

last. In March the Council opposed the application of the railway companies before the Railway Commission to cancel commodity rates on cheese and make class rates apply. This would result in increasing cheese rates about twenty-five per cent. The Commission reserved decision, and the old rates remained in effect until the recent general increase in rates. It is considered unlikely that the commodity rates will be cancelled.

Owing to the efforts of the Council, the sales tax of one per cent. was not allowed to apply to dairy products. No dairy products whatever are affected by the Government's sales tax of one per cent.

During March last, the Council got a decision from the Railway Commission refusing the railway company's application to increase rates on milk in baggage cars; the decision proved useful also in staying any increase on milk rates in baggage cars when the recent forty per cent. increase in freight rates was granted. The railways, handle over two million cans of milk a year, and the decision saved shippers \$240,000 a year.

The Council will very soon have a hearing before the Railway Commission, where the Council have an application asking that ice cream be classified as second class, along with foods, and on the same day it will be argued that the express companies should make an allowance of ten cents for every can of ice cream shipped out, and of five cents for every empty which has to be carted by the shipper. At present the Council is opposing the application of the express companies for a general increase of forty per cent. in their rates, which would affect ice cream, cream, butter, cheese, and other dairy products.

The executive have been anxious to organize an educational branch and start a publicity campaign, but owing to the lack of funds have been unable to launch the same.

The Dairy Council has had a good deal to do of late in persuading the Board of Commerce not to interfere with the winter prices for milk, set in various communities. Readers of this paper have been kept fully revised regarding the negotiations and the outcome.

All legislation affecting the dairy industry has been reviewed by the National Dairy Council. Some protests have been lodged and, in other cases, recommendations have been made in the interests of the dairy industry. The officers are constantly opposing any measures which make it easier for oleomargarine to enter into unfair competition with butter in this country. The Council has joined with the millers of Canada in making representations to the Government, with the hope of having more milling carried on in Canada, and a greater supply of bran and shorts produced here for the feeding of cattle and hogs. These and others matters of vital concern to dairymen have the constant oversight of the Executive, whose efforts have been crowned with an usual measure of success.

The matter of finances is the greatest obstacle the Dairy Council has to face. The Secretary submitted a report showing that from the first of February last up to October 1, \$10,901.49 have been collected, and this includes \$249.31 which was the balance on hand on February 1. Included in this, also, is the Dominion Government grant of \$3,000. It will be remembered that the Honorable Mr. Crerar, Minister of Agriculture when the Council was formed, promised to endeavor to get a \$5,000 grant to help organize the Council. At the last session of Parliament an effort was made to get the \$5,000 originally promised, but notwithstanding the splendid assistance of the Honorable Dr. Tolmie, the Council was only able to get a grant of \$3,000. Such an amount is not to be asked for again, because it was the decision of the Council when it was formed not to accept assistance from the Government other than the grant to assist in the organization of the Council. It was felt, however, that producers and all others connected with the industry should show their appreciation of the good work done by the Council by being more prompt and generous with their contributions.

HORTICULTURE.

Preventing Injury to Trees by Field Mice.

There have been seasons when a great many fruit trees were injured by field mice, and other winters when the damage was almost negligible. One can never tell whether the trees will be attacked or not, and it is always wise to practice preventive measures in order to insure immunity from injury. When a young fruit tree of five or six years' standing has been girdled, either completely or partially, by mice the value of the tree is greatly reduced. Of course, one can practice bridge grafting and keep the tree alive, but, while this operation has been recommended as the only means of saving the tree, the results are unsatisfactory to say the least. It is very seldom that one can get a good trunk by bridge grafting, and when a tree is completely girdled we believe the best thing to do is to remove it and put another in its place. However, steps should be taken to prevent any injury at all, and to this end we are reproducing information obtained by actual experiment at the Michigan Agricultural College.

Considerable experimentation has been carried on with certain materials which are poisons or repellants. In the majority of cases they are impracticable or ineffective. At the Michigan Agricultural College the following materials were used: 1, Concentrated commercial lime-sulphur; 2, concentrated commercial lime-sulphur with slacked lime to make a rather thick wash; 3, concentrated commercial lime-sulphur and lead

arsenate; 4, Sulfocide (a proprietary material); 5, whitewash; 6, whitewash and lead arsenate; 7, strong Bordeaux mixture.

The concentrated lime-sulphur was used at full strength; enough lead arsenate was used to make a strong poison. The mixture contained much more poison than was ever used for spraying purposes. The whitewash and other mixtures with which lime was used were made of about the same consistency as rather thick cream. The Bordeaux mixture was made by the 10-10-50 formula (wine measure), and then thickened with slaked lime.

The results with all these materials could be termed negative. The injury was very severe on every lot of trees, regardless of the material used, and the experimenters came to the conclusion that if stronger poison, or heavier and more frequent applications were resorted to, the practice would be more expensive, and still less effective than wire protectors. W. C. Dutton, who has compiled this information, recommends wire protectors and describes them in the following manner.

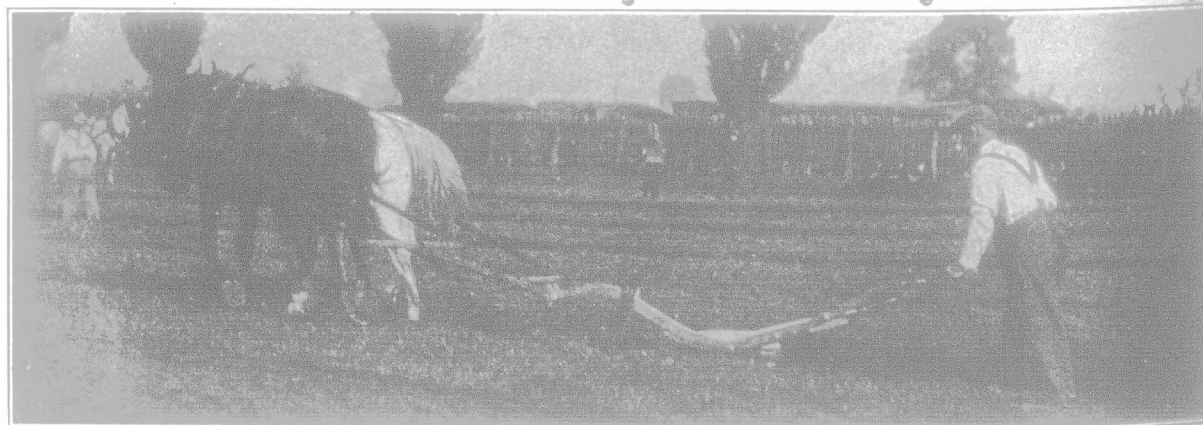


A Well Kept Young Orchard Intercropped With Small Fruit.

A very satisfactory protector can be made from quarter-inch square-mesh galvanized wire netting. Bands not less than eighteen inches in width should be placed around the tree trunk. They should lap enough to allow for considerable growth of the tree, and should be pressed firmly into the ground and close to the trunk. If they are not close to the tree, mice will sometimes work inside the protector. These protectors need very little attention after being placed around the trees, and do not need to be removed each spring unless grass and weeds are growing inside the protectors.

They will also prevent injury by rabbits, unless there is heavy snow which would cover the protectors and make it possible for the rabbits to work above them.

Many other forms of protectors are used with satisfactory results, but it is doubtful if any of them are so permanent and satisfactory as the one recommended. Tarred paper, wood veneer, or other material may be used, especially where wire netting is not available.



Clarke Young, Milliken, Ont., Winner of Second Prize in the Open Class in Sod at Hamilton, Last Week.

Mr. Young also won first honors for tractor plowing in the open class and carried off the sweepstake in the inter-provincial match at Macdonald College, Quebec, the week previous.

The Use of Fallen Leaves.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

At this season the almost universal custom around towns and villages of burning fallen leaves suggests that better use might be made of them. What fertilizing material remains in the ashes is often entirely lost, being left where it is of little service. The leaves themselves contain valuable fertility and also humus, which many gardens cropped year after year greatly need, and often receive but little in the ordinary applications of manure. Remarkably good results have been reported by gardeners from plowing down liberal coatings of autumn leaves, and, as a rule, they have the advantage of being free from weed seeds. Their use in this way is not difficult, and there is certainly abundant material for a trial. Perhaps they are of most value when applied as an inexpensive and clean mulch to strawberry plots and other plants requiring covering in the winter. In case of the berries, the leaves should be stored and kept dry until time of application.

Where straw is not too plentiful, nothing better can be found as bedding for live stock than the autumn leaves now floating on the ground. AMATEUR.

POULTRY.

Get the Flock Into Paying Condition.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

In the days of factory-made products, the egg is unique, because no person or thing can get ingredients together to form that delectable nourishment, save the hen. And now, when the price of eggs is soaring as the autumn days are upon us, it behooves the farmer to get the flock into paying conditions for the winter months. Begin by thoroughly cleaning and spraying with freshly-slaked lime, to every gallon of which has been added a half-pint of kerosene, the houses in which the poultry are to be carried over the winter months. Have these quarters warm, but not hot; also have them dry and well ventilated. Be sure and allow plenty of space for exercise, and have this space well lighted, because in

wet and stormy weather, as well as when the winter has set in, laying fowls must not be allowed out of doors.

A plan I think is good is to have the poultry house of a story and a half or two stories. In the upper chamber, which the fowls will reach by means of a gangway, place the roosts and nests for laying. Below, all of the floor space may be used for feeding and exercise.

Be sure and allow fresh water in plenty, and guard against the fowls defiling the water. Prevent them from roosting upon the drinking fountains by driving a row of nails around the edges. This allows the hens to drink through the spaces between the nails and keeps the fountains clean.

In culling the flock for winter egg production, do not choose hens over one year old. Keep only the best of these and of this season's pullets keep only the sturdiest of April and May hatchlings. Choose only those also that have good feeding capacity. This may be determined by going around at night after the birds have gone to roost and feeling their crops. Keep the hens if practicable, in pens of two dozen. Choose for the male birds cockerels from a heavy laying mother. Do not allow male birds from last season to consort with this season's pullets. At present the birds will be moulting. Keep on light diet until it is noticed that the feathers have pretty well dropped. Then begin feeding rather more than well. Get the hens fat before the cold weather and winter egg production will be a surety.

In the winter quarters where the egg producers are to be kept, place a large box in the sun, filled with earth or wood ashes or sand. Here the fowls will dust their feathers and keep themselves free from vermin. Renew

whatever is put into this box every few days. Also have a box filled often with clean shell and grits. Allow plenty of vegetables such as mangels and potatoes as a substitute for the green stuff the hen consumes in summer. Feed plenty of grain as well as warm mash once a day, and there is no doubt that winter profit will be the result.

Halifax Co. N. S.

M. McL.

FARM BULLETIN.

A Timely Hint to Advertisers.

To-day is not an hour too soon for advertisers to consider the matter of reserving space in the 1920 Christmas Number of The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine. Readers and advertisers all know what an excellent holiday number the publishers of "The Farmer's Advocate" have, in the past, produced, and sent as a Christmas gift to subscribers. The special issue will be even better this year and we are asking those who desire space in this Christmas Number to reserve it at once.