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RURAL DELIVERY.

In winter, when the tempests rage I sit in my upholstered cage, before a cheery blaze, and think about the postmen bold who, in the blizzard raw and cold, undaunted go their ways. I see them as from town they go, to journey thirty miles or so, o'er beastly country roads, and wish I had J. Milton's lyre that I might sing, with proper fire, some eulogistic odes. When wintry tempest rips and tears, we snuggle down in cosy chairs, and read detective tales; but on his route the postman goes, and faces every wind that blows, and all the tinhorn gales. Through every kind of misfit storm, while others back in houses warm, the postman has to chase; the sleet is made of frozen rain, and where it hits it leaves a pain—all day it swats his face. The snow lands on him by the peck, the rain is running down his neck, Dame Nature's maudlin tears; still, still he drives through mud and sleet; his shoes are full of frozen feet, and slush is in his ears. He earns a hundred bones a day; alas, alas, his meagre pay deserves the country's scorn; his children cry in vain for pie, for he has just enough to buy his pony hay and corn.

TOO MANY SHAVES.

A doctor who had been called in to see a patient strongly impressed upon him the necessity of drinking hot water with his whisky. "Otherwise," he said, "you must not take it at all." "But how shall I get the hot water?" plaintively inquired the patient. "My wife won't let me have it for the whisky." "Well, tell her you want it to shave," answered the doctor as he took his departure. The next day the doctor called again, and when the wife opened the door he asked how his patient was. "I'm awfully worried, doctor," was the reply. "I'm afraid he's gone raving mad. He shaves every ten minutes."

FARMS AND FARMING

Although under this great problem, factors such as the improvement and management of suitable crops, combined with irrigation or drainage, and a suitable crop rotation, according to Bulletin No. 48 of the Government of Saskatchewan (Department of Agriculture) tillage is the greatest means at man's disposal for controlling the conditions that are at the present time causing the low yield on the farms of Western Canada. It is also, by far, the largest single item on the cost side of the crop account.

The following observations have been deduced from a series of experiments which have been conducted by Professor John Bracken:

1. To store moisture in the soil—as by deep plowing, early in the rainy season.
2. To conserve moisture in the soil—as by maintaining a granular mulch on the surface by means of surface cultivation.

3. To facilitate the movement of moisture in the soil, as by firming loose soils and loosening hard ones.

4. To modify soil temperature—as by lessening evaporation and by firming the soil over the seed.

5. To increase the earliness of a crop—as by packing, storing less moisture, and developing less available plant food.

6. To increase or decrease the air content of soils—as by loosening hard soils and firming loose ones.

7. To develop available plant food—as by modifying the heat, moisture and air content of the soil.

8. To kill native grasses and shrubs—as by plowing in a dry time.

9. To control weeds—as by surface cultivation, to expose the roots to the sun and wind.

10. To control soil drifting—as by the practice of shallow ridging and the use of the granular mulch.

11. To dispose of rubbish and cause its decay—as by plowing.

The following tabulated results are also of great interest and deserving of careful thought:

Influence of different methods of tilling the Fallow on the yield of Wheat:

	BLS.	LBS.
Double disced before plowing	38	37
No cultivation before plowing ...	37	23
Plowed July 15th	33	31
Plowed twice	33	19
Pasture crop on fallow	31	3
(When not otherwise stated the land was surface cultivated before plowing.)		
Plowed June 15th and later cultivated enough to control weed growth.)		

The Influence of time of breaking on the yield of Wheat:

DATE.	BLS.	LBS.
June 10th	36	45
July 10th	33	57
August 10th	28	40
September 10th	23	22
April	21	27

The Wheat yield on stubble land (average for 5 years, 1911-16):

	BLS.	LBS.
No cultivation grassy stubble ...	11	36
No cultivation clean stubble.....	17	59.
Surface cultivation	22	25½
Burned and surface cultivated ...	22	49
Deep fall plowing	22	53½
Shallow Spring plowing	23	17½
Deep Spring plowing	23	18
Shallow Fall plowing	23	37
		C.A.G.

* * *

Prof. W. H. Day, B.A., head of the Department at the Ontario Agricultural College, is resigning from his post. This was not supposed to take place until March 1st. He will remain in Guelph as secretary and manager of the Shinn Manufacturing Co., of Canada, with offices and factory at Guelph.

* * *

FROM FARM TO MARKET.

The Hon. J. A. Calder, Canadian Minister of Agriculture, has informed the Agricultural Committee that £10,000 would be placed in the supplementary estimates to establish a system of regular inspection of herds for tuberculosis, and the award of certificates for herds free from the disease. The Minister also stated that it has been arranged to appropriate £200,000 for the erection of an up-to-date cold storage plant on the water front at Montreal. He said there were 140 cold storage plants in the Dominion, but many were not up to date. The system would be completed from the farm to the markets of the world. That means a good refrigerator service from the farm to the harbour front, and good refrigerator space on ocean-going vessels.

* * *

IMPROVING THE WHEAT CROP.

A new wheat named "Ruby" is reported to have been cultivated at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. It is a selection from the result of a cross between Downing Riga and Red Fife. Ruby wheat ripens, as a rule, a week or so earlier than Marquis. The kernels are somewhat similar to those of Red Fife, being hard and of the popular reddish-brown colour. The straw in most localities is shorter than Marquis, and of good strength.

* * *

THE FOREST WEALTH OF CANADA.

At the Conference of the Canadian Forestry Association held at Montreal, it was resolved that permission be obtained to make an accurate survey of all standing timber in Canada, showing the various kinds of lumber and its quality, location and accessibility, together with available means of transport to the nearest market, also a report of all cut-over lands which are suitable only for forest growth, with the extent and situation of same. This information, it is considered, would be of the utmost value, not only to lumber operators but to the Dominion and Provincial Governments, enabling them to develop to the full extent a permanent forest policy which would have the effect of conserving the great natural resources contained in Canada's forests.