

## Keep One Milk Record for Each Cow

Beginning of New Season Is Opportunity to Commence Good System Dairy Division Will Supply Forms

Within the next few weeks several hundred cheese factories will be opening, hundreds of farmers will be preparing to milk thousands of freshly calved cows. Logically this beginning of a new season is the time to commence keeping records of production of the cows separately. Just a knowledge of the total yield of milk from the whole herd may give the owner an idea of the average yield per cow, but that does not give quite enough information. There may be a thousand pounds of milk difference in the total yield of two cows for the season, which would be unnoticeable in the small difference in the appearance of their two milk pails daily. Often the difference is far more than a thousand pounds, yet all cows are lumped together, good, poor and medium, all alike, when taking merely an average.

Since keeping records of individual production many a dairyman has increased the average of his herd by fifteen hundred, and two thousand pounds of milk or more, because he has been able to detect the poor, unprofitable cows that masquerade as real dairy cows. On application to the Dairy Division, Ottawa, milk record forms and instructions are supplied free. Write to-day, and begin the new season right, with the object of keeping none but profitable cows.—C. F. W.

## Is Carelessness to Blame for This?

Canadians Pay Heavily for Fire Protection and Insurance, Yet Suffer Great Loss.

Canada's average annual fire loss per capita for the last three years has been approximately \$2.90, and the number of fires 1.16 per 1,000 of population.

A comparison of Canadian and European conditions shows

|              | Per Capita | No. of Fires per 1,000 |
|--------------|------------|------------------------|
| Canada, 1912 | \$1.88     | 4.6                    |
| Hamilton     | 4.45       | 4.7                    |
| Vancouver    | 5.95       | 5.0                    |
| Calgary      | 3.47       | 3.3                    |
| Regina       | 6.66       | 2.9                    |
| Halifax      | 2.45       | 3.0                    |
| Toronto      | 1.95       | 3.0                    |
| Brantford    | 3.88       | 1.5                    |
| Winnipeg     | 1.05       | 3.7                    |
| London       | 8.85       | 6.8                    |
| Saskatoon    |            |                        |
| Average      | \$3.36     | 3.9                    |

The value of the equipment used by fire departments in Canada is \$5,167,425, and of the buildings in which the departments are housed \$4,692,247. The annual expense for maintenance of fire brigade protection amounts to \$3,401,570.

If interest upon debentures and depreciation is included; the average cost per head of population of the communities protected by this expenditure of public money is approximately \$2.20 per annum. The annual direct expense of brigade maintenance is a tax upon the protected citizen of \$1.06 per annum. In 45 European cities from which reports were received, the average annual cost of brigade maintenance is 22 cents. In other words, the cities and towns of Canada are paying five times as much for public fire protection and five times as much for insur-

ance protection, suffer a fire loss five times greater than any corresponding cities in the Old World.

|               | Per Capita Loss | No. of Fires per 1,000 |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| England, 1912 | \$0.46          | 7.4                    |
| London        | 0.76            | 6.2                    |
| Glasgow       | 0.55            | 95                     |
| Birmingham    | 0.55            | 95                     |
| Manchester    | 0.57            | 57                     |
| Sheffield     | 1.26            | 67                     |
| Leeds         | 0.09            | 40                     |
| Belfast       | 0.15            | 62                     |
| Bristol       | 0.21            | 97                     |
| Edinburgh     | 0.42            | 47                     |
| Dublin        |                 |                        |
| Average       | \$0.49          | 67                     |

If this statement is carefully studied the tremendous annual drafts made upon the public directly and indirectly by fire will be apparent. Exclusive of any other consideration, such as that involved in the disorganization of business, the actual monetary cost amounted to over \$45,000,000, or \$5.63 per capita of the entire population of Canada. Hence it results that each man, woman and child, out of their earnings and surplus, is indirectly assessed 5 per cent on about \$112, or for each family of five persons, say \$560, for no other purposes than indemnity for fire loss direct and indirect.—J. Grove Smith, B.A., B.Sc., in *The Monetary Times*. (Selected).

## Health First Aim in Town Planning

Massachusetts Conference Favors Individual Homes—Housing and Transportation Problems Discussed

That the town healthy, rather than the city beautiful, must be the first consideration in all town-planning projects was especially emphasized at the first Housing and Town-Planning Conference of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, held in Boston in November last. The expressions of opinion from citizens of the State representing all classes of the community were unanimously in favour of individual houses in preference to apartments in large buildings.

The people of Canada could well take example from Massachusetts and make an earnest effort to place upon our statute books laws making it possible to improve housing conditions and to call a halt in the further construction of the abominable apartment house—another name for the tenement—and make it possible for our people to live in the individual home. As for town planning, we cannot commence at too early a date. There is not a village or town in the whole Dominion which has not faults in its planning, the rectification of which means for the ratepayer unnecessary taxation without accompanying benefits.

That the business men of Boston and the State should have taken such an active interest in town-planning problems augurs well for an early improvement in the cities of Massachusetts and should be an incentive to Canadian business men to take a prominent part in this movement. The betterment of housing conditions and the regulation of town planning is of great concern to the employer of labour, while the matter of planning roads and of transportation to and from the centres of business is of moment to all.—C. A. H.

## HOW TO CONSTRUCT A POTATO PLANTER

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the sets into the spout. A seat may be arranged directly behind the spouts for the comfort of those dropping the potatoes.

As soon as the potatoes are planted it is advisable to harrow the land so that any that are not deep enough may be covered. It is also advisable to harrow several times before the potatoes come up, the last harrowing to be just when the sprouts are appearing. The harrowing will kill weeds, and keep the crust broken to form a mulch to conserve moisture and warm the soil. In this way growth is encouraged and much time is saved in weeding of the potatoes after they are up.—J. F.

## CONSERVATION OF COAL IN CANADA

The various systems of coal-mine leases and their effect in encouraging or discouraging efficient mining; the freight rates in Western Canada and their influence on coal distribution; the fuel problem in the Prairie Provinces; the utilization of lignites for gas production; the saving of slack by briquetting; and economical coking in such a way as to save valuable by-products like gas, ammonia, tar, and creosote, are problems of great importance in Canada's industrial development. These and other related questions are treated in a 212-page report, entitled *Conservation of Coal in Canada*, by W. J. Dick, M.Sc., recently published by the Commission of Conservation.

Two appendices are added to the report. The first gives a description of the principal coal-mines of Canada, showing their methods of mining, ventilation, haulage, blasting, etc., also the equipment and frequently the output. The second appendix describes briefly the by-product

## FORESTRY AT CORNELL

The new forestry building at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., is to be formally dedicated May 15th. The forestry department is a part of the New York State College of Agriculture and has a staff of five professors, who conduct the purely forestry courses, the allied subjects being handled by the teaching staff in other departments of the College of Agriculture and of the balance of the University. Courses are given in farm forestry, and men are also being trained for work as professional foresters. In connection with the dedication of the new building, a conference is to be held at Ithaca for the study and discussion of concrete forestry problems, at which a considerable number of prominent foresters from the Eastern States and other Canada have been invited to be present.—C. L.

coke ovens of the Algoma Steel Co., of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

The illustrations consist of 21 half-tone engravings, numerous diagrams, and two maps.

## CAN THIS WASTE BE ELIMINATED?

A resident of Spencerville, Ont., recently sent to the editor of *Conservation* a sample of curled maple, suitable for fine cabinet work, of which five cords had been delivered to him in the form of firewood. Much of it was split in slabs reaching twenty inches in width, and all of it was of good quality. On previous occasions, the same gentleman has been sold cordwood consisting of large-sized bird's eye maple, wavy birch of fine grain, black cherry and butternut.

A somewhat similar waste of fine woods for inferior purposes was brought to our notice by a manufacturer of vehicles in St. Thomas, Ont., who showed us samples of waste pieces from his factory, of oak, ash, hickory and hard maple. Many of these pieces would be very suitable for tool handles, etc., but, through lack of a market, are obliged to be sold as firewood.

The cost of living in Canada has advanced 51 per cent since 1900.