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DRAIN THE HILLSIZES

Erosions Mean Considerable Loss to Many Farms.

Tiling, Open Ditching and Terracing ended—How to Plan and Do the Work-Why an Orchard

(Contributed by Ontario Department of

The erosion of hillsides and the dooding of the land below by the eroded material has long been a worry and an economical loss to many farmers in hilly and mountainous sections. This can frequently be prevented, and the method employed depends on the conditions existing, such as the nature of the soil: light or heavy, the steepness of the slope, and the type of agriculture practiced; pasture or tilled crops. The Value of "Sheep-Drains."

The Value of "Sheep-Drains."

Wet hillsides used as sheep pastures may be much improved by what are sometimes called "sheep-drains."

These are merely shallow open ditches about 30 inches wide on top, 9 inches wide on the bottom, and 15 inches deep for removing the surface water. They are dug slantingly around the slope to intercept the flowing water and carry it in a definite channel to a suitable outlet at the base of the hill. The removed earth should be thrown out on the lower side to form a sort of embankment to the drain. The grade of the ditch should not be so steep as to give the water sufficient force to destroy the drain by either washing away the banks or digging the drain itself deeper, and thus making it dangerous for the sheep and lambs. Sub-drains are sometimes necessary. Terracing and Draining.

A system of terracing is quite uni-A system of terracing is quite universally used to prevent desfructive washouts on hillsides. The terraces are made perfectly level, and of any width, and then carefully seeded to grass. At the time of rain the water spreads out evenly over the surface of these and then flows gently over the slope below without sufficient force to wash away any portion of the hill and thus prevents "gullying."

For the drainage of tilled hillsides a system of under-drainage is

sides a system of under-drainage is sometimes used successfully. The sometimes used successfully. The amount of erosion of the land largely depends on its condition. If the surface soil can be kept firm the erosion will be lessened. Soft spots on the hillside, though, frequently on the hillside, though, frequently occur as a result of seepage water from above which has penetrated the surface soil and reached an impervious layer and thus deflected to the surface on the side of the hill. Water flowing over this with considerable force will naturally wash it away more easily than the firmer soil free from this seepage water. Advantage of The Braining. Advantage of Tile Draining.

If tile drains are so laid to inter-cept this seepage water, considerable erosion can be prevented. If the hillside is comparatively steep, drains laid at an angle to the incline will be more satisfactory. They will naturally intercept all of the water flowing through the soil above them. Also the grade will be less and the drains are not so liable to be affected by the water moving slowly through them. If the slope is not very steep the drains may be laid. very steep the drains may be laid down the incline with satisfactory re-sul's. Here the tile drains the land on both sides and no double draining

esults. In this underdrainage the general In this underdrainage the general benefits are again obtained. The water level is lowered, thus giving more root capacity to plants and the prevention of surface washing by allowing the water to penetrate through the soil to the drains, thus carrying much plant food to the roots of the plants.—R. C. Moffatt, O. A. College, Guelph.

Why an Orchard Will Pay. The planting of commercial apple orchards in the Province of Ontario

is highly desirable for several rea-1. Ontario is not producing enough good apples for home supply, but imports annually from Nova Sco-tia, British Columbia, Oregon and

California. 2. Production in Ontario is likely to fall off still more because no commercial planting is being done. Very few commercial apple orchards have been set out in this Province since

1911. 3. Of the thousands of young trees set in the boom years of 1905 to 1911 a large proportion have already passed out of existence. Probably not more than 20 per cent. of the trees planted during those years will feure in the commercial producwill figure in the commercial produc-tion of the future, and certainly not more than 40 per cent. of them are alive and receiving reasonable atten-

tion to-day.

4. The home orchard will never again be an important factor in comagain be an important factor in commercial apple production in this Province, because it is not large enough to be worth while. In seasons when scab control is difficult, or when prices are down because of a heavy crop, the return from the small orchard is not large enough to justify the ard is not large enough to justify the expense and risk involved. When conditions are unfavorable the small orchard passes quickly into a state of neglect; this is why apple growing in Ontario is at such low ebb at

present.
5. Fruit is an essential part of diet. While it is true that in case of necessity people can live without it, it is also true that health suffers and nutritional complaints become much more general in the absence from the dietary of fresh fruits and vegetables. The apple is the most important and most useful fruit of the temperate zone, and, from the standpoint of public health, its culture should not be negelected.—
J. W. Crow, O. A. College, Guelph.

SELLING FARM PRODUCE

Standardization Is Necessary for the Best Results.

Graded Fruits or Vegetables Attract While Mixed Grades Repel-The Satisfied Consumer Will Come Again-Quality Pays.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

Will the consumer pay for quality? Yes, and liberally if he understands what standardization means. Criticism is frequently directed at the farmer producer for the lack of attention given to grading and pack-ing of the product of his farm. Fruits in different stages of ripeness, differ-ent sizes, shapes and colors are frequently seen in the same package. Chickens of various breeds, sizes, types and degree of plumphess are jumbled together in the same crate and form a marked contrast when placed beside a crate containing birds of the same are size plumphess and placed beside a crate containing birds of the same sex, size, plumpness and color. To the well ordered mind uniformity always appeals, while mixtures and jumbles repel as so much junk. If a child goes into a candy store it will soon learn that mixtures are sold at a lower figure than standard confections. And so it goes through life — a mental attitude is developed by the great majority of consumers to regard those products that are not standardized as being less attractive and having a lower less attractive and having a lower value. The percentage of particular consumers has increased much faster than the percentage of agricultural producers who standardize their products. In the old days the wormy apple the missiance potato wormy apple, the misshapen potato and the old hen may not have lost their attractiveness, but times have their attractiveness, but times have changed, more people have more money to spend on foods than ever, before. With the increase of the family income or wealth during the past twenty years the attitude of the younger generation towards the foods that they eat has changed very considerably. If we refer to the good old days when oatmeal was the standard breakfast food and citrus fruits were only seen at Christmas fruits were only seen at Christmas time, we will realize what present day attitude toward quality in foodstuffs means when compared with the past. With this advance in tastes for foods which may be largely flavor and of little value when considered from the standpoint of nourishment, the demands for foods that appeal to the eye and to the sense of taste have increased very greatly during the past five years. People Will Pay for Quality.

Standardization of food products will put the rosy cheeked, clean, uni-form, sound apples in one basket and it will put the wormy, scabby, mis-shapen product in another. People are willing to pay for quality pro-viding they have a guarantee that they will be handed a quality pro-duct in exchange for their money. How many householders have had the all too frequent experience of putting one-third of their purchase in the garbage can? Inferior materials should be directed into channels where they would be used to the best advantage instead of being a milladvantage instead of being a millstone or dead weight in occupying space, increasing carrying costs in transportation and reducing the attractiveness of the superior portion of the commodity of the commodity.

In seasons of food shortage mixed

and lower grades of food products will usually sell and show a margin of profit, but when food products are abundant the more attractive grade abundant the more attractive grades sell most readily and create a want for more high-class produce, which demand frequently must be filled from the lower grade. This substitution of a low grade for a high or standard product kills the incentive to buy. Stung once, the particular purchaser consumer will hesitate to buy. They look but do not buy. buy. They look, but do not buy.

Grading Best for Perishable Foods. The amount of perishable food in and poultry pro duct classes that is now consumed while very large, is not as great as it would be under standardization. Experiences with mixed grades, poor experiences with mixed grades, poor quality and poor packing leave an impression on the mind of the average purchaser that will take some time to erase. When the perishable food product of Ontario is standardized and marketed in a way that will command the confidence of the consuming public an increased demand. suming public an increased demand is bound to follow.

The Satisfied Consumer Is an Asset. The Satisfied Consumer Is an Asset. If all the food produce offered for sale could be standardized and marketed in such a way as to develop the market for future crops much beyefit would result. Satisfied consumers of this year's product will look to the same source again next year. Consumers know or should know what they want, and if given a standardized packet of food product in exchange for their money will, if suited, go on patronizing standard products. Salesmanship has been too frequently used to sell a consumer something that he did not want, material sold with the one idea of getting rid of it and no

not want, material sold with the one idea of getting rid of it and no thought of the future.

If the farm end of the food products industry is to develop to the fullness it merits all produce grown for sale will have to be marketed through co-operative marketing organizations. Standard, honesty prepared, packed and delivered produce is the only course to pursue in deis the only course to pursue in developing a worthwhile market for form produce in our Canadian cities or abroad. Any food producing community that is without a co-operative marketing organization should consider the establishment of such. Those districts that have such should Those districts that have such should consider expansion by amalgamating with similar organizations. Standardized products, common honesty, any industry will make for success in producing and disposing of farm products.—L. Stevenson, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Toronto.

The Athens Reporter

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