

The Telephone and Farm Life

The telephone is coming to the farmhouse, says the Toronto Saturday Night, in a recent editorial, and in ten years they will be numbered in thousands. They will revolutionize farm life, change its character altogether. People will be brought together, as never before, and the isolation of the family, so trying to womankind, and from which young people so eagerly escape, will be at an end.

The lonesome farmhouse will no longer be shut off from the world, but will be linked up with the rest of the nation. The news will scatter across country, while yet it is news. The housewife can be in instant connection with her neighbor, or with her sister, five miles away. The husband, before driving to town, can ascertain what produce he can sell, and at what price, if he takes it with him. The doctor, in case of accident, can be summoned in time to save life. In short, the whole blank jungle of the socially human family against the lonely country life, will be dispelled, for they will always be with in hail of their friends far and near. It will cost more money, but it will cost, and be worth a hundred-fold more.

Bonus Scheme to Stop Exportation of Horses

At last the alarming deficiency of English horses is to be checked through the enterprise of the Board of Agriculture. A momentous decision both to the war office and the farmers of Britain was arrived at recently.

After negotiations opened in 1906, when the War Office first awoke to the national danger, the Board of Agriculture, with the support of the Treasury, agreed to give the business of building up a national reserve of horses; and their acceptance of the work constitutes the most considerable endorsement for the industry to foster the breeding of cobs and hunters in Britain.

British farms are to be the breeding ground, and British farmers are to receive a bonus for cobs of a certain age and quality. This bonus will come chiefly from a yearly contribution, "not exceeding £5,000," which the Treasury have suggested that they may be willing to supply.

According to one of the chief authorities on horse breeding, the deficiency now amounting to about 14,000 in the year's supply of horses is due to the outbidding of the Remount De-

partment of the War Office by foreign buyers. The war exhausted the supply of mares in Britain, and since then the bulk of the likely colts have been snapped up by the huge company of French, German, Belgian, and even Spanish and Italian agents, who now get their supplies from England.

The Board of Agriculture pledged themselves to stop this drain and yet keep for the farmer the benefit accruing from the sale of mares, and they will do it by giving farmers a bonus for likely colts up to a certain age. No definite mode of operation can be fixed till the new staff is in working order and until the Treasury has finally pledged itself to the grant; but it is on the method outlined above that the board intends to work.

This vital change in the policy will in all probability put an end to the Kin's premiums. These amount to an annual contribution of £4,000, which is all the money, bar a bonus to registered owners and to omnibus companies, now spent by the nation for this purpose. The premiums are given to the best thoroughbred sires, allocated to groups of districts; but the system fails because a large percentage of their progeny are carried off for foreign armies.

Concerning the Dairy Cow

Would you kindly answer the following questions in your issue and oblige?—T. M. M. Vancouver, B. C.

1.—How much feed should milk cows receive daily in the winter?

2.—Will they do as well kept in the stable as if turned to grass?

3.—Does a green crop rise on the milk of Ayreshires as quickly as on the milk of Jerseys?

4.—Is the yellow colored milk always richer than milk of a light color?

5.—Is alfalfa good feed for milking cows, or is red clover better? Is alfalfa hard on their kidneys?

1. This depends upon the size as well as the appetite of the cow. An ordinary dairy cow will consume 40 lbs. of silage, 13 lbs. of hay and from 8 to 12 lbs. of grain ration every day. This necessarily varies widely with different feeders and different cattle.

2. This will depend altogether upon conditions under which the cattle are kept. Some claim that cattle will do better when fed in the stable, but, of course, to do so, they must be fed suitable feed of a succulent nature. When stabled in the summer time, the cattle have the advantage of being free from the annoyance ordinarily caused by flies and heat.

3. This varies with the individuals. It may be taken as a general rule, however, that the cream will rise more quickly on Jersey milk than on milk from Ayreshires, the fat globules being larger in the case of Jersey milk, and hence they rise more rapidly.

4. It does not necessarily follow that because milk is rich in color that it is rich in fat. Many have been led astray on this question. The color of the milk is no true indication of the percentage of fat it contains. It does not follow that milk when rich in color is rich in butter fat.

5. Alfalfa is one of the best feeds for milking cattle. Chemically it is a much better feed than red clover. Some are opposed to alfalfa, but invariably such have not given it a fair trial. Red clover is by no means to be despised, though better results

will be obtained when feeding a first-class grade of alfalfa. Fresh alfalfa, or new alfalfa hay, sometimes has an injurious effect upon the kidneys of horses and should be fed with caution, but with cows there should be no danger whatever from this cause.

The Western Homesteader

Ed. The Dairyman and Farming World.—It might be of interest to your readers to know how one is getting along out on a western homestead, all alone. I finished wheat seeding on April 28th, and then I started breaking prairie for oats. I broke to acres, 8 acres of which I fitted up for oats, making me about 43 acres of crop, all told. Thirty-five acres of this was wheat, the remaining 8 acres being oats, which will be cut and fed in the sheaf next fall. These we do not thresh, but will feed to the oxen next summer in the sheaf form, thus letting them thresh and grind their grain. I have a stack of oat sheaves now that I am feeding and get my dinner the work fine, when fed in this way.

With the oxen I can break from one and a half to two acres a day, or an average of ten acres a week, besides digging the stone out with a strip each day at noon, large enough to keep me plowing until the next day at noon. We do not work our oxen the same hours as we would horses, as oxen require considerable time to gather their food, and chew their cud. My hours with them in the field are from six to ten in the morning, and from two to six in the afternoon. This leaves me three or four hours in the middle of the day to dig stone and get my dinner.

During the noon hour I take the stone from about a rod or a rod and a half wide along each side of the land I am plowing, throwing it over on to the plow. After the plow has been finished breaking, I then go on the plowed land, taking all the stone off. By following this method I get the stone off in a matter of always strike more or less with the plow it would necessitate an extra trip over the plowed land to clean off the stone. I always carry a pick with me on the plow, and take out all the stone that the plow strikes. I still expect to get considerable breaking done, as yet, the season is early. Last fall it was impossible to collect my wages on the work I did for a neighbor, owing to his crop being frozen. He is paying for this now by breaking on my homestead. In this way, supplemented by my own efforts, I expect to have a considerable acreage ready for next year's crop.

My crop is growing now in its first class shape. My wheat is looking fine, it being from six to eight inches high, and covering the ground. The oats are up nicely, but as they were sown on the 18th of May, they have not got as good a start as the wheat. We have had lots of rain here lately, and the weather is too cool and cloudy for grain growth. We could stand much warmer weather.—E. N. Smith, Saskatchewan.

Farmers' Institute Clubs

In a letter which has been received by Mr. Geo. A. Putnam, Supt. of Farmers' Institutes, Mr. Jas. A. Lamb, Secretary of the South Bruce Farmers' Institute, shows the possibilities of effective work along agricultural education lines, through establishing Farmers' Institute Clubs. Mr. Lamb states that the annual meeting of his institute was held on the 13th inst. and was a great success. While the attendance was not so large as in other years, the interest taken in the matter made up for the lack of numbers present.

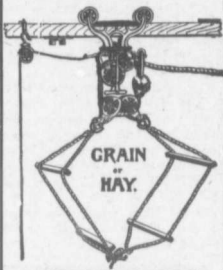
The young men took particular interest in the meeting and it is Mr.

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Lamb's opinion that it is through the formation of Farmers' Clubs that the Farmers' Institutes are going to be benefited and built up. The Farmers' Institutes are going to be a preparatory school in which young men will assemble, fit and prepare themselves for speaking and discussing subjects intelligently when called upon to do so in their institute meetings during the coming winter.

Destruction of Weeds on the Roadside

Editor, The Dairyman and Farming World: In an article, appearing in June 17th issue of The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World on the Ontario Laws affecting the spread of weeds, I made the statement that a few years since the onset of destruction weeds on the roadside was placed upon the owner or occupant of land adjoining the roadside.

Since writing this article I find that during the recent session of the Provincial Parliament the law has been changed back to what it was a few years ago. Now it is the duty of the road overseer or pathmaster to see that the weeds are destroyed. T. G. Raynor, Seed Division, Ottawa.

You should be ready to take care of your cattle so that if it does not rain the day you expect it to, you will have the feed on hand. Make a study of the feed question during 1908. D. Derbyshire, Brockville, Ont.

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