

ed to be taken up for agricultural purposes, but the cutting of cord wood if often out of all proportion to the land brought under the plough. A new growth springs up, the farm is called an improved one but becomes a terror to the prospective settler for the last clearing of that farm is worse than the first.

NOT A POLITICAL QUESTION.

The preservation of our forests is not a political question for either party, but the apathy of those whose duty it should be to prevent their destruction is the result of party government. Crown land officials are only sure of their berth so long as the party to which they profess to belong is in power. Forest wardens should be more numerous and have much more limited areas under their care. Their wards should not be arbitrarily fixed by township boundaries and the only remuneration should be a portion of fine on convictions. It would be advisable in many cases that they should be Justices of the Peace within their area. Knowledge of burnings would quickly reach them. Prompt action could be taken if necessary to extinguish fires and equally speedy justice administered where requisite.

CONDITION IN NEW ONTARIO.

The locality from which the photographs accompanying this article were taken was swept by fires some years ago and they illustrate what nature will do at reconciliation. They also show what class of growth is now being constantly and wantonly destroyed both on occupied lands and what some at least of us are endeavoring without adequate support to preserve for our own pleasure and the glory of future generations.

Of the lands open for occupation those of Ontario stand pre-eminent. Within easy access of the markets of the world, with a climate unrivaled for rearing hardy stock, with fuel and sheltered for farm animals and the purest water for man and beast. With good sport—if the game wardens do their duty—few territories offer greater inducements to the man who appreciates the beauties of nature and who can either, from his own knowledge of agriculture or from hints which some of us would be willing to give him lay out a home for himself at small expense.

Silage as a Milk Producer

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Silage is, above all, a food for dairy cows. It is succulent and nutritive. In Virginia, after considerable experimenting with silage, corn fodder and hay, with concentrates as feeds for dairy cows, Professors A. M. Soule and J. R. Fain, state that, "The basis of the roughness in a ration for dairy cows, when grass is not available, should be silage."

In order to make a good living profit out of his dairy herd a man should have a silo. Why? In the first place, dry foods tend to decrease the flow of milk and do not have the stimulating effect on the blood circulation and on the general health of the animal that succulent foods exhibit. It may be asked why not feed roots as a succulent food and stimulant? The answer as given by Prof. Georgeson, of Kansas, follows:

"If we estimate that 77 per cent. of the amount put in the silo can be taken out sound and available for feeding or 1,544 lbs. for every ton (2,000 lbs.) put in the silo, we find that at the average feed of 32 lbs. a day a ton will last 1 animal 48 days, or 100 tons will last a herd of 25 head 192 days; and in a reasonably favorable season, with good care and good culture, this 100 tons may be grown on about 10 acres. What other method of handling corn fodder will maintain an average farm herd during the long winter season, from grass until grass comes again, on so small an area? I will add to that, another question—Is there another farm crop that would do the same amount of work as economically and as well off the same area or even double the area?

HIGHLY DIGESTIBLE

The value of a food depends upon its digestibility. If a food is not digestible it is of no use to the animal. Prof. Arnshy, of Pennsylvania, who has done more for the science of animal chemistry than any other man in America calculates that one acre of corn having 4,351 lbs. of digestible matter fed as a green fodder will have 3,900 lbs. digestible as silage and 3,388 lbs. as dry fodder—field cured. Thus we see it pays to feed corn green, but as we can not do this all winter, we should use the next best substitute, namely, silage. At the Wisconsin Station, while experimenting on the comparative value of corn silage with field cured corn, we find that silage produced 243 lbs. more milk and 12 lbs. more butter

per acre than did the dry corn fodder. This is a gain of 3 per cent., the same as the bank rate of interest. From the same experiment in Vermont, the result was a gain of 8 per cent. in milk and 3 per cent. in butter fat for the silage over the field cured fodder. 22 Ohio in comparing results per 100 lbs. of dry matter, fed in corn silage or roots it was found that for every 100 lbs. of dry matter fed there was a gain of 6 per cent. in milk in favor of the corn silage.

What the comparison between silage and straw and roots is I am not able to state definitely. However, the silage would have the best of the argument by a large margin. Silage being such a profitable food we cannot afford to still continue to practise old methods of feeding.

GENERAL IMPRESSIONS GAINED FROM INSPECTING DAIRY FARMS IN EASTERN ONTARIO

An Outline of the Outstanding Features of Prize Farms in Districts Nos. 1 and 2 in the Dairy Farms Competition, as seen by Mr. R. R. Ness, the Judge

AFTER a most pleasant tour among some of the most progressive and up-to-date dairy farmers of eastern Ontario, I have returned home, having completed my first inspection of those farms entered in the Dairy Farms Competition in Districts Nos. 1 and 2. In each and every case, I found the most genial and kindly people that one could wish to meet, such as are sure to be found among enthusiastic and successful dairymen. Each competitor seemed to feel it his duty to assist in the good work of Farm and Dairy in conducting the Prize Farms Competition as well as to prove his ability as a farmer and as a dairyman. All spoke highly of the good qualities of Farm and Dairy and of its energetic and capable editorial management.

For the most part the competitors possessed attractive homes. These had been beautified by the planting of trees, wind-breaks, shrubs, hedges and flower gardens. The free use of paint was in evidence. Nice lawns (where the family may enjoy themselves in outdoor games), good fences, entrances and driveways—in fact, everything one could think of to make home attractive, such as only dairymen who have an income all the year round can afford—were noteworthy features of these farms.

GARDENS WORTHY OF NOTICE

Mention must be made of the kitchen gardens and the small fruits, that were a part of many of these farms. Some would do credit to any market gardener, who makes such his specialty. The garden is a feature of the farm that adds greatly to health and good-living. It should be given more consideration generally.

The farms of competitors were often in marked contrast to those of their neighbors. In many instances the farms in the immediate neighborhood were a mass of weeds in flower, while the one being judged was free from weed life. Such may be accounted for through the determination of every energetic dairy farmer to keep up the fertility of his soil by growing suitable crops for the dairy cow, and working on the short rotation system enabling him, at the same time, by the proper care of these crops, to clean and keep the soil free from weeds. Most of the farms inspected were showing good work on the part of their owners in combating weeds.

BARN AND STABLES

The number of up-to-date, spacious barns and stables which were to be found on most farms must not go unnoticed. These were fitted with modern fixings, and were conveniently laid out so that the labor is made light to such an extent that in many instances the same amount of work is done by half the help that was required in the old buildings. These new buildings for the most part are fairly well lighted and ventilated, thus insuring the health and comfort of the herds.

Most everywhere the silo was considered the best investment in the line of buildings. Even where roots are successfully grown farmers are very enthusiastic about corn. In some cases as much as 40 acres were grown. Corn in general is a promising crop, though on account of the late cold spring all crops were found to be late. Mangels and turnips were found on most of the farms, but a small acreage only since so much corn is grown. These farmers are finding that corn can be handled and grown more easily and give as good results as roots. A few of the competitors grow pumpkins, finding them to be a very good fall feed for dairy cows.

GROW GRAIN IN MIXTURE.

Grain, on most of these farms is grown in a mixture. The mixture used most largely was oats, barley and goose wheat. On one large farm barley and buckwheat was grown in mixture. This seems to make an ideal milk producing food and can be sown later than other grains. In one instance the whole grain crop was of this buckwheat mixture, as the man who owns this farm is an enthusiastic dairyman and a good feeder as well as being an extra good farmer, and having made so many useful experiments in dairy feeding, his views are worthy of much consideration.

The hay crop is light. Not much over three-quarters of a crop is expected in some sections, clover having been killed out. Rotations practised have been, in general on the three and four year system. These have given satisfactory results and have enabled these farmers to keep down weeds.

LABOR SAVING IMPLEMENTS

Implements on a farm of to-day are numerous and designed for labor and time saving. Dairy farmers find time precious. As milking and caring for the milk takes up much time, dairymen are ready to adopt most of the useful labor and time saving machines offered. Most of the competitors were well stocked in this particular. On many of the larger farms the hay-loader, side-delivery rake, tedder and horse fork make hay-making a pleasure where without them this season is one of dreaded drudgery, whilst the quality of the hay made is equal, in most cases, to that made in the old way.

Milk and ice-houses on most of the farms were found to be very conveniently and well arranged. Good attention was being given to keeping the milk in good condition. Water was conveniently arranged on practically all the farms. They were supplied either with running springs, cisterns or tanks and windmills.

THE DAIRY COWS

The dairy cows on most all the farms visited were far above the average. Some excellent herds both registered and grade were inspected. Many

of them were cases of the feeding. Some the dry pastured, whilst others were to the source of

On most farms a horse was a source of manure in the field, and in the winter when time is so short, it is a source of trouble.

Fa

Since the fly attention is (ing some means of annoying attention not realize the on stock by fitting putting on of in the case of h condition while work. Many of sections make export steers having learned not put on July to nearly in the season e are just as good his cows will supply during are adopted for tions have been the protection that in the pro well to do most ever, the farmer may notice a fall that to the heat cause seldom pal belongs, viz., to

PRO

Cattle are spruce a good pure dirty condition low such applica horses. While it by protect our h should be made relief. It is not free from them point gained. M dinner and tie hives and has to while his main c

Meet

Farm and I glad to see the alfalfa. I have districts in the other provinces ing, caring fo said about the for the dairy of an unfond to unding.—W. S. F.

off his tormentors. he found that a grain or meal rat of the stall as he side knocking off not be altogether gather it up, but it pose for which it