

Our Country Roads.

GOOD ROADS ALONG FARMS.

Years ago it was the fashion for federal, state, county and even local governments, as well as individuals, to contribute to the building of railroads. Franchise, land, money and often timber were gladly given free if only the railroad was built. Towns and cities along railways have since prospered all out of proportion to those remote from transportation convenience.

With the increase in population and town, another need is as sorely felt as was the railroad in our earlier days. Farmers find it an absolute necessity to spend considerable time on the road. With good roads the year around much valuable time may be saved, and to the farmer, if anyone, time is money. Where schools, roads and care of the poor do not fall too heavily in the way of taxes on a township, we believe that if a liberal amount is appropriated for permanent and durable road-building in those parts of a town most traveled and with poorest roads, the money would be well spent. A good road is a heap of satisfaction to a community; a poor road—well, the less said the better.

If one to five miles of highway were improved by a permanent, solid roadbed each year the increased facility for doing business would pay for it in a few years. Less-heavy and expensive wagons, harness and horses would be required, larger loads could be hauled and more quickly and safely. The value of real estate is sure to be higher on a popular, well kept roadway than where wheeling is unpleasant and a burden. And after a few miles of fine driving roads have been laid in a town and the people along the road have tidied up their places, what a popular thing a good road really is. And how the contagion grows for more!

CANADA'S BEST ROADS.

These are in the county of Hastings, Ont., where the county took charge of the main roads 20 years ago and which have been added to until about 370 miles are now controlled. The county council appropriates \$15,000 annually which includes expenditures on bridges which are expensively built of iron, concrete and stone. A superintendent of roads is employed and the roads are divided into four sections and a gang of men under a competent foreman placed over each. Whenever a section of roadway requires reconstruction or repairs it is inspected by the superintendent, from whom the foreman with his gang receive proper instructions and are sent to the place to carry out the work. While the plan was at first vigorously opposed, after a year's trial it proved so satisfactory and economical that it was continued, with the result that the added experience enables them to do the work at about one-half the first cost, and the roads are becoming better every year, owing to the careful supervision exercised and the ability to make repairs as soon as they are needed on the road. The expenditure on the county roads proper in Hastings Co., exclusive of bridges, is estimated at \$35 p mile only.

Co-operative Road Building by farmers themselves has been done with much satisfaction in a certain section of Mich., where roads are sandy and in poor condition most of the year. Five years ago, 25 farmers hauled marl from the town bed for a half mile of roadway and 20 others shoveled and leveled it. The road was so satisfactory, the next year another half mile was made. The marl packed down hard and made such an excellent bed for gravel that the farmers raised among themselves enough money to put a dressing of gravel 8 in thick over one-quarter of a mile of the road. This made an excellent walk, and the following year more money was collected and half a mile was put down. But this time only 4 in of gravel was spread over the marl. The next year another quarter-mile strip was shoveled and about half a mile of marl was put down ready for graveling next fall. As a natural consequence of the improvement in the roads more produce is now sent to the local market, and the principal town of the district has benefited so largely by the improvement that it has now offered to furnish enough gravel for a mile of road if the farmers will provide the labor to spread it.

THE AMERICAN AND FOREIGN PRODUCE MARKETS AT A GLANCE

The highest quotations of wholesale prices for standard grades of farm produce in the leading markets of the world on the dates named; poorer stuff lower.

	Boston	New York	Chicago	Cincinnati	St. Louis	Memphis	San Francisco	Monterey	London
June	20	20	20	19	19	19	19	19	19
Wheat, p bu.	—	.82	.77½	.77	—	—	11.00	.74	.86½
Corn, p bu.	.48	.45	.40	.44	.51	.45	11.15	.44	.52
Oats, p bu.	.31½	.27½	.23½	.25	.29½	.32	11.25	.31½	.45½
Rye, p bu.	.66	—	.55	.64	—	—	11.00	.64	—
Barley, p bu.	.46	.55	.45	—	—	—	1.85	.51	—
Flour, p bbl.	4.30	4.35	4.15	4.10	4.60	4.50	4.00	4.20	4.25
Cotton, mid upland, p lb.	.09½	.09½	—	.09	.09½	.09	—	—	.10½
Cattle, p 100 lbs 1 w.	6.50	5.75	5.80	5.40	5.50	4.90	4.00	—	—
Sheep, p 100 lbs 1 w.	5.50	5.40	5.25	4.50	5.00	4.50	4.00	—	—
Hog, p 100 lbs 1 w.	5.50	5.40	5.10	5.25	5.00	4.50	4.00	6.25	—
Veal calves, p 100 lbs 1 w.	6.50	7.00	7.00	6.00	5.25	5.00	6.00	—	—
Fowls, p lb, d w.	.12	.09½	.08½	.07½	.12	.12	.12	—	—
Butter, creamery, p lb.	.20	.19½	.18½	.20	.20½	.22	.20	.20	.21½
Cheese, factory, p lb.	.09	.10	.09½	.09½	.12	.12	.16	.10	.11½
Eggs, p dz.	.16	.16	.15	.16½	.10½	.10	.30	.12½	.16
Apples, p bbl.	—	3.50	5.50	—	5.50	16.00	—	—	—
Hay, p ton.	18.00	18.00	12.00	15.00	17.50	—	—	10.50	—
Straw, rye, p ton.	16.50	16.00	9.00	7.00	—	—	—	6.00	—
Hops, p lb.	.13½	.14	.13	—	—	—	.09	.13	.16½
Onions, p bu.	—	—	.60	—	.70	1.00	11.00	—	—
Potatoes, p bu.	.40	.50	.40	.47	.75	.65	11.00	.57½	—
Beef, p lb d w.	.08½	—	.06½	—	—	—	.08½	—	—
Pork, p lb d w.	.06½	.08	.06½	—	—	—	.08½	—	—
Lard, p lb.	.08	.07	.06½	.06½	.07½	.06½	.09	.10	.08½
Hides, p lb.	.08	.08½	.08	.07½	.06½	.08½	.10	.08	—

† P cental. * P dz.

Business Side of Farming.

EIGHTY-CENT WHEAT.

The central fact in the grain markets is the sharp advance in wheat owing to radical changes in crop conditions. The damage to winter wheat in O. Ind and Mich has long been known, and in the recent past there has been some misgiving over the probable yield in the southwest. Most important, however, is the manner in which spring wheat in the northwest has gone backward. Long continued drouth during late May and first half of June, particularly in N D, caused widespread damage. Trade estimates of the spring wheat crop of Minn, N D and S D have been reduced from 200 to 150 and in some instances to 100 million bu. Under bullish influences wheat advanced sharply to figures around \$6 p bu at Chicago, a gain of 7¢10c in little more than a week. At top prices there was much profit-taking and some reaction, but traders as a whole were more favorable to wheat than in a long time.

The winter wheat harvest is being pushed rapidly, but little grain has reached the market and it is impossible to form a reliable estimate of total crop. The last monthly report of the dept of agri points to further reduction in the area under winter wheat, placing this at scant 25 million a June 1, or 5 million short of what was actually sown last fall. Foreign advices have been without particular feature. Europe buying our wheat and flour in a conservative way and somewhat indifferent to price advances. Crop conditions abroad are fair, but not brilliant. World's stocks of wheat are moderate, and up to the present time there is little disposition to anticipate any shortage, millers buying only for immediate wants.

BREADTHINLIVE STOCK TRADE.

Not often is the live stock market, as a whole, more satisfactory to farmers than this summer. The big packing centers are receiving large numbers of all meat animals; the quality is generally good and the outward movement is active. Dressed meat concerns and pork packers are working to their full capacity; domestic consumption is large and the foreign outlet probably never better. Exports of live cattle are liberal and farmers are interested buyers of dressed and canned meats. The English market for American cattle is the highest in a number of years and this helps the price on the farm and at all slaughter points.

Probably no branch of the live stock trade is in more healthy position than the hog market. Farmers are selling freely, supply at all leading trade centers is unusually liberal for early summer and the quality excellent. Prices continue lively high, however, and the average for June promises to be the greatest since '93. Sheep are selling well, but prices cover a wide range owing to variable quality.

The Outlook for Coarse Grains is generally encouraging. An enormous corn acreage is insured, a seed going into the ground under good weather conditions. The oats crop has developed well and the coming harvest promises to prove bountiful. This is substantial-

ly the case with rye and barley under liberal acreage and favorable conditions. In certain states where winter wheat failed, rye sown at same time and under same conditions promises little short of an average crop.

Wool Slightly Steadier—After a continued period of depression, a little more inquiry is noted and wool dealers hope for some recovery from the price reaction. London wool sales have been slow and dragging, and back of all must be recognized the disturbance in European industrial circles over the political situation in the far east. Statistically, wool is considered well worth present prices. Recent transactions in the eastern markets have been made up largely of territory and Cal wools.

Firm Dairy Markets are the rule with a good demand for butter and cheese. Owners of cold storage warehouses are buying choice creamery butter to place in refrigerators and this results in moderate activity. Cheese is in fair request in such manufacturing centers as N Y, Vt and Wis.

Sugar Beets—C. W. M., Col: There is no beet sugar factory at Des Moines, Ia, but one is probable in that section at an early date. At the factories in Mich farmers received \$4 to 4.50 p ton for 12 per cent beets.

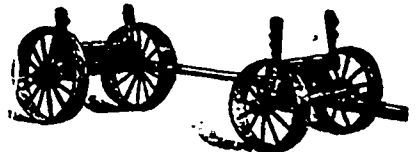
Barley Acreage is substantially the same as that of last year. California has nearly 40 per cent of the total, showing a slight increase over last year and there is some gain in Kan. The condition of the crop at the opening of June was high in the west and good in such eastern states as N Y and Pa.

The Area Under Cotton is estimated by the dept of agri at 25,558,000 a, an increase of 2,036,000 a, or 8.7 per cent over the productive area last year. The average condition at the opening of June was \$2.5 compared with \$5.7 one year ago and \$7.1 the mean of the June averages of the last 10 years.

Iron Prices Lower—The manufacturers of structural iron and steel have reduced the price \$7 p ton and it is expected this will stimulate the building trades. Structural steel, which has been held at 45 p ton at Pittsburgh, is now 38.

Farm Wagon only \$21.95.

In order to introduce their Low Metal Wheels with Wide Tires, the Empire Manufacturing Company, Quincy, Ill., have placed upon the market a Farmer's Handy Wagon that is only 25 inches high, a wheel with 24 and 30 inch wheels with 4 inch tire, and sold for only \$21.95.



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