

### Likes Carbide-feed Machine.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I am afraid that "Farmer's Wife" pays a very high price for illumination, if she can only average two lights on \$10 worth of carbide. We have seventeen lights in the house, and average about four an evening, unless something special is doing. The gas is also used in the bedrooms, and, in the winter time, the bathroom and kitchen have to be lighted in the morning, as well. No coal oil is used at all, except in the stable lantern and incubator. Two large stores in the town, one a hardware, and the other dry-goods, use the same make of generator that I have, and their light costs them from \$40 to \$45 a year, and they average from twelve to sixteen lights. The electric-light bill that both these stores paid formerly was over \$80 each. My machine is a carbide-feed, using the grade known as pea size, which retails here at \$3.50 per 100 pounds. All the water-freely machines that I have examined have been extremely wasteful of carbide, and some very dangerous in construction. If "Farmer's Wife" were to change her machine for a more up-to-date generator, in two years' time she would save the price of it, and also get twice as much value for her money as she is now getting. J. B. T. Huron Co., Ont.

### Dragging in the Mud.

Have a split-log drag ready to go on the roads whenever the frost comes out and mud appears. Do not wait till the roads dry. More can be accomplished in shaping the crown when the mud is still quite soft. Dragging in the sloppy mud will help to restore the crown, smooth the road, hasten drying, and, if not cut up immediately after, will tend to produce a hard, oval crown. A day with the drag in early spring will often do more than a day with the grader in May or June, and at but a fraction of the cost. There are on most soils three stages of mud. The first is when the roads are sloppy-wet. At this stage the drag does its best work, providing the surface has a few hours to dry before being cut up again by traffic. The second is when the mud reaches a waxy, sticky condition, in which it is impracticable to work the drag. The third is when the road is becoming a little mellow, and when the drag will again pass over it smoothly, leaving a nice, even surface. For general work, most draggers prefer this stage, but for early spring use, it is well to snatch opportunity by the forelock and drag as much of the road as practicable in the "lob-lolly" state. This helps the road to dry much faster than if the water were left to evaporate from ruts, pitch-holes and footprints, and when a rain comes the water is shed quickly to the ditch.

### 240 Gallons Syrup from 400 Trees.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

You have asked me for some information in regard to sugar-making. I will describe as nearly as possible our proceedings of last year. In the fall of 1907 we put in an evaporator, with capacity supposed to be large enough to boil the sap from 500 trees. Over the evaporator we erected a shanty, 18 x 20 ft., with a lean-to, under which we placed the storage tank, which held about 20 barrels. Our bush lies on the side of a hill, which is quite an advantage in building an evaporator, as it saves the trouble of building up a driveway, since the storage tank must be placed high enough so that the bottom is a few inches higher than top of evaporator. A driveway is necessary to get the gathering tank up high enough to run from the bottom, by way of gas pipe into storage tank. The picture of the building will explain itself pretty much. We used boards off an old board fence. On the top we made a ventilator 10 x 4 x 4 ft., with doors at either side for the steam to escape through.

Last spring we started to tap on March 12th. At that time the snow was quite deep in the bush. The sap ran well for two days, and then we did not have any more for about a week, when sugar making commenced in earnest, with sunny days and frosty nights—the kind of weather that is hard on the fall wheat. By this time we had about 400 trees tapped. Our bush lies on the west and east side of the Avon River, near St. Mary's, South Perth, so that the part lying to the east gets the morning sun, and the part lying to the west gets the evening sun; therefore, the sap runs early and late in the day. We keep covers on all the pails to keep out rain and leaves. In the busy part of the season, we try to gather sap twice a day. The sap is strained three times—first when it is put in gathering tank, next when it is put into storage tank, and then when it empties into evaporator.

We boiled on an average of 12 gallons a day for the twenty days we boiled. Of course, some days we did not boil that much; one day we boiled fifteen gallons. We like to take off about one gallon an hour; the sooner it is boiled from sap into syrup, the better the quality of the syrup.

The storage tank we placed outside of main building, in part by itself, so as to keep sap cool and sweet, and is carried to evaporator by way of pipe, which is regulated by float in evaporator; and the more quickly the sap boils away, the faster it runs in; the sap in pans is supposed to be about half an inch deep. To do good work, a man must be constantly with it, and have good dry wood or soft coal. We used mostly old rails. To carry on a syrup-making business with 400 trees, it requires the help of two men, and sometimes three, in the busy part of the season. We have gathered as high as sixteen barrels of sap in one day. The syrup was sold for \$1.40 per gallon. Of course, some people got more, but that was our price.

Perth Co., Ont.

A. MOUNTAIN.

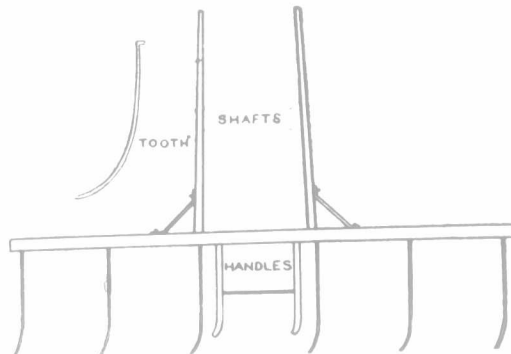


Modern Sugar-making Outfit.

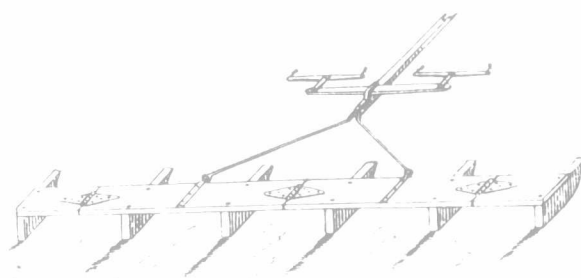
Belonging to A. Mountain, Perth County, Ontario.

### Markers for Corn Planting.

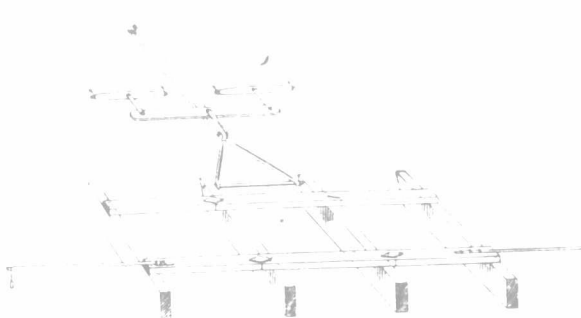
A correspondent recently asked for suggestions on making a handy marker for use in planting corn. From time to time, descriptions and illustrations of different styles of homemade markers have appeared in "The Farmer's Advocate." The important requirements are speed and exactness. Three illustrations are given. In each case the markers can be made the desired distances apart. No. 1 is light, but not so true and steady-running as the sled style. No. 2



No. 1.—Handy One-horse Marker.



No. 2.—Folding Two-horse Marker.



No. 3.—Two-horse Marker, with side trailers for guides.

can be folded when not in use. In either of these only five rows will be marked, although there are six markers. One will follow the outside mark already made. The outer runners can be folded up when turning. No. 3, while having only four runners, marks four rows each time, because of the addition of tracers extending on the

sides to serve as guides. This, too, may be folded in turning. Perhaps some of our readers have something better to offer.

### Re Acetylene Lighting.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Have used acetylene gas light in our house for fifteen months, and in that time have used 450 lbs. carbide, at 3½ cents per pound=\$15.75, which is a large amount, as the first 100 lbs. went very quickly, owing to inexperience. Have a 25-light machine, with 18 lights in house. Have not an oil lamp in house. The light is unexcelled, and is out of reach of children. Am well satisfied with it. The generator is one with the carbide dropping in the water. P. C. Essex Co., Ont.

## THE DAIRY.

### P. E. I. Dairymen's Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Prince Edward Island Dairymen's Association was held in the Agricultural Room of the Prince of Wales College, commencing Wednesday, the 25th of February. There was a fair attendance of dairymen present. Harvey Mitchell, of the Dominion Dairy Branch, was also present, and added to the interest of the meeting by his lucid discussions of the different problems that confront our dairy interests.

The financial statement of the Secretary showed a very small balance on hand, and also noted the inability of the association to carry on any educative work in dairying for want of funds.

The Secretary's report on the output of the dairy stations for the year was encouraging, and, in comparison with last year, showed an increase, notwithstanding that three cheese factories remained closed during last season. The following figures will show our gain for the year:

	Lbs.
Milk supplied for cheese, 1907.....	24,423,349
Milk supplied for cheese, 1908.....	26,292,535
Increase .....	1,869,186
Milk supplied for butter, 1907.....	8,217,134
Milk supplied for butter, 1908.....	9,367,522
Increase .....	1,150,388
Which shows an increase of milk supplied to the dairy stations for cheese and butter in 1908 of 3,019,574 lbs. The gross value of the output of the cheese factories for the past season was.....	\$301,212.24
An increase of .....	24,372.59
Of butter for past season.....	102,335.17
An increase over 1907 of .....	14,459.74
The net average return to the factory patron for 1907 was .....	\$ 74.14
And for 1908 .....	89.61
An increase of .....	\$ 15.47
The average of milk supplied per patron in 1907 .....	8,518 lbs.
The average of milk supplied per patron in 1908 .....	10,139 lbs.
An increase for 1908 of .....	1,621 lbs.

It will be seen from these figures that though patrons of factories have decreased to the number of 315, the average per patron has shown a fair increase.

Dairying is steadily gaining in Prince Edward Island the last few years, and though some factories have closed for want of support, others that are well located are increasing their business, and the outlook at present is hopeful.

Mr. Mitchell, in the course of an address, said that the great want of it was more milk. We had splendid factories, up-to-date plants, and could double our output without any more expense if we had only enough of the raw material.

A very interesting discussion took place on the testing of milk, and the variations of the test at different times and under different conditions was explained.

A very animated discussion took place on the "Hand Separator," which is being sold here now to considerable extent, some dairymen contending that it will hurt the dairy business, and others that it will be a help, especially in our winter buttermaking. But the separator men are going right along, and the best thing for dairymen to do is to adjust their business to the change which is fast coming on them, and make an effort to educate milk producers in caring for cream properly, and to observe cleanliness in the use of the separator.

J. A. Dewar, of New Perth, read a very instructive paper on "Dairying a Specialty for P.