

# STOP

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### Drainage Survey Demonstrations

Greater interest than ever is being taken in drainage work. Calls for assistance in laying out drains have been far in excess of those made in previous years and the representatives of the physics department of the Ontario Agricultural College have been unable to meet all the applications received. Mr. W. R. Reek, who has had two years experience in connection with survey work under the direction of the College has for the last few weeks been making a tour of Eastern Ontario laying out drains and giving demonstrations for the benefit of those in the vicinity where a survey was made. On Friday, Aug. 20th, Mr. Reek and Mr. H. C. Duff, of the branch office of the Department of Agriculture located at Norwood had a most successful demonstration on the farm of Mr. G. A. Brethen, a short distance from Norwood. Mr. Brethen is one of the competitors in Farm and Dairy's prize farms competition. Part of Mr. Brethen's farm is of a mucky nature and low. Mr. Brethen has had in mind draining this land for some time but without the assistance of expert advice he was deterred from laying out a system of drainage. Promptly on the appointment of the representative in Peterboro County, Mr. Brethen applied for assistance with the result that the survey work was completed and the demonstration previously noted, held.

**UNDERDRAINS IN EAST**  
Mr. Reek at the outset gave an address outlining the advantages of underdrainage and methods of installing the drains. He illustrated what he had to say by referring to his observations in various counties where he had done similar work. He instanced one case, where drains had been placed too far apart. The corn on that particular field showed distinctly where the drains had been installed. For a distance on either side of the drains, the corn was making a most luxurious growth.

Farther away, beyond the reach of the drains, the corn was a sickly yellow, showing that the drains had been put in too far apart, an instance of what drains had done in Kent County was also cited. On a farm there, land that was underdrained yielded 36 bushels of beans to the acre. Undrained land adjoining, yielded but three bushels. As a result of this remarkable case, 16 car loads of tile were purchased and installed in that district in the following year.

#### ENGER FOR INFORMATION

Interest ran high at the demonstration. Much of the land in Peterboro County is in need of underdrainage and those in the vicinity were quick to recognize the value of the information before them where this work was being done. Although at the height of harvest, some 20 farmers laid off work to inform themselves as to the scientific method of installing underdrainage. Questions were asked from every side and were readily answered by Mr. Reek, who is, from his scientific training and from his long experience, an expert in just such work. Questions concerning the proper distance apart for drains, the size of tile that is necessary for different localities, methods of installing systems, the cost of underdrainage, the value and the return from draught and manner of digging, ditching, plows, and questions concerning the use of labor saving devices used in drainage work regarding the drainage laws, were freely asked.

Mr. Duff, the District representative, in so far as he is able will conduct similar work and give demonstrations in underdrainage at various points in Peterboro County, doing the work in the order that applications are received. Those within reach of any of the eleven branches of the Ontario Department of Agriculture should avail themselves of any oppor-

tunity that presents itself at any of these drainage surveys to gain information, or should their land be in need of drains, application should be made to the local representative of the Department or to the Physics Department of the Ontario Agricultural College from whom assistance can be had.

### Necessary Information

Most farmers can estimate closely the number of bushels of grain raised, and tell fairly accurately the number of tons of hay grown, but when it comes to the really most important income of the farm, the product of each cow it's all a blank, and my say, "Oh, I don't know." I get my cheque each month, that's all I care about."

While a knowledge of the total weight of milk delivered from the factory is necessary, it never occurs to the farmer the information he stands in need of as to the profit made by each cow in the stable. That information is absolutely necessary to him if he desires to consider himself creditable to his profession, a first class, business-like dairyman. Otherwise these satisfying totals or delusive averages will continue to leave the one or two poor cows in every herd to consume good feed for which no profitable return is ever given.

In many herds where no attempt has been made, there is frequently to be found a difference of \$30 or \$40 in the earning power of the best and poorest cow. Farmers need to consider that statistically. In the Dominion are to be found herds, let us say of 12 or 14 cows, with a fairly good average yield of perhaps as high as 5,500 lbs. of milk, where the highest yield is close on to 8,000 lbs. milk and 330 lbs. of fat, while where the lowest yield is only about 3,700 lbs. milk and 150 lbs. fat. Such comparisons are only made possible by noting the actual performance of each individual cow for her full milking period. Weigh and sample regularly, and make sure that each cow brings in good profit.—C. F. W.

### Ontario Honey Crop Report

The committee met at the Exhibition grounds, Toronto, Sept. 23rd, and examined the reports as received to date in respect to the buckwheat honey crop and prices received for white honey. The crop of dark honey is good, but the committee find that the markets are clear of last year's crop and that they are buying freely already. The following prices for dark honey are advised:

Wholesale, 6c. to 6½c. a lb.  
Retail, 7½c. to 8½c. a lb.  
A number of the largest producers have already sold at these figures. In regard to white honey, the committee find that the prices sent out in their previous report have been fully realized and think that they still holding part of their crop should receive these prices without difficulty. Practically everything has been sold at from 10c. to 11c. Post and Halton report most of light honey disposed of, much of it going to the Northwest.—P. W. Hodgetts, Sec'y.

### Items of Interest

The annual convention and the Winter Dairy Exhibition in connection with the Western Ontario Dairy-men's Association, will be held in the city of St. Thomas Jan. 12th and 13th, 1910.

The imported carriage team, owned and exhibited at the Colours Summer Show by the Hon. J. R. Stratton, of Peterboro, and who was illustrated in Farm and Dairy September 2, has been sold for immediate delivery to a gentleman in the Canadian West, the purchase figure for the team being \$4,000.

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