

## THE STERLING BANK

OF CANADA

### Busy Farmers

Now is the time to plan for greater production this summer. Call and talk things over with our manager. He has made a special study of money matters affecting farmers and can give you valuable information.

THE STERLING BANK OF CANADA

## Fires Break Out

and thieves break in. Don't risk the first, or invite the second, by keeping money in the house.

Put it in The Merchants Bank, where it will be safe from loss—always available—and earn interest at highest current rates.

## THE MERCHANTS BANK

OF CANADA Established 1864.

Head Office: Montreal. **WATFORD BRANCH,** F. A. MacLEAN, Manager.  
**ALVINSTON BRANCH,** G. H. C. NORSWORTHY, Manager.

## LAMBTON'S WINTER FAIR

### PETROLEA

## February 11, 12, 13

Only County Winter Fair in the Province of Ontario.

**A Gigantic Exhibition of the Agricultural Resources of Lambton County.**

### THE PRIDE OF LAMBTON'S FARMERS

The Amalgamation of the three former events:—  
 Lambton Corn Show Lambton Poultry Show  
 Lambton Livestock Breeders' Dispersion Sale.

See bills for particulars. Write for catalogue and price lists.

**W. P. MACDONALD, Secretary,**  
 PETROLEA.

## Away With the Scrub Sire

### and His Offspring!

The 4th Annual Sale of Registered Stock of the  
 Lambton County Pure Bred Livestock Breeders' Association

Market Square, Petrolea

## THURSDAY, FEB. 12, 1920

### 75 HEAD CHOICE CATTLE

consisting of 61 head of Shorthorns, 2 Aberdeen Angus, 4 Herefords—bulls, cows and heifers, 1 Clydesdale Stallion, 3 Berkshire Hogs, 1 Chesterwhite and 1 Berkshire Sow.

**SHORTHORNS**--such families as Rosemary, Carnation, Winsome, Mar Rachel, Lancaster and Jealousy are represented.

**ABERDEEN ANGUS**--such families as Merriman, Warlock, Tollo and Elector.

**HEREFORDS**--such families as Bonny Brae, Lord Roberts, Forest Hustler, Whitney, Dock Publisher.

Apply to Secretary for catalogue. Sale under cover if stormy.

**W. S. STRADMAN, President,** **W. P. MACDONALD, Secretary,**  
 Petrolea, Ont. Petrolea, Ont.

### THE STABLE IN WINTER

Keep Your Dairy Cows Comfortable and Clean.

Spray the Place With Whitewash—Add Some Germ-killer—Fill In All Broken Window Panes, and Provide Other Ventilation—Care of Plants in Winter.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

**T**HE period of long, cold winter is here. Of necessity, our milking cows must have special protection from the cold, and at the same time must be made as comfortable as possible.

The whole of the inside of the stable should have a thorough cleaning. The dust and cobwebs should be swept from the walls, ceiling and windows; the windows should be thoroughly cleaned, also the mangers and stalls. Then spray whitewash all over the inside, except the windows. To the whitewash add some disinfectant such as a carbolic acid preparation, or a chloride germ-killer. This will kill disease germs, lurking in dark, damp places and maintain the health of the animals, which is at the foundation of profitable milk production.

The next step is to put in all broken window lights, but where the owner thinks he cannot afford to buy glass at the present high prices, a piece of coarse cloth, such as an old sack, may be tacked over the window space. This will provide some ventilation in a stable not otherwise ventilated.

Cow stables need ventilation in winter by having the foul air removed and fresh air introduced without a draft directly on the cows. A simple way to do this is to hinge all windows at the bottom and allow them to open inward, so as to shoot the stable too much, by simply closing the top outlet. No system of cheap ventilation works automatically. They all require some attention. Other points in stable preparation are to have all ties secure so that a cow may not get loose; repairs to mangers and gutters should be made so that they may be kept clean and sanitary without too much labor. Litter and feed carriers are great savers of labor in looking after a herd of milkers during the winter.

In a word, make the cows comfortable and lessen the labor of stabling cows by having them sanitary and convenient, with as many helps as possible in the form of machinery.—Prof. H. H. Dean, O. A. College, Guelph.

#### Care of Plants in Winter.

Water growing pot plants only when they need it, then water them thoroughly. When the soil begins to get dry and powdery on the surface, or when the pot is tapped with the knuckles or a knife handle and it emits a ringing sound, the plant requires water. Give sufficient water so that it runs out through the bottom of the pot. Water plants in the morning in cold weather, not at night. Use tepid rain water, or water that has been exposed to air and sun for a day or two, if possible. The water should be lukewarm, about 50 to 60 degrees F. in winter.

Humidity in the atmosphere is one of the main requirements to be successful with plants indoors. Place pans or saucers of water on the heaters or registers. A steaming kettle or pot of water on the stove is a great help in this respect. When the pots become full of roots, or where the soil is poor, worn out or exhausted, liquid fertilizers can be given plants. The soil should be moist, not dry, or very wet, when the fertilizer is applied. There are several good plant foods sold at seed stores. "Sterling Worth Plant Tablets" or "Bonora" are both good. Half an ounce of nitrate of soda dissolved in quart of warm water first, and cold water added to make one gallon, also makes a fairly good fertilizer for pot plants. Apply once every week or ten days.

Spraying with water will help keep down insect pests. A fine spray thoroughly applied to all parts of the plant is necessary to be effective. Plants having very rough hirsute foliage, should not be sprayed or sponged, especially in winter, only the plants having glossy, glabrous foliage. Insect pests increase and thrive best in a dry, warm atmosphere. For aphids or green lice, white fly, red spider and thrip, "Sulpho-Tobacco Soap" is a good remedy. Black Leaf 40 is also a good remedy for most insect pests on house plants. Soapy water or a solution of whole oil soap and tobacco water are beneficial for scale insects on plants.

Slake about one-half pound of fresh lime in a pail of water, allow it to settle. Give about a teaspoonful of this solution once or twice to each

**Put frozen plants in a dark place at once, temperature about 45 degrees F. Do not touch the leaves. Sprinkling with ice cold water is beneficial.**—W. Hunt, O. A. College, Guelph.

#### A Chat About Chickens.

In very cold weather to make the hen comfortable and to keep her in good condition feed (a little at a time, but often, in dry straw or other litter) some kind of mixed grain.

Milk to drink, or about a pound of meat or its equivalent in beef scrap each day, is required to supply material for the building of the egg white for twenty hens.

#### STORAGE OF FARM MACHINES.

##### Temporary Buildings No Longer to Be Considered.

The present is so generally spoken of as the age of farm machinery that it would appear as though the time had arrived for the devoting of almost as much attention to the protection of such farm equipment from weather, as to the providing of comfortable quarters for farm live stock. Yet the average farm machinery shed is not to be compared with the average farm stable as regards its suitability to its intended purpose. With labor costs enforcing the employment of every available time-saving device, it is essential that the machines purchased be kept up to the highest point of efficiency and that their deterioration from all causes be prevented so far as is possible. Yet, though it is frequently admitted that more machines rust out than are worn out, this fact does not seem to make a very strong impression on a great number of users of farm machinery, if one may judge by the fact that machinery will have to be replaced in a few years during the periods that it is not actually in use.

In planning the construction of a building for the storing of machinery, utility should of course be given first consideration, but on account of the fact that machinery will have to be employed for just so long as the farm exists as such, the permanence of the storage building should be the next matter for consideration. In the past temporary buildings have been constructed with a view to building more permanent ones later on. But under existing conditions of cost of material it is doubtful if such procedure is advisable. For this reason careful planning of the building to be constructed is essential, and if the extension of its storage capacity is expected to be necessary in years to come, provision should be made for adding to the size of the structure without having to tear down any considerable amount of the original work.

An important point in favor of permanent construction of storage buildings is that of the reduced cost of maintenance that results. Poor planning of farm buildings as regards convenience of the same will result in great losses through unnecessary labor costs, but these are not to be compared with the loss that will result from neglect of proper maintenance or from the cost of proper maintenance if the material and construction of the building is poorly selected or planned. The factor of permanence and the comparative cost of the more permanent building materials as compared with lumber, which has been so generally used in farm building construction and which now has not the advantage of being as cheap as formerly, is well worthy of consideration.

#### Useful Fine-Toothed Rake.

Finding the ordinary garden rake too coarse to use among the plants just appearing, I made a rake and used it where I could not handle a larger rake. The illustration clearly shows the whole construction. Wire



The Construction of a Garden Rake Head in Which Nails Are Used for the Teeth.

nails are placed as far apart as suitable. The tooth-holding section should have the tooth holes bored out to prevent splitting when the teeth are driven in. By having tooth-holders equipped with teeth of different sizes and set at various distances apart a combination rake is obtained.—J. M. Kane in Popular Science Monthly.

#### Belgian Horse Popular.

Belgian horses, which have not as yet made much of a mark in Eastern Canada, are better received in the West, and the fact that a Canadian breeder—George Rupp, of the Pioneer Stock Farm, Lampman, Sask., won the senior and grand championship at the International Horse Show held at Waterloo, Iowa, with his stallion, Paramount Flashwood, is a source of great satisfaction to Western Canadians who favor the Belgian breed of horses. At the same show Mr. Rupp was also successful in taking second in four-year-old stallion class, first and seventh in the yearling mare class, first, fifth and seventh in the class for foals, first in the class for three stallions get of sire and owner three of the group which won the get of sire class.

**South Africa produces about \$200,000,000 of gold annually. China is estimated to maintain one chicken for every inhabitant of that country, or about 400,000,000.**

#### Poison Gas for Rodents.

The woodchuck, one of the most destructive rodents, can be destroyed by applying carbon bisulphide to the burrow. To get the best results, close all but one or two of the burrow entrances, leaving those open which are at the highest elevation, and apply the liquid through these. In this way the gas, which is heavier than air, and therefore sinks to the lowest level, will penetrate to every part of the burrow. To make sure of destroying him, open the burrow about ten minutes after the liquid is applied, and explode the gas with a piece of burning refuse at the end of a stick.

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#### F. C. Biggs, of Wentworth

##### Big Man in His County

##### Enters Drury's Cabinet

It cannot be said the Hon. Frank Campbell Biggs, Minister of Public Works, has jumped from obscurity to his exalted post. It is true that many persons may not have heard of him until the election, but to the people of Wentworth County he is far from being a stranger. Hon. Mr. Biggs is Warden of the county, and that in itself tells more forcibly of his popularity than any other medium, except perhaps, his prodigious majority over his opponent. Mr. Biggs fitted himself, though unconsciously, for his new task both wisely and well.

A farmer through and through, he has stuck to his first love and made a first-class job of it, as any Beverley resident will tell you. Yet he has not neglected the side lines, if the expression may be used in this connection.



HON. F. C. BIGGS.

He has always been strong on education from his boyhood days at the Ontario Agricultural College, and the Hydro and good roads have been two of his hobbies. As a Hydro enthusiast he will be a real help to the commission. He will not be behind in pushing its interests along, for he knows full well its benefits to the farmers. As good roads will come under his jurisdiction, his fellow tillers of the soil naturally look for improvements on the highways of the province.

As a practical farmer Hon. Mr. Biggs is strong on economy, and can be expected to see there is no frittering of the funds in his charge. As his fellow-councillors in Wentworth know, wastefulness will find no place in his policy.

The honorable gentleman is a father of boys, who seem determined to uphold the family traditions for A.I. work. At a recent match in Beverley Township the youngest ploughman was Stanley Biggs, the twelve-year-old son of the Minister, and Stanley had to his credit the best crown in his class on the field and at his home. Another son, Dick, also won honors.

The Minister of Public Works is one of the youngest members of the Cabinet, being under forty years. Given good health, and with the worthy ambition and spirit of determination evidenced in his public work so far, he should prove one of the best pickings of Premier Drury.

As a vermifuge there is nothing so potent as Mother Graves' Worm-Expeller, and it can be given to the most delicate child without fear of injury to the constitution.