

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL.

Infertile eggs are preferable to fertile ones for storing. Pen up or eat the rooster.

There is no scenery anywhere to compare with a well-farmed countryside in June.

One noxious weed allowed to seed may result in several thousand weeds next year. Know the bad weeds and swat them early.

Now that corn planting is finished the cultivator should be kept going to keep down the weeds. Once a week is not too often.

Patrons of cheese factories should ask themselves whether the local cheese board is the best medium that can be devised for the marketing of cheese.

There is every reason for believing that a much better quality of cheese would result from a more general introduction of co-operative cheese factories.

Some exceptionally fine fields of red clover and alfalfa were seen in the County of Lambton a few days ago. Lambton is strong on fall wheat and clover.

In spite of the fact that underdrainage now costs in the neighborhood of \$50 per acre, a good deal of land is being drained this year where a supply of tile can be obtained.

Up to April 30 the Agricultural Branch of the Soldier Settlement Board had received 51,877 applications for qualification certificates from the different provinces.

Unless you are keeping the male bird for breeding purposes next year, he will serve a better purpose by being consigned to the pot than to be allowed to run with the flock.

The prospects for a fruit crop seem good except for strawberries and possibly raspberries. The price of sugar, however, will be the thorn in the flesh of the fruit grower this year.

The trustees and ratepayers of the rural school fair districts should begin to boost now for the school fair that will be held in the fall. Get behind it with your support and encourage the children.

When doing the roadwork see that the ditches are cleaned out. Of what use is it to pile gravel on the road and then roll sods into the ditch to dam back the water and soften the road foundation?

Anyone who has not seen the good farming districts of Western Ontario should not miss the opportunity this month. There is nothing finer anywhere than some of the townships we have seen during the last two weeks.

Some of the steers that are on grass in Western Ontario were bought at big prices, but the quality of the animals one sees through the country is perhaps better than usual. More rains are needed to bring along the pasture.

Too much attention should not be paid to the anti-Canadian talk that is so common in the United States just now. This is merely the pre-election seduction of anti-British votes, and represents nothing but party politics. The thing for us to do is to discount it 99 per cent. and saw wood.

### Cheese Boards.

With the development of dairying in Canada, and the opening up of new markets for dairy products, the problem of successful marketing must become more acute as time goes on or until the dairymen succeed in organizing a co-operative marketing service which will do for the producing industry as a whole what has been done up to the present for the producers to each branch of the industry. For many years the producers of milk for cheese making have secured a market largely through the medium of cheese boards, which are referred to in an article in this issue, and in principle at least correspond to local auction boards. The cheese factories in each district have organized after the manner of a board of trade and hold regular meetings throughout the cheese season in some convenient centre, at which salesmen and buyers congregate and the cheese offered by each factory is boarded and offered at auction. The salesmen are appointees of the owners or patrons of factories and receive a small seasonal fee or salary, while the buyers are, for the most part at least, representatives of the large cheese and produce dealers. These boards have in the past possessed the advantage of bringing those who operate in the world's markets practically to the door of the factory, while at the same time making it possible for the cheese of a particular district to develop a reputation for excellence that was sometimes reflected in a somewhat higher price for the offerings on that particular board.

From a local standpoint it cannot be denied that such advantages deserve consideration, but at the same time it is equally true that they can lead and have actually led to far weightier disadvantages. A 100-ton factory utilizes in the neighborhood of 2,000,000 pounds of milk per season and carries on a business of at least \$50,000. With a business of this size multiplied hundreds of times over the Province of Ontario alone, it is extremely doubtful whether a large number of cheese boards can dispose of the make to the dealer to the best advantage. There is no particular economy in the system that requires from twenty to fifty or more men to meet once every week or two in order to dispose of a few hundred or thousand boxes of cheese each time. The dealers must have their buyers on the road attending these board meetings and unless several factories combine to secure the services of a single salesman, someone must represent each factory.

Modern business methods would seem to demand a more efficient method of selling even were it not for certain evils which have developed. These evils are many and varied, although they are not all common to all boards. The chief one perhaps is the fact that a great deal of the cheese is not sold on the board at all, but is sold on the street afterwards. Some salesmen recognize the fact that bidding on the board may degenerate into a farce and board their cheese solely for the purpose of letting the buyers know what they have to offer. They know that the boarding of cheese is a game that the buyers often play for all it is worth, and that unless a buyer wants cheese badly or is anxious to set a high price for his competitors, he will rarely bid his best price in open competition. A recent example of this is the case of one board in Western Ontario where bidding stopped at 26½ cents with no sales. Afterward, however, 29 cents was paid on the street for the offerings of several factories. This is not bringing the world's market to the factory by any means, so far as the cheese board is concerned and in such cases the board degenerates into a mere excuse for buyer and salesman to come together. Another disadvantage of the Board is that the cheese of individual factories is not sold on a quality basis, particularly in the case of the smaller factories or the large combinations. The board should be replaced by a more competitive market and one where the sale of a factory's output would be more of a business and less of a game. From the

standpoint of the industry at large the co-operative sale of a graded product by auction at some large market centre like Montreal would be far more preferable.

### Independence.

A correspondent in this issue calls attention to what he considers to be the danger of a too-independent spirit on the part of farmers. Certainly the sentiments to which he makes reference near the first of his letter are not uncommon, but at the same time it will not do for us to become too impatient of the progress that is being made. Looking back over the history of Canadian agriculture as far as we may, it is quite easy to see that a certain independence and security against hunger have been the chief joys of farming from the material viewpoint, and even in these times the thought that the farmer will be the last to go hungry is no mean consolation. But consoling thoughts are after all only the brighter side of darkened clouds, and the knowledge that when other people are going hungry we may still eat, is poor justification for a too-independent spirit. Our correspondent is largely right in his arguments, although great progress toward co-operation has been made during the last few years and there is promise of much fuller development in the years to come. The fact that the farmer is a land owner whose occupation is food production will always tend toward conservatism and a certain sense of security. For this reason sensational progress need never be expected, although it is equally true that the economic problems of agriculture will only be solved as farmers themselves tackle them through the medium of co-operative enterprise. Too much independence proves costly in these days of modern business development and giant mergers. Individual farmers whose markets are world wide can never get the most for their labor working singly, and the only alternative at present is co-operation. True co-operation need not destroy personal liberty nor will it put a curb on initiative if properly applied. It is democracy in business and carries with it many advantages. Its only obligations are fairness, honesty and neighborliness.

### Cull the Flock.

June is now with us and July and August are coming. Sometime during this period the poultry flocks should be carefully culled and rid of the unprofitable layers. Perhaps the most notable contribution of the last two or three years made by investigators in poultry science has been that showing the relation between egg-laying and body conformation. Careful investigation in both the United States and Canada has proven beyond any doubt that it is quite possible at certain seasons of the year to determine by a physical examination of the members of a flock which are the profitable and which the unprofitable ones. The key to profitable egg production is the winter performance of the hen, and experience has shown that eggs during the hot summer months are relatively as difficult to obtain as during the cold months of winter; hence the examination of birds at this time and a rigid culling of non-performers is an insurance of profit when eggs are fewest and highest in price.

For the last year or two "culling" demonstrations have been conducted throughout Ontario by the Poultry Department of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph. These demonstrations are given for the purpose of carrying to as many individual farmers as possible the newer knowledge regarding egg type in poultry, and it is not too much to say that any flock owner who will attend with a desire to learn, can save in feed and labor that would otherwise be wasted on unprofitable hens, two or three times as much as would be represented by the time necessary to attend the demonstra-