

Wayside Cleanings

By W. G. Orvis, Field Representative, Farm and Dairy.

Untilled Land

UPPERMOST in everyone's mind is the great war and the many things that pertain to it. The average person, however, only thinks of the results at the front, the ads are in recruiting and the casualty list—important, all of them. Mr. G. F. Carlisle, York Co., Ont., pointed out something else to me when I visited him recently, which threatens to be equally, if not more, important than the three things mentioned above. He made this statement: "There are at least a dozen farms of which I know in my own district that are untenanted this fall."

To every thinking man and woman this is significant. For how can Canada hold out under the strain of war, high cost of living and deranged labor conditions, if her basic industry is neglected? With the shortage of foodstuffs prevalent at the present, how can we dare allow such tracts of land to remain unproductive? When we enquire into the cause of the tenants leaving the farms, we get the answer that rents were too high, wages too big and labor too scarce. Two of these things under present conditions cannot be remedied, but the one of rents in many cases could. Some landlords may be dependent upon the rental of their land for a living, but a great many are not. Even if all were, in some measure, in need of this annual income, it would be much better to have the land judiciously cropped at a lower rent than to be idle and run to weeds and waste. Under the present conditions the landlord, instead of receiving a percentage on his investment, will be required to pay taxes and upkeep as usual upon a farm that is depreciating in value from year to year. Where does loyalty and patriotism come in with this problem?

A Clothes' Drier.

The womenfolk of the home often-times complain of their lack of labor savers and other conveniences. I am willing to admit that in many ways their complaints are well founded. There are many simple little devices that would save much labor and decrease the amount of worry for the busy housewife if they were only installed. The singular thing about many of these also is their small cost. In the home of Mr. O. D. Bales, York Co., Ont., is an ingenious apparatus for drying clothes. It is very simple, yet effective. A good, strong strip, about 12 feet long and three inches wide and two inches thick, is suspended from the ceiling of the kitchen with ropes. These ropes run through pulleys that are fastened to the joist of the upper floor and are carried down to a door casing, where they are fastened in safe fashion to an iron stay. When clothes are to be dried, the pole or board is lowered, the garments placed over it, and then the whole thing hoisted up to the ceiling, out of everyone's way, and where the moist heat is to be found. It is simple, easy to construct, cheap and out of the way, but it does the job.

Beans.

I was sitting in a country store, waiting for a car, and a lady came in to do some shopping. "What is the price of beans?" she asked the clerk. "Only 15 cents a pound," was his reply. There then followed a heated discourse upon the advance in price of all foodstuffs, beans in particular. The prospective buyer told of times

when she had purchased this commodity for five cents for 16 ounces, and better quality of goods than those then on sale.

What is the matter with the bean business? The labor problem, I suppose, affects their production as well as anything else. Would it not pay even on a small scale to grow them if they can be sold at the price quoted above? It is almost as good a price as some of us have received for such products as clover seed, etc. The question the city and town man asks is, "How can I live and pay such prices?"

Pigs Are Not Pigs.

Not long ago there was a short article in these columns declaring that pigs were pigs. Now, things have come to the other extreme, and again we are dissatisfied. We were told by farmers living near Newmarket, York Co., Ont., who had young pigs for sale, that they could hardly dispose of them at any price. A goodly number of them have changed hands at as low a price as \$2 a pair in that vicinity. Upon enquiring into the cause of this I was told that feed was so scarce that farmers could not see where the grain could be had to fatten them. Milk is so very scarce and high that there would be no profit in it anyway. Will pork get any cheaper if this condition is true all over the province? It is hardly likely, and, as happened before, there may be a great scarcity of it in a few months. The farmer faces problems as truly gigantic as any other class of men in Canada and usually receives little sympathy and assistance from these classes.

An Elevated Granary

MR. L. H. NEWMAN, secretary of the Seed Growers' Association, has a farm in Grenville, Co. Ont., where he practices many of the farming methods advocated through that association. An elevated granary in the now and up-to-date barn bears evidence of much thought to gain convenience and to save labor in work about the buildings. This granary is really a number of bins, built above the ordinary granary. These bins have a hopper-shaped bottom, and are connected with the granary below by a chute controlled by a slide. If a bag of grain is needed, the bag is attached to this chute, the slide pulled out, and the grain forced by its own weight into the bag. The feed grinder is located in the lower granary and fed from one of the bins above. This saves much heavy-handling, and is also a time-saver. When looking at this granary, my first thought was, how could the grain be elevated into these bins. We have a type of thresher in some sections that has an attachment for blowing grain similar to that of the straw blower. With a machine like this, all the grain can be placed in the bins at the time of threshing. There may be many granaries that could be remodelled after this pattern so that they would give equally as good service as the one found on this farm.

There is one place where oil cake will always take first place, that is in the feeding of animals, either beef or dairy, for the show ring. Practically all showmen are advocates of oil-cake meal, as it gives the animal handling qualities—good quality fleshing and a mellow hide. For instance, Mr. Geo. Guthrie, of Dundee, Ont., who captured first prize on one-year-old fat calf at the Guelph Stock Show, told us that he had fed oil cake meal from shortly after the time it was born, right up to show time. Other successful exhibitors could probably tell a similar story.

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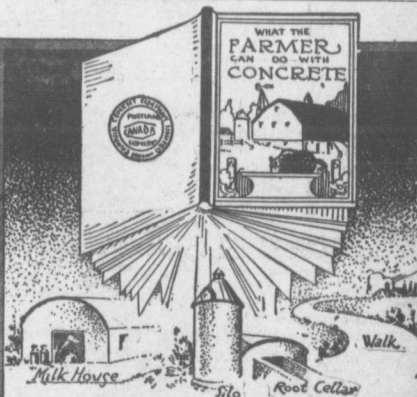
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