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FARM AND DAIRY

RURAL HOME

FORMERLY THE CANADIAN DAIRYMAN AND FARMING WORLD

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HOME-MADE LIGHTNING RODS AND HOW TO MAKE THEM

By Glendinning, Ontario County, Ont.

A Lightning Rod can be Made at Home that Will Do the Work of More Expensive Rods Sold by Agents. Their Cost is Small.—They Have Proved Themselves to be Efficient.

LIGHTNING takes annually a heavy toll from farmers. After every storm, reports come to hand of farm buildings being destroyed. The bulk of this property could be saved from destruction by putting proper lightning conductors on our buildings. These can be put on at a cost of only a few dollars. It is not necessary to purchase the expensive rods manufactured by some city firm that has to give an insurance policy as a premium to make a sale. Lightning conductors can be made at home and put up by any handy man at a cost of from \$2.00 to \$10.00.

TO MAKE THE RODS.

Take two strands of No. 12 soft galvanized iron wire and wind them together to make a cable; such will make an excellent rod. Before twisting the wire to make the rod, cut it to a length about one-fifth longer than the length the rod has to be when finished. Take a piece of board about a foot long. Bore ten $\frac{3}{8}$ inch holes through it. Run a wire through each hole. Then attach the wires to the spokes of a wagon wheel that has been jacked up. The piece of board should be left close to the hub of the wheel. Attach the other ends of the wires to stakes set in the ground, the stakes to be the full length of the wire from the wheel. The wires should be spread in order to keep them from tangling when being twisted.

TWISTING THE CABLE.

When all is ready one man takes hold of the board and pulls it back while another turns the wagon wheel, and in this way a cable is made. The closeness of the cable depends upon the man with the board. The cable should not be twisted too tightly as it will have greater conducting power if made somewhat loose. The wagon will have to be moved, as the wires shorten by twisting.

When the wire is all twisted, chop the wires off the wheel and sharpen the points, wind a piece of wire tightly around the cable about six inches from the end. Spread out the sharpened

wires to form a rosette, and the rod is ready for erection.

ERECTING THE ROD.

The rod should extend along the whole ridge of the building and have points standing well up at different parts of the roof. The other end of the rod should go deep down into the ground so as to come in contact with the moist earth during the driest time of the year. If there are underground water pipes in connection with a water system, the wires should be attached to them,

or glass balls near the points. They are only ornamental. The points erected above the ridge can be held up by using a small scantling which must be properly braced. The rod should be fastened to the roof with ordinary iron staples.

ITS EFFICIENCY PROVED.

The writer has his buildings protected by rods made as herein described. Some years ago, during a heavy thunder storm, a number of men took shelter in the barn; a heavy crash occurred and they thought the barn was struck. Upon investigation they found a log that was laying against the rod had the bark stripped from it, thus showing that a bolt had been carried off. In all probability the rod saved the barn from destruction at that time.

DESTRUCTION ON THE INCREASE.

Losses from lightning seem to be on the increase owing, perhaps, in the first place to a less number of tall trees than we formerly had, which carried off much of the electric current. Another factor that has led to loss of buildings is the stone and cement basements to barns, these walls being non-conductors. We frequently have evidence of barns being struck by lightning, and being but slightly injured, when they stand on cedar posts. There is no doubt but that many buildings are struck without any person being aware of it. This is particularly true of dwellings owing to their having conductors in the form of wet roofs and eave troughs that carry the current to the ground.



A Method of Making Hay that is Rapidly Becoming Obsolete

At one time it was thought that good hay could not be made except it be colled. Years of experience with the side delivery rake and hay loader have shown colling to be quite unnecessary. Mr. J. K. Moore of Peterboro Co., Ont., said recently to an editorial representative of Farm and Dairy, who called at his place, that he made better hay by use of his loader and side delivery rake than he ever made before, and that he would not be without his loader if he had to buy a new one every second or third year.

or they may be carried to a well. Water is the best conductor. When we connect an electric wire with running water or a living spring we have made a connection with all of the great bodies of water on the earth. If there is a windmill on the barn there should be a wire connecting it with the rod. Wires running across the roof from one eave trough to the other at each end of the barn and crossing the cable on the ridge, make excellent conductors, provided there are ground wires attached to the eave trough spouts.

GOOD USE FOR OLD WIRE.

On many farms there is a supply of old barbed and buckthorn fence wire that the farmer does not know how to get rid of. These make excellent conductors. There is no necessity for glass in-

Outfit for Spraying Potatoes

S. A. Northcott, Ontario Co., Ont.

It goes without saying, at least with those who have tried it, that it pays to spray potatoes. In spite of the known benefits of spraying and the facilities that are at hand for applying the Bordeaux mixture, many continue year after year to allow the blight to claim a large percentage of their crop. There are few indeed who do not make some effort to check the potato beetle (bug); but the poison when applied in the usual way by means of a sawed-off broom or a bunch of twisted hay, costs much in labor and is often ineffective. Where a spraying machine is made use of poison for the bugs can be applied, along with the Bord-