

Care Needed When Using Electricity

Simple Rules for the Prevention of Accidents on the Street and in the Home

Electricity, like fire, is a valuable servant, but a dangerous master. So long as it is kept in perfect control it is the most convenient and cleanly source of energy that science has made available for use in the household. But it must be controlled. Hundreds of lives are lost every year and much property destroyed as a result of defective wiring and the careless handling of this remarkable unseen force.

Below is a brief summary of recommendations by the United States Bureau of Standards which, if followed, will go far toward eliminating accidents in the use of electricity:

(1) Never touch a wire or any electrical device which has fallen on a street, alley or lawn, or which hangs within reach, if there is any possibility that it may be touching any overhead electric wire. This applies to insulated overhead wires as well as to bare ones.

(2) Avoid touching guy wires which are used to anchor poles to the ground, or the ground wire run down wood poles. Never try to jar arc lamps, nor touch the chains or ropes supporting them. During and after storms do not touch even the poles, if wet.

(3) Never climb a pole or tree or near which electric wires pass. Never touch such wires from windows nor while on roofs. Warn children against climbing poles or standing on pole steps.

(4) Never throw string, sticks, or pieces of wire over the electric wires carried overhead. Also, never fly kites near overhead wires, nor throw sticks or stones at insulators.

(5) Do not touch or disturb any electric wiring or appliances in buildings except such as are intended to be handled. Keep furniture and other materials away from interior wires, or see that the wiring is in conduit, or otherwise adequately protected against mechanical injury. After using portable heating appliances, irons, etc., turn off the current before leaving them.

(6) Never touch those interior live metal parts of sockets, plugs, etc., which are used to carry current. Use the insulating handles which are provided for that purpose. While in bathrooms, toilet rooms, kitchens, laundries, basements or other rooms with damp floors, stoves, heaters or pipes, etc., which may be touched; avoid touching any metal part of lamp sockets, fixtures, or other electrical devices since they may accidentally be alive. While in a bathtub never touch any part of an electric cord or fixture even if it is a non-conductor. The use of electric vibrators in the bath is dangerous. Avoid touching stoves or other metals when using electrical stoves, particularly during electrical storms.

(7) Never try to take electric shocks from the wiring in buildings or on streets nor induce others to take such risks.

(8) Avoid touching bare or abraded

spots on flexible electric cords. Do not hang such cords on nails and when damaged have them repaired or replaced by a competent electrician.

(9) Never touch a person who has been shocked while he is still in contact with the electric circuit, unless you know how to remove him without danger to yourself. Call a doctor and the nearest lighting company. Use a long dry board or wooden-handled rake or broom to draw the person away from the wire, or the wire away from him. Never use any metal or any moist object.

(10) To resuscitate a person suffering from electric shock draw his tongue out of his throat and apply artificial respiration for two or three hours, if necessary.

(11) Watch for and report any fallen wires, defective wiring, etc.

(12) Never employ anyone but competent electricians to repair or change wiring and do not attempt it yourself unless qualified to do so.

A NEWSPAPER PROCESS

The Taggart Paper Co. of Great Bend, N.Y., has developed a process for the making of newsprint from all ground-wood pulp, omitting entirely any proportion of sulphite pulp. Mr. George C. Sherman, president of the company, in an interview given to the *Paper Trade Journal*, said:

"It requires two cords of wood for a ton of sulphite pulp, while one cord of wood will make more than a ton of ground-wood pulp. It takes 20 per cent more timber to make paper out of 20 per cent sulphite than it does out of all ground wood. One-fifth more acreage of timber is required for the sulphite method."

If this process should prove generally feasible it will do much to conserve Canada's forests. It would also effect a considerable saving in the cost of manufacturing newsprint and in the consumption of sulphur, which is in demand for the making of munitions.

WAR GARDEN PRODUCE MARKET

An interesting plan to provide a market place for the produce from war gardens has been put in operation in Oklahoma City. One hundred women of that city signed notes for \$25 each, payable the 1st of September, and the entire amount was underwritten and is now being used for the erection of a building. This building is being constructed at cost and will provide a market place for those who grew the produce offered for sale. A Liberty Kitchen will be established in this Liberty Market, to can and preserve the produce which is not sold. The market will maintain the kitchen by the payment of wagon dues and the kitchen will provide an excellent stand for the market with a ready outlet for its produce. The kitchen will accommodate classes of 50 women and will contain a complete canning outfit. The proceeds from the canned produce will be used to defray the initial expense of the building and other incidental expense which may arise, according to W. J. Pette, State merchant representative in Oklahoma for the Food Administration.

It Pays to Select Potatoes for Seed

Before the Tops Die Down in Autumn is Best Time to do so

Recent investigations have shown that lack of vigour in the seed potatoes planted has been the cause of poor yields and inferior quality in the resultant crop. It has also been found that seed from New Brunswick or New Ontario gives better yields in older Ontario than home-grown seed. It may not be convenient for every farmer to purchase seed grown in New Brunswick or New Ontario, but a process of selection can be conducted which will materially increase yields and profits. Usually the best potatoes are found in the hills which have the strongest and most vigorous tops. These should be marked before they die down in the autumn and kept separate at digging time for seed the following year. This will not cost anything except a little time and it will be time profitably spent.

While conducting illustration work on farms, the Commission of Conservation has noted increases in yield as high as 33 per cent from the selected seed over the seed from the common bin. Select enough now, for a seed plot next year.—F. C. N.

USE PLENTY SEED WHEN SOWING CLOVER

Among other comparisons being made on farms in Dundas county by the Commission of Conservation is that of thickness of seeding of clover. Many farmers sow too small an amount to insure success, in some cases as low as two or three pounds per acre being sown. On the farms where five pounds or less was ordinarily being sown per acre, an acre or two was sown in 1917 with double the amount usually sown. The difference was not so noticeable in the young seeding during the autumn of 1917, but the results were decidedly in favour of the thicker seeding at haying time this year, 1918. In a number of instances, there was just about the same difference in amount of hay as there was difference in amount of clover seed sown. If everything is favourable, a seeding of less than ten pounds of red clover to the acre may give good results, but it is much safer to sow clover seed liberally along with the timothy.—F. C. N.

TRIBUNAL JUDGE URGES FARMERS TO KEEP BOOFS

Bookkeeping by farmers to show just what their farms are producing and if they are materially increasing their outputs, was advocated recently by Mr. Justice Masten, in addressing his exemption tribunal at Toronto. He pointed out that the keeping of such records would be of great value to the farmers if, on the expiration of their exemptions, they appeared again before a tribunal to seek further extensions of time.

The Commission of Conservation has designed a simple but complete Farmer's Account Book which will be sent free to bona-fide farmers who ex-

Make War on Rats

Interesting Facts About the Immense Losses Caused by These Pests

"The rat is responsible for more deaths among human beings than the wars in history." This startling statement was made recently by Dr. E. L. ... of the United States Biological Survey. Through the fleas that infest these rats are almost wholly responsible for the perpetuation of transmission of bubonic plague and it has been proved that they are active agents in spreading pneumonic plague, diseases which have destroyed at various times, millions of the world's population. Only preventive measures have prevented the outbreak of these diseases at large American sea-ports during recent years and constant vigilance at all great sea-ports is essential to prevent epidemics.

The economic loss caused by rats is almost incredible. It was estimated before the war that, in Great Britain the annual damage due to rats amounted to \$73,000,000; in France \$38,500,000; in Germany, \$47,600,000; in Denmark, \$3,000,000, and the United States as much as \$20,000,000. To this must be added the cost of fighting the animals and the loss of human efficiency through diseases carried by them.

They are also exceedingly prolific. The brown rat, the largest and fiercest species found in America, will breed from six to ten times a year if food plentiful, and will produce as many as ten, or even more, young to a litter.

The migrations of rats from one district to another are of much interest. During a series of years they may be comparatively scarce in a neighbourhood, when suddenly they become abundant and do immense damage. These migrations are usually due to seasonal conditions and to an overflow of the rat population in more regularly infested areas.

To combat the pests one of the best means is to render all buildings proof. Grain store houses should be put on posts at least 18 inches high and each post covered with some form of sheet metal. Cellars and basements should be floored and lined with concrete, windows well screened and drains properly trapped. Grain and food must be kept from their reach every possible manner. The best means of destroying them is by means of dogs, cats, poisons and traps. Poisons require careful handling on account of the danger to other animals and also to human beings. The best trap to use is the small snap wire trap. It has the advantage of being cheap and, where rats are plentiful, the four dozen of them can be used with advantage. It is important for every one in an infested neighbourhood to combat them, for, if a single farmer or householder neglects to do so, his premises may provide a menace to the whole district.

Express their intention of keeping records of their farm work. Many farmers do not know whether they are making or losing money till it is too late to avoid financial failure.