

good catch of clover. His soil is described as clay loam, having been timbered with pine and hardwood.

From this statement it may be inferred that he has a soil abundantly rich in potash matter. I should judge that he can raise plenty of straw, which the potash goes so much to form. The nitrogenous and humus matter he could get through the growing of clover, providing he gets a good catch, but this is no doubt the difficulty "Veritas" confronts, and he is in the common lot with the majority of Ontario farmers.

If "Veritas" has been reading FARMING for the past year, the remedy for clover failure ought not to be hard to find. The issues of July 18th and September 5th contain some extraordinary and interesting results in producing clover by the application of Thomas-Phosphate. Large quantities have been used in this locality, chiefly for its value in wheat and clover growing, and I might refer "Veritas" to Mr. Thomas W. Shaw, Bronte, who would be pleased to report on his results.

My own personal enquiries by letter to farmers in the Maritime Provinces, as well as in Ontario, brought to me some interesting and surprising reports.

Mr. J. M. Kinnear, Sussex, N.B., in his letter in response to my enquiry, says: "I have used a considerable amount of it, and consider it an excellent application for grass and buckwheat. It will insure an excellent catch of clover, and shows good effects as a top-dressing. I notice also that the cattle when grazing on the land in the fall particularly forage around those places where the Thomas-Phosphate has been applied." This bears out Prof. Robertson's observations on the four-fold improvement of the quality and feeding capacity of a three-acre grass plot on which sheep were being fattened.

In his reply Mr. E. E. McNutt, Truro, N.S., states: "I have used Thomas-Phosphate in grain and grass, but with the very best of satisfaction in every case. My soil is sandy loam, but I never saw the like of it for grass and grain on my soil."

In using this material it is important that it should be applied in the fall or during the winter, and, if in spring, at least before the frost leaves the ground. As it is a very fine powder, and quite dry, I have found it best to use the ordinary grain seed drill, putting on about half a bag at a time on the grain-box, as it is heavy for its bulk. If the average grain seed drill is opened up as wide as it will go it will sow about two bags, or 450 pounds, of the phosphate per acre. That makes a fair dressing, especially for a clay loam soil, sufficient to last for three or four years.

W. J. THOMPSON.

Bronte, Ont., Nov. 27th, 1899.

Improving Chickens

A Criticism of Mrs. Yuills' Plan

To the Editor of FARMING:

We have heard this argument advanced before, that hens which had laid all winter could not produce eggs that would hatch strong chicks the following spring or early summer. Theory is all right, but the practical side is the best stand to take and will be found to have the dollars and cents on its side at the end of the year. We all admit that some seasons are better for hatching than others. This has been proven beyond a reasonable doubt by breeders and fanciers in every country. The season of '97, which Mrs. Yuills mentions, was a very poor one with many of our oldest breeders. This seems strange, but when reliable (experienced) men from different parts of the province report poor or fair hatches in the same season then there must be something in it. Then there is nature to be considered in the hatching of chickens as much as in raising them after they are hatched. Eggs set in March, April and May will give better results than any other time. July is usually so hot that it is almost unreasonable to expect a good hatch (especially in this the case where hens are used).

We will give you a few figures, then you can decide for yourself which pays the best. Our hens began laying about the 1st week in November. The eggs are used at home or sold to private customers, or in some cases to store-keepers at from 35 to 40c. per dozen. We commence to hatch about the 1st March. We will not give the percentage we hatched ourselves, preferring to let some of our customers speak. G. J. Lovell, manufacturer of the Economic Incubators and Brooders, hatched 42 chicks out of 47 eggs. David Nichols, Phillipsville, hatched 11 chicks out of 12 eggs. Mr. Mowat, Deer Park, hatched 100 per cent., and Mr. Fred McLeod, Toronto, hatched 10 chicks out of 12 eggs. If this is not good evidence for other people it suits us all right.

But there is one thing always to be taken into consideration, that is the strain of birds you keep. Some strains lay for a short time and then go out of the business for a while. If you keep birds like these make pie of them, or sell them for what ever you can get for them.

Then purchase stock or eggs from some reliable breeder and with a little care things will be sure to come your way. Above all things place theory in a glass case and in some corner where it is no likely to be disturbed, but always use a good share of common sense, then the very best results will surely come to you.

JAS. W. MCINTOSH, Toronto, Ont.

More About the Blower Elevator

To the Editor of FARMING:

In reply to your questions in regard to the blower elevator cutting-box for elevating ensilage into the silo, I have this to say: Our blower elevator has given good satisfaction. We use an eight-horse power in running it, and have not found the least difficulty in getting sufficient power to operate the blower and cutting-box satisfactorily. Our blower will elevate the ensilage at least thirty feet. As far as my experience goes I would say that the blower surpasses the ordinary carrier in a very large degree.

I believe our machine can be run easily by three teams of horses, and can keep three teams going drawing corn from the field. I may say that the corn when cut in this way makes very good feed for cows if it is kept in the silo air tight, and the top well covered with straw.

HUGH ROSS.

Meyersburg, Ont.

The Apple Epidemic

A Shipper Gives an Explanation

To the Editor of FARMING:

In certain sections of Ontario the fruit was affected by the long drought, which caused it to ripen prematurely before it had attained its normal size; but after the rain came it made a second growth, and this is alleged by dealers as the cause of the non-keeping quality of a considerable quantity of this year's fruit, and hence the heavy losses in the English and Continental markets that have recently been sustained by shippers of Canadian apples, together with the indiscriminate packing of some lots with the run of the orchards regardless of selections.

Again it is supposed that the heat wave and rainy weather at time of shipment was the cause. In the States, three weeks of exceptionally hot weather in October, when the best of winter stock was shipped by Michigan, New York, and Indiana growers, "cooked" the majority of the consignments so badly that cold storage could not save them from decay. It is said the total loss in the States will exceed \$1,000,000.

R. H. ASHTON.

61 Front street east, Toronto, Ont.