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deep just alongside of the track, and then the road was nicely rounded up with the grader, in have a certificate of qualifications for doing busithe summer of 1908, and up to the present time it has shown no signs of being springy. Where it was formerly very often necessary to drive several miles out of the way to avert being stuck in the mud, there is now a good permanent road, thus overcoming some of the economic losses sustained by the farmer in making this extra drive. I believe that a clay road, properly graded and underdrained is a better road than a low, flat, metal road with the water lying on it and no provision for drainage, especially where the traffic is not too heavy.

We believe the time is not far distant, if not already here, for a different system of roadmaking and maintenance from the old method of statute labor, although the statute-labor system is in use yet with us. The commutation system was in use about seven years here, but, sorry to say, did not come up to the expectation of its warmest supporters, the fault not being in the system, but in the management. I think the commutation system is the proper way, as every ratepayer is forced to pay his proper share; while, in statute labor, they very often fail to perform their work as faithfully as they should.

Then, the great question arises, how to get good roads, owing to the increased scarcity of good road material, the increased cost of labor and the large mileage of roads, and the increased cost of constructing bridges, the individual municipalities are unable to keep pace with the times. is very evident that the country is getting alive to the fact that aid must come from sources other than individual ratepayers of the rural districts. I would suggest that a trunk road be built from Windsor to Montreal, taking in the county towns of Chatham, St. Thomas, Simcoe, Cayuga, Hamilton, Milton, Toronto, Whitby, Port Hope, Cohourg, Belleville, Kingston, Brockville, Prescott, Cornwall and Montreal, with a branch from Chatham to Sarnia, one from St. Thomas to London, Woodstock, Stratford, Goderich, Walkerton and Owen Sound; one from Hamilton to Galt, Guelph, Brampton, Orangeville, and also to St. Catharines and Welland; one from Toronto to Barrie and Collingwood; one from Port Hope to Peterborough, Lindsay and Orillia; one from Ottawa to Perth, and from Ottawa eastward, taking in the county towns to Montreal; these roads to be subsidized from the Dominion treasury, under Provincial control; the Provincial Government and all cities of 100,000 and over to subsidize all leading roads converging to above cities within a radius of 25 miles; the Provincial Government and all cities of 10,000 and up to 100,000 to subsidize all leading roads converging to above cities within a radius of 15 miles; the Provincial Government and all towns of 2,500 and up to 10,000 to subsidize all leading roads converging to above towns within a radius of 10 miles; the trunk lines not to be considered in this class of roads, and all other macadamized roads other than the above mentioned, to make any connections where they fail to meet, to be constructed by the Provincial Government. And all other roads to be constructed and maintained by the rural municipalities and the Provincial Government equally, Government standard roads, as we believe we have a great many roads in the Province that it would be impossible and also very unnecessary to bring up to the standard of a macadamized road. For instance, take a road that has not very much heavy traffic. If such road were properly underdrained where necessary, and graded and kept smoothed up with a split-log drag, it would be all that is necessary. The Provincial Engineer to adopt a certain standard or grade for the municipalities to comply with before they would be entitled to the grant, and this would have a tendency to formulate a uniform grade of road-one point that is greatly overlooked in the present system. You will notice the above plan will give almost a complete network of leading roads connecting all or nearly all the larger centers of trade and commerce.

The Dominion grant could be controlled by the Province, and all roads to be constructed and maintained equally by the Provincial Government and the different corporations connected therewith. Having formulated a plan of roadways, economical way of constructing these roads, and selves for the comin' summer. We all want this the maintenance of same after they are constructed. My suggestion would be to commute all statute labor, divide the municipalities into municipality, such person to be a qualified person opportunities that may be before him, as he course could be established, and lectures given on generally a country, so im sayin its up tae us. In grass and clover seed is sown upon the the subject, that would greatly assist in the tae do a bit thinkin' hoo we can improve our wheat field in early spring, practice of this early wheat field in early spring, practice of this early the subject, that would greatly assist in the tae no a bit chinkin noo we can improve oor wheat neid in early spring, practice of this early making of a uniform class of road. I believe it methods o' handlin' oor stock this comin' sum-cultivation will bury the seed sufficiently deep to

afford to take up the subject. Much education is notice. needed.

Now, just one thought on engaging a permanent force of men. Such men get accustomed to their work, will perform more work in a given time, and make a better job than the ordinary farmer or laborer, simply because they take more interest in their work.

E. B. HOOVER. Ontario Co., Ont.

[Note.—This was an essay consigned for competition, and, while not receiving a prize, contains many good hints. The trunk system is not favored by all, but this gives an idea where the roads might be located if such a system was ever followed.-Editor.]

East Middlesex, Ont.

Spring and grass, already beginning to coat the pasture land, were never more welcome than season, for daylight shows through most of the barns, and many persons have been forced to buy hay and other fodders for the stock, at almost famine prices. Meadows and new clover seedings in some cases show the ill-effects of too close pasturing last fall, but the weather this spring has not been unfavorable for the new clover roots, nor yet on fall wheat where it acquired a sufficient autumn top, which it did when sown early on properly-prepared land; but it is too much to expect something from nothing. The day when people could take liberties with the soil is long since past, particularly for an exacting crop like wheat. As usual, the advantages of tile drainage are apparent in most localities. The speedy removal of surface water prevents soil baking and facilitates early cultivation and With proper cultural methods to hold seeding. what we have, thoughtful students of the relation of weather and vegetation are looking for grass and grain crops of even more than old-time luxuriance this season. For probably eight or ten years the soil has not had such a thorough saturation as it has since last fall, and the heavy blanket of soil lying long has tended to enrich the soil and prevent its drying out; so, with proper tillage, there is an ample supply of moisture-prime requisite of a great crop. factories are mostly in operation, but their preserve is being steadily encroached upon in some localities for supplies of town milk and cream. The competition may not be unwholesome, but the cheese factory has points that commend it to a great many dairymen, and it has stood the test of many years' experience. So, with good prices for the product an an enlightened and liberal policy on the part of factorymen, it is likely to continue one of the mainstays of dairying in this section of Western Ontario.

Sandy's Spring Medicine.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Noo that spring is here once mair, and a' o' us wha hae escaped the dangers o' the winter, wi' its hot-air furnaces an' badly-ventilated hooses, an' its overeatin' an' oversleepin, are thankin' Providence for bringin' us through alive, ye an' yer readers will na doot be wantin' a dose o' spring medicine. So gin ye're no' objectin' ower muckle, I'll be gettin' the bottle an' spoon an' giein' ye a wee bit drappie o' somethin' that I hope will no' do ye ony harm, at the I'm no' ony great doctor in the way o' settin' broken bones an' the like, but I can write prescriptions by the yard, an' gin ye do not ask me to try them on mysel', we'll no' quarrel. An' the kind o' prescription that I was thinkin' o' writin' the noo is not one ye can get filled at the druggist chap's, but ane that ye'll hae to fill an' tak' a' by yersel'.

Na doot ye're sayin' tae yersel' by this time, "I see Sandy is in for giein' us some mair free advice aboot somethin' that he kens na mair aboot that we dae oorselves." Weel, maybe ye're An' gin ye ken sae muckle, ye'll juist hae tae tak' this as a reminder that ye should act, as weel as understand. But what I hae been thinkin' is that we farmers should tak' a day off at this time o' year to mak' two or three guid resolutions, an' think oot a coorse o' action for ooryear tae be a wee bit o' an improvement over last, in the way we do oor wark an' the pay we get for it. Noo, there's a hale lot o' us in the rolling with a light harrowing. sections or wards, engage a permanent force of business o' keepin' coos an' makin' oor livin' oot teams and men, and keep them on the road all o' what they produce. The mair they produce, the time—that is, during the summer season—to the mair money we are likely tae hae, an' the higher oor standard o' living, as a rule. There careful harrowing. or engineer, to be appointed by the council of the amon wi'oot means canna' avail himsel' o' the until the wheat is up four inches, without injury otherwise could. The mon wi'oot onything is European wheat-growers. in the art of roadmaking. Just here, I think a course could be established, and lectures given on the wild a lecture given on the wild a lecture of the wi

would be advisable to pass an examination and mer, an at the same time gie the dairy industry The Farmers' Institute lecturers could well petitors in ither parts o' the warld sit up an' tak'

I mind weel, a few years back, the way a guid mony o' the cheese factories were rin. maker wad tak' in maist ony kind o' milk, an' gin it were na' sour eneuch tae guarantee his gettin' through his day's wark by two o'clock, he wad gae oot tae the whey-tank an' get a pail or two o' the whey that had been layin' there, maybe a week or mair, an' dump it intae the milk vat, wi' the result that he got through on time, but the patrons lost mair money than they kenned aboot by the operation.

Nooadays we hae, a a rule, guid cheesemakers, an' na doot the milk comes tae the factory in better shape, too, but there's a hale lot tae be learned yet by the maist o' us. Some o' us seem tae forget that cheese an' butter are made tae be eaten by some o' oor fellow men, judging by the amount o' attention we gie tae cleanliness an' sae I heard tell o' a cheesemaker wha put a lead pencil mark on the inside o' a milk can that was comin' tae his factory, an' it was mair nor twa weeks before it was washed off. An' what like condection dae ye think milk is in that is left uncovered near a coo-stable door on a warm nicht, an' in a can that was not overly clean in the first place? There's nae use talkin', gin we dimna' pay mair attention tae keepin' oor coos clean, everything else that somes intae contact wi' the milk, as weel, we canna' expect tae get the best price for oor produce, be it cheese, butter, cream, or milk. Gin ye're gaein' tae pit a fancy article on the market, ye've got to hae the raw material kept in guid condection. When ye have tae pay war-prices for feed for yer stock, ye canna' vera weel afford to sell yer stuff for the price that ye'll get to a second-class article. It tak's some time a wee bit o' effort tae hae things up tae the mark a' the time; but it pays, an' it losha' not to. As I said once before, the said said said once before, the said said said once before, the said said once before, the said said once before, the said once before clean, ye canna' be godly.

Noo, this is juist the medicine I was talkin' aboot giein' ye, when I started oot. I'm no gaein' tae gie ye ony salt or sugar alang wi' it, an' ye can tak' it or leave it; but I'll say this, that, gin we could juist mak' this one improvement in oor farm operations in the year 1912, we wad be daein' mair for oorselves an' oor country than we may think possible. Frae a financial point o' view, we're bound tae gain, an' frae a Sae I commoral point o' view we canna' lose. mend the proposection for yer conseederation. SANDY FRASER.

Weak Wheat - How to Help It.

"Winter Wheat in Bad Condition" is the general report of the condition of this important cereal throughout the Middle West States. large percentage of the millions of acres devoted to this crop is reported to be weak and to have been severely injured by adverse wintering con-In many places the ground is baking, ditions. and still further injury is threatened. Such serious conditions call for immediate action.

The farmer knows that the wheat plant re and available plant moisture food in order to live and make satisfactory quires heat, air, The lack of any one of these essentials means death to the crop. As the warm sun of spring beats upon the hardened wheat fields, it causes the evaporation of hundreds of barrels of water per day from a 50-acre field, because the water connection between the surface soil and the water supply below is complete. 'Now, to stop this great evaporation, and to allow air to enter into the soil spaces, the farmer must act quickly if he is to save his crop.

He should roll his wheat field as soon as it will bear a team upon it, and follow this rolling immediately with a light harrowing. If he has a weeder, he can accomplish a great deal of good by going over the wheat crop with this tool. he has harrows with adjustable teeth, he should throw these teeth back at an angle of 45 degrees, and harrow the field, going back and forward over the field parallel with the wheat rows. This harrowing will not stir the surface deep enough to injure the wheat roots, but will help the soil conditions greatly by preparing a surface mulch. This surface mulch will break up the water connection in the soil and effectively prevent an in-Always follow jurious amount of evaporation.

If, however, the farmer does not have a roller, or if he does not think it wise to roll the wheat, he can help the weak wheat crop a great deal by a

The above operations can be carried on even

If grass and clover seed is sown upon the