

## LIGHTNING AND LIGHTNING RODS.

After most careful inquiries and many special investigations, Fire Marshal Heaton, of Ontario, is in a position to state definitely that in no instance has lightning caused fire to a barn, which was equipped with lightning rods. Ontario, through the instrumentality of Prof. W. H. Day, of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, pioneered the way in standardizing lightning rod equipments. The following recommendations are of particular interests at this time, where every loss of foodstuffs stored in farmers' barns is a serious matter, and local agents can render good service by drawing attention to these recommendations where it is desirable.

### How to Make Emergency Lightning Rods.

An emergency lightning rod can be constructed from any wire found about the farm. Barbed fence wires, guy wires, baling wires, woven fence wires, clothes line, anything of continuity and of metal laid over the building crosswise or lengthwise, or both, so long as it is over the building at its highest point, and carried to the ground and there connected to any kind of metal rod, one-quarter inch or more in size, driven into the ground three feet or more to permanent moisture, will provide such emergency lightning rod, and will last for two or three years until the wire begins to rust out. Never mind about the high points and glistening ornaments. Insulators also are unnecessary.

The ground rods can be made of old brace rods, end gate rods, or of iron pipe found around the farm. The important part is to get the wire grounded in permanent moist earth. The connection of the wire to the ground rod can be made by wrapping the wire around the rod securely.

If you have no rods three feet or more in length, shorter ones can be used by digging a hole part of the way, then drive the bolt or rod to permanent moisture, wrap the wire around same and make a rough box to cover the wire that is underground.

### Erection of the Rod.

Directions for erecting the emergency lightning rod: It is important that the wire should extend to the highest portion of the building, either along the ridge, or to the top of the cupola, if there is one, thence running to and terminating at the ground where it is attached to ground rods. It will be necessary to fasten this wire to the ridge of the roof with staples, in order to keep

the wind from blowing it down. This wire is likewise grounded at the four corners of the building.

Even greater protection may be afforded by twisting the wire so that it will stand upright from the roof about one foot in the air, at each end of the ridge, although this is not absolutely necessary.

Material to be used: If new wire has to be purchased, No. 8 gauge galvanized wire is desirable. No. 16 wire twisted in a strand may be used. If barbed wire is used at any place on the building, it is preferable to place it on the ridge, or top of the roof.

The emergency lightning rod here outlined is only designed for what it purports to be, an emergency protection. If standard copper or iron rods can be provided, all the better. But in these times of great necessity, all farmers should provide at least this emergency wire protection from lightning losses. These losses are scandalous because so easily prevented.

## MR. MEUNIER RETURNS FROM FRANCE.

Mr. Theo. Meunier, managing director, British Colonial Fire Insurance Company, Montreal, has returned to the City after an absence of two months visiting France and Switzerland in the interests of his Company. Mr. Meunier was in Paris during two enemy air raids. He states that while some material damage was done and a few lives lost, the people were not seriously alarmed. He found business generally in Paris very brisk and money plentiful. There has been considerable expansion in the business of insurance, especially the fire and marine branches. Several re-insurance Companies, with ample capital, fully paid up, have been recently formed, to replace foreign treaty Companies. In this connection reference might specially be drawn to the Compagnie Française de Re-Assurances Generales and also Le Vulcan Compagnie de Re-Assurances both of Paris.

Mr. Meunier was afforded the opportunity while in Paris of hearing important financial men and others discuss the war problem. These men, he states, are in no way seriously disturbed about recent news from the front, but are most optimistic in their views about final victory for France and her allies.

Up to date, the war claims of the Prudential, the great English industrial office, total over \$17,250,000.

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19,524,300.00  
\$53,423,600.00  
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