called them before him and asked what the trouble was. 'Only one thing,' replied the foreman. 'Was the prisoner's counsel retained by him or appointed by the court?' 'No, gentlemen, the prisoner is a man of means,' said the judge, 'and engaged his own counsel.' I could not see what bearing the question had on the evidence," continued the lawyer; "but ten minutes later in filed the jury. And what do you think the verdict was?"

"What? asked his friend.

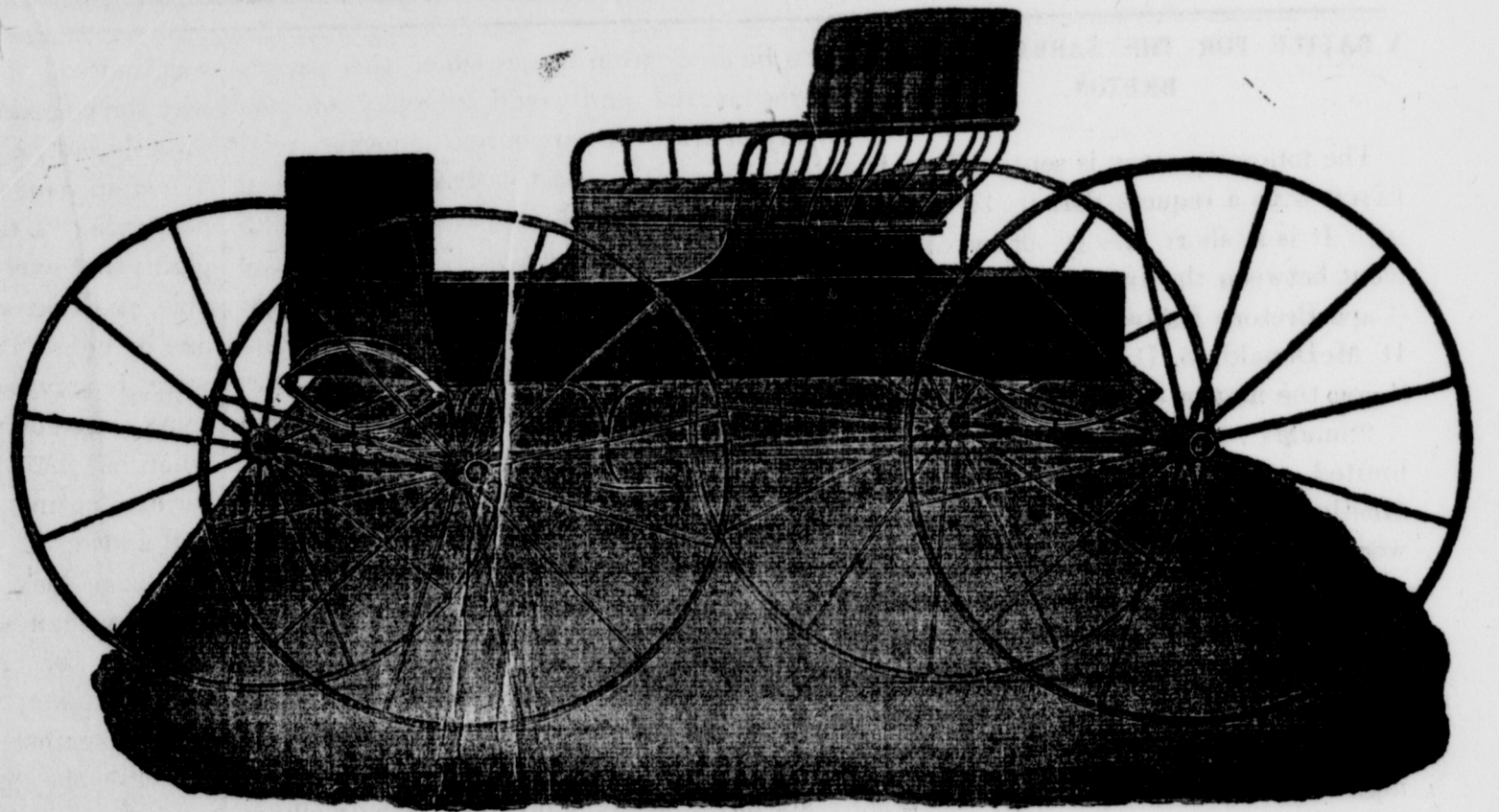
"Why, 'Not guilty,' on the ground of insanity!"

BALMAIN BROS.



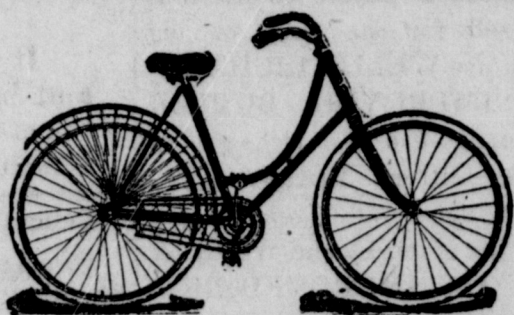
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