

## The Canadian Dairyman AND Farming World

Published by The Rural Publishing Company, Limited.

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THE CANADIAN DAIRYMAN AND FARMING WORLD  
PETERBORO, ONT.

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### THE ADVANTAGE OF MANURE SPREADERS

The actual money value of farm manure when properly applied to the soil, is often not fully appreciated. In many cases it is allowed to accumulate in the farm yard, from whence it is removed, more as a matter of necessity, than for its fertilizing value to the soil. The older settled sections of our country, can profitably make use of all the manure that is available. More could be used to advantage, if it could be had. It is, therefore, apparent that we, as farmers must aim to make the farm manure bring the greatest returns. To obtain this result, the modern manure spreader should be used whenever conditions permit.

The spreader is an expensive machine to install, and while it might not be wise for farmers to go into debt in order to secure one, still we believe that the spreader is a profitable investment, and represents a wise expenditure on the part of those who have any considerable quantity of manure to spread. Many kinds of

farm implements are considered valuable, and, in fact, indispensable, simply on the ground of saving labor. With some implements, the work they do could be done just as well by hand, provided that sufficient help of the right kind could be secured at the proper time. Not so with the manure spreader. It is not only one of the greatest labor savers, but it also enables the farmer to apply the manure in such a manner as to be much more valuable to the soil. The increased yield in crops amounts to much more than the saving in labor, or, although this is no small item in itself.

When spreading manure by hand, it is impossible to avoid heavy spreading. The manure cannot be so thinly and evenly spread as with a good spreader. Even the best hand spreading gives some plants altogether too much manure, while others get none. A manure spreader not only spreads manure more evenly, but it will make a given amount of manure cover more land than where hand spreading is practised. Under the old system of hand spreading, the top dressing of field crops was practically out of the question. Since the introduction of manure spreaders, however, extensive experiments have been made along this line. It has been found in a majority of cases that manure applied as a top dressing, after the crop is in, and frequently after the plants have appeared above the ground, is of more value than when plowed under. When applied as a top dressing, it has a double action. The first rain carries the fertilizing constituents down into the soil directly to the roots of the plants. Then the top coating has a physical action in that it serves as a mulch to prevent the drying out of the soil. In the case of fall-sown crops, it acts as a protection in winter. Doubtless there are conditions under which top-dressing may not be the best method, but in most cases, it will be found to give the best results.

The manure spreader permits of applying farm yard manure to meadows and pasture land. If spread by hand, manure is of little use for this purpose. It will rake up with the hay, in the case of meadows, and with pastures cattle refuse to eat the grass. With the spreader, however, a light coating of manure can be applied. This will greatly improve the pasture, without causing the cattle to refuse to graze.

One of the hardest and most disagreeable jobs on the farm, is the spreading of manure by hand. Where a spreader is used, the work takes on considerable interest. In the past, much valuable manure has been wasted owing to the distasteful nature of the work necessary in handling it, and the inability to secure sufficient help. A man or a boy with a good spreader can do the work of four or five men and do it more thoroughly. Few machines for the farmer's use effect such a saving of time and labor. Viewed from this standpoint alone, the manure spreader is a good investment. When it is remembered that it will soon pay for itself out of the actual increase of

crops, it can be safely said that no implement could offer greater inducements to the wide-awake farmer of today, than the modern, improved manure spreader.

### WHAT SHALL WE FENCE AND HOW?

The seeding and the other rush of spring work will soon be over, and once again we will be brought face to face with the fencing problem, before turning the stock to pasture.

In most localities, the old stump fences have become a back number. The snake-rail has been replaced by the post and rail fence, the rail-fence has been superseded by the modern woven wire fence, while in many places farmers are discarding fences, wherever possible. The subject of fencing is a large one, and has to be solved by every farmer, as it affects his own local conditions.

The stump fence, as pictured elsewhere in this issue, should not be tolerated. It not only occupies a large amount of land, but it is an effectual harbor for weeds. On this account alone, it should be done away with. The price of wood has reached so high a limit in many sections, that the wood contained in the fences will pay for the expense of removal, as well as pay for the expense of erecting a modern substitute in its place. In fact, the writer knows of instances where it actually returned a profit. Where once stood an unsightly stump fence, there is to-day a neat wire fence erected; all the work being done at a direct profit to the owner.

The snake-rail fence should also be discarded. It takes up much valuable space, and fosters weeds almost as effectually as does the stump fence. Where the rails are still sound, they may be used for making a post and rail fence, or for some of the types of patented postless rail fences. In view of the value of the rails as firewood, though, it is frequently a question if it would not pay to utilize them as such, and erect in their place a wire fence.

Too many of us have more fences than we require. We think we need them, because we have always had them. But, is this a fact? What is the use of maintaining an expensive fence to divide two ten-acre fields that are seeded to the same crop? Had we our crops properly planned, we could just as well have twenty-acre fields, thereby giving us the use of the land upon which the obstruction formerly stood. We would do away with a breeding plot for weeds, to say nothing of the time that would be saved in working the larger field. Once in four years, or, perhaps, less frequently, it might be necessary to use a portion of this large field for pasture. It would then be necessary to make use of some kind of a portable fence. This, however, can be done at much less expense than to maintain the permanent one which originally answered this purpose. Before we repair, or put any expense upon our cross fences this season, let us first assure ourselves that these are absolutely nec-

essary. The idea of large fields soon gains favor in a neighborhood, once it is introduced. Once we have done away with cross-fences, and their accompanying evils, we will be slow to return to them, so great are the advantages of larger fields.

We must, however, have some fences. The outside of our farms, roadways and paddocks for our stock must be fenced. In erecting these it is well to make them of as permanent a nature as possible. A good brand of woven wire, well put on, on good substantial posts, is invariably the best, and often the cheapest fence we can erect. If it is possible to make use of trees for posts, as shown on another page of this issue, so much the better. If we would plant a few trees each year, say enough to make forty rods of fence-row, we would soon have all we would require for this purpose. The trees usually can be obtained from our own woodlot, or from that of some generous neighbor, and planted practically without expense. By following this practice, we soon add much to the beauty of the landscape, at the same time we are doing much to solve the fence-post problem, which will soon be a serious one throughout the country.

The movement to hold a large livestock show at the Union Stock Yards, Toronto Junction, instead of having failed, as some seem to have concluded, has only commenced. It is a movement that will grow. Already it has made astonishing progress. A considerable number of the leading breeders, of all classes of stock, have not hesitated to pronounce themselves in favor of the holding of such a show. Had the committees from the leading breeders' associations, who were appointed to look into this matter, been given an opportunity to report before the Ontario Government committed itself to extend further aid to Guelph, it is probable that the movement would have received a further impetus. As it is, these reports are still to be presented.

It may not be necessary to interfere with the holding of an educational show at Guelph, but that the eventual establishment of a large livestock exposition at the Toronto Junction Stock Yards, is a certainty, is the opinion of those breeders, and others, who have looked into the subject.

The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World has taken a firm stand upon the question of its advertising. Hundreds of dollars of revenue are being declined from advertisers of electric belts, of patent medicines, and of all things that have about them the appearance of impossibility. We guarantee our advertisers to our subscribers. We want our readers to know that our advertisers are reliable, and that they can do business with them, knowing that they will receive fair play. To take this stand means a considerable loss of revenue to us. But we prefer to lose,