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Farming on Pelee Island

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Perhaps a large number of Farm and Dairy readers are as ignorant as I was of Pelee Island lying nearly midway across lake Erie, eight miles from Pt. Pelee and 17 miles from Leamington. Pelee Island is nine miles long by about four miles wide and contains about 11,000 acres. About 700 people, most of whom are engaged in farming, live on the island.

Of the 11,000 acres about 5,000 are under the Drainage Act and it costs the owners about \$2.00 an acre per annum to ditch and pump the water out into the lake, for which purpose there are large pumping stations. When once the land is free of water the Pelee Island farmers have one of the richest soils existing anywhere. Lying so far south as it does and being surrounded by water, it is quite immune from dangerous frosts either in the late spring or early autumn. Peaches, grapes, corn and tobacco all grow splendidly as well as do the common cereals and other fruits. There are some rocky outcrops here and there on which the soil is shallow but much of the high ground is productive when it is well worked.

THE MAIN HANDICAP

The great drawback of the island, is the drawback of many islands—their splendid isolation. Pelee Island has been handicapped in getting produce to market at the right time. Only this year have they had anything like a good boat service and that is since the Dominion Government has built some docks and subsidised, I believe, a steamer service.

The chief crops now grown on the island are corn and tobacco. Some tobacco plots are expected to yield over one ton of dried tobacco an acre. Of course in the minds of some this corn could be put to better use. They can grow dent corn to perfection, also early potatoes. The Islanders plant a large average to corn and sell it nearly all to feed hogs or other stock on the mainland. Comparatively little stock seemed to be kept on the island and as for hogs they were conspicuous for their absence. On asking why they did not manufacture their corn into pork, the Islanders said it was because they had difficulty in marketing the hogs. If a better boat service were rendered them they would no doubt turn their attention to raising pigs.

TO SEVER BRITISH CONNECTION

There is a strong tendency on the island to sever British connection simply that they might find better and larger markets in Uncle Sam's big cities. A better boat service would win back their loyalty and it should be made to pay if everyone on the island would produce farm produce up to the limit of its capabilities. It would be quite possible for a man to rear his family comfortably on 25 acres of the average island soil, provided he had an outlet daily for the production of small fruits, hogs and so forth. Just now their money making crop is tobacco.

A thing which was very noticeable was that weed seeds had found their way to the island in great quantity and variety. One especially bad weed the Islanders have to fight on their low lands and that one is field bindweed, or wild

morning glory. The farmers seemed to think it was a necessary evil. It will mean much to eradicate it.

Many of the roads on the Island are along the banks of large ditches or canals and are made from the excavations of these ditches. The sides of these roads are a veritable breeding ground for weeds and they are quite generally neglected. The Islanders will have to wake up on the weed problem.

Sound Practice in Colt Management

E. F. Eaton, Colchester Co., N.S.

The future value of colts, their constitution and hardness, depend to a great extent on the way in which they are looked after the first winter. During the first winter, the feed and care should be such as to keep the colt growing vigorously and at the same time to make it hardy and develop a good constitution. Too many of us have

Appreciative Neighbors

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Your neighbor in all probability would be just as appreciative of the good things contained in Farm and Dairy as was this man from Alberta. Show him a few copies of Farm and Dairy. Secure his subscription. Send it in to Farm and Dairy, Peterboro, and state which of our many premiums you desire.

an idea that a colt is a delicate creature and therefore should be warmly housed during the winter. This is a mistake. It is much better to keep the colts in dry box stalls which are always fairly cool and allow them to run out almost every day in the winter for at least three or four hours. We keep them in only on very stormy days and of course our colts kept in this way never look so nice and sleek as colts kept in warm box stalls.

APPEARANCE NOT CONSIDERED

Some of our neighbors who do not appreciate the value of building up a strong constitution in the young animal are inclined to look rather disparagingly on our shaggy looking animals. We do not worry about this however, for we know that we get the best animals in the end. When visiting the Nova Scotia Agricultural College last winter, I noticed that their colts are handled in exactly the same way as ours and they looked just as rough,—they breed the finest Olden in the province at the N.S.A. College.

In feeding the colt, the idea should be to give feeds which are full of bone and muscle producing elements. This shuts such feeds as corn and flax-seed altogether out of the ration. Crushed oats and bran are the ideal feeds for feeding to young colts. We believe in letting the colts run out for water. This compels them to go out whether they want to or not on cold days.

The Purpose of Fall Plowing

S. E. Todd, B.S.A., Lambton Co., Ont.

The regular fall plowing is followed in order to accomplish two purposes: 1st.—To expose the earth to the action of the frost. 2.—To increase the water holding capacity of the soil. This latter is a result of the first. The frost acting on the very fine particles of clay or colloids as they sometimes are called, gathers them in to compound particles. This creates ideal conditions for the retention of a large quantity of water in the soil for the use of plants.

The main object to be sought for in fall cultivation, is to leave the ground open and rough in order to allow the frost to do its work properly. For this reason the cultivator, harrow or roller should not be used on land plowed after fall wheat seeding and left for winter.

Where it is necessary to cultivate in order to destroy weeds it is a good plan to rib the land with a double mouldboard plow, the last thing in the fall. This puts the soil in excellent condition and facilitates drying in the spring, thus allowing of very early seeding. Where a big seeding is to be done in the spring of the year or where the land is inclined to be a little wet, ribbing late in the fall will often give a start of several days in the spring.

Anent Clipping Horses

Dr. J. S. Standish, Prof. Veterinary Science, Truro, N. S.

When clipping horses judgment on the part of the owner is required as sometimes this practice is beneficial and at other times harmful. Horses that have smooth, fine, short coats are neither improved in appearance nor physically benefited by clipping. Horses with long, rough coats are improved in both appearance and physical condition by clipping, providing they are comfortably housed and blanketed when standing either in or out of the stable.

When proper care is given the horse, clipping increases the action of the circulatory, respiratory and digestive organs with consequent greater vigor in the animal. This improvement in vigor is evidenced by the lessened tendency to congestion or stocking of the legs so common in long, heavy coated horses when allowed to stand in the stable for several hours at a time.

CLIPPING HEAVY HORSES

A good system of clipping for heavy horses is to clip the head, neck and body, leaving the hair on the belly and legs. This is not so pleasing in appearance, but it permits of easy clothing of the clipped parts and does not expose the limbs so severely to extreme cold.

Idle horses are not benefitted by clipping. Farm horses if they have not shed their winter coats before spring work commences are benefitted by clipping in the manner already given. Road horses, if not fine coated are improved by clipping, providing they are properly cared for. For the sake of appearance road horses should have the belly and limbs clipped. They should never be left standing outside in the cold, however, if clipped.