



Vol. XLVI.

LONDON, ONTARIO, AUGUST 24, 1911

No. 987

## EDITORIAL.

Got the silo up yet?

The Ontario oat crop this year runs pretty largely to bran.

In a season of drouth, blessed is the stockman who has goodly fields of alfalfa and corn.

A ground augur is a convenient means of diagnosing the spotted condition of many grain and corn fields in a season like the present.

Save all the clover seed that has a good chance of ripening. Clover seed promises to be very scarce and high in price.

Western Ontario, speaking generally, has had the driest growing season within the memory of the present generation, if not of the oldest inhabitant.

See the man who has a large field of ensilage corn smile when a feed shortage is spoken of. With his corn in the silo, the feed scarcity cry concerns him but little, except to suggest chances of buying cheap stock.

Are your haying and harvesting machines still in the last field in which they were used? It is a very poor location to preserve them, and serves to put money into the agents' and manufacturers' pockets.

How many readers have tried summer seeding of grass and clover on stubble where the "catch" failed? Every bit of experience on this point will be valuable when the results are learned. It is an exceedingly important subject.

After all, a dry season is, on the whole, preferable to an excessively wet one. When dry weather comes after a wet summer, the ground is hard and refractory, but when a long-wished rain follows a drouth, how welcome it is, and how vegetation does spring!

A phenomenal apple crop in Nova Scotia, a good one in British Columbia, and a fair one in Ontario, with some sections poor, pretty nearly summarizes the Canadian situation, based upon information available to date. Baldwins appear to have the lightest crop of any staple variety.

What are you doing to rid the farm of those weeds which have given so much trouble this year? It can be most quickly and easily accomplished by using the horses. Get the disk harrow, cultivator and plow to work as soon as possible after the fields are cleared.

Never have we observed oat-stubble land in such excellent mechanical condition as it is this summer in the neighborhood of "Weldwood." There was no heavy rain after seeding to pack the ground, to which fact, perhaps, may be attributed the surprising manner in which spring grain withstood the terribly hot, dry weather. On the other hand, fall-wheat ground, which was undisturbed in the spring, baked and checked considerably.

### Silo-Filling Methods.

The magnificent appearance of many corn fields, even in sections where the weather might almost be described as drouth, establishes more firmly than ever the reputation of this great cereal as perhaps the strongest field-crop friend of the dairyman and cattle feeder. Canadian farmers have long since proved themselves adepts as corn-growers, particularly of the flint varieties, and in favored sections, of the dent sorts, as well, which are now in general favor for silage-making, owing to their more bulky growth. But as a valued Waterloo County correspondent observes in this issue, it is not enough to grow good corn for the silo; it must be deposited there in proper condition. Last year large numbers of silos were erected, and, from personal observation and correspondence, probably as many more are now going up. The crop is maturing rapidly, and the silo-filling gangs will be at work earlier this year than usual. The subject is, therefore, timely as it is important, for everyone is extremely anxious, or should be, in this year of high-priced fodders, to make every stalk and ear count. Readers generally will therefore appreciate the valuable series of letters on corn-cutting and silo-filling, begun in last week's issue of the paper, and continued in this number. These contributions are from practical men, some of them giving the results of many years' experience, and nearly everyone presents ideas and suggestions that are worth money.

The consensus of the best practice is that corn should be well matured—much more so than was customary in the early days of the silo system. If not flinty, it should, in the case of dent corns, be dented, or when the husks and lower leaves are turning brown; in other words, when the corn is ripe enough to cut for shocking purposes. Others say cut when the kernels have reached a degree of firmness called the "glazing stage." Most of our correspondents prefer to run the risk of a little frost, rather than that the corn should lack maturity. For cutting, the corn binder is most in favor, in conjunction with low-down wagons, plenty of help, and a blower outfit. An attachment of sacks or tin pipes buckled together in sections, as described by an Oxford County man (Mr. Leuszler), in order to distribute the corn evenly as it comes from the blower pipe, is highly recommended as better than so much tramping. Where practicable, a second filling is advised, or, if that cannot be done, heap it up well, for which purpose one writer used poultry netting, and others use temporary boards. Tramping the top thoroughly for several days after filling is advised by several. Covering with straw, chaff, or sowing oats have all been tried, with more or less benefit, but about the only plan to avoid all loss at the top is to begin feeding as soon as filled, and continue till solid silage is reached, when a very little covering will protect it till regular feeding is resumed. The cost of the operation of handling the crop for the silo appears to vary from 40 cents to about \$1.00 per ton, according to circumstances.

These letters are well worth careful reading, and plans should be promptly made for the operation, so that no time will be lost when the crop is ready to harvest. That neighbors should cooperate in this work, is also made clear. They can make time by so doing, and save outlay.

### Automobile Taxation.

Correspondence on the automobile question strongly supports the view advanced editorially through "The Farmer's Advocate" in favor of increasing the taxation on motor vehicles, especially the high-power ones, and using the fund thus created to alleviate the dust nuisance, by dust-proof construction in some cases, and special palliative treatment in others. A thoughtful letter is contributed by J. B. Spencer, of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, at one time a member of this staff. After describing the injury on the excellent roads constructed by the Ottawa Improvement Commission, Mr. Spencer concludes that an annual tax of fifty dollars a year should not be considered excessive for cars propelled by motors of forty horse-power and upwards. Other writers name sums ranging from twenty-five to fifty dollars as a reasonable license fee for high-power cars. Practically all agree that the increase of taxation should be more than proportionate to the horse-power.

We hasten to correct a misapprehension as to our position, voiced by another valued correspondent, who seems to be under the impression that we advocate direct compensation to owners of property affected by dust. We quite agree with him that this would be impracticable. What we contend for is some treatment of the roads that will prevent, or at least alleviate the dust nuisance, the burden of such treatment to be contributed, not by the property-owners themselves, but by the motorists, in the form of license fees. We believe this is eminently fair. Indeed, the justice of it is conceded by automobile owners with whom we have discussed the matter.

The suggestion has been made that motor cars be restricted to a specified low rate of speed when the roads are dusty. Who would enforce such a law? Had we a proper system of salaried police, such as previously advocated through these columns, there might be hope of making such an enactment something more than a laughing-stock. Without such effective officers, it would devolve chiefly upon interested private effort, with small hope of effective regulation. As we see it, the question is one almost wholly of taxation, which, in all equity, should be high enough to cover every dollar's worth of injury done to roads, crops, and person. The distribution of the proceeds should aim at abating the dust nuisance and other ills for which this new form of locomotion is directly responsible.

### Greed-Cursed Rubber.

Fifty years ago, people knew of rubber chiefly as something to erase pencil marks. Now it is one of the most widely used of natural products, with a yearly output reported to have reached over \$400,000,000, the sole subject of a recent international exposition, and the creator of fortunes real or fictitious. But it has become an instrument of greed, and a curse trails across the industry of which people little dream as they roll along in rubber-tired vehicles, adjust the baby's bottle, or protect their feet on a wet morning. The horrors of it are almost unthinkable.

One great rubber corporation, of London, England, operates in the basin of the Putumayo River in South America, one of the tributaries of the Amazon. Two American travellers, W. E. Hardenberg and W. B. Perkins, who themselves were robbed, and narrowly escaped murder by agents of the rubber company, have given a narration of what they actually saw in that country, confirmed