

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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CONTENTS.

EDITORIAL:—
361—Illustration. 362—Editorial Notes: Three Old-Time Prize-Winners; Better Farming Needed; The Situation in Manitoba. 363—An Automatic Potato Riddle; Notes from the Agricultural College; A Catchy Harvest in England; A New Dressed Meat Enterprise.

STOCK:—
364—Current Comment; "Hogs That Are Hogs"; Chatty Stock Letter from the States. 365—Our Extra Illustration; Our Scottish Letter. 366—The Evolution of the Scotch Shorthorn; Dressed Beef vs. Live Cattle Shipping.

FARM:—
367—Pasture or Soiling—Which Shall it Be? The Russian Thistle; Swinging Front to Pig Pen; Well Pleased with Cement Concrete; Soiling—Information Called For.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:—
368—Veterinary; Miscellaneous.

DAIRY:—
369—The Creamery Shark Has Been Here; Experiments in Cheesemaking; A Home-made Starter; Ripening Milk for Cheesemaking. 369—Danish Dairies.

GARDEN AND ORCHARD:—
369—Some Points on Quince Culture; Packing and Shipping Fruit.

APIARY:—
369—Wintering Bees—Outdoor vs. the Cellar.

POULTRY:—
370—The Little Black Hen's Lesson; Poultry on the Farm.

FAMILY CIRCLE:—371.
QUIET HOUR:—371.
MINNIE MAY:—372.
UNCLE TOM:—373.
STOCK GOSSIP:—374, 376, 379.
NOTICES:—374, 376.
ADVERTISEMENTS:—373 to 380.

An Automatic Potato Riddle.

A very convenient and effective potato sorter can be made in the form of a slatted trough, arranged with the slats close enough together at the upper end to allow the earth and very small potatoes to pass through as soon as shovelled from the waggon, becoming wider apart towards the lower end to allow the medium sized tubers to fall into a box or on the ground. The largest ones can be allowed to pass over the end of the trough or screen into the cellar or pit. The slats may consist of 1 by 2 inch strips set on edge, or better still, 1 inch iron rods. There should be a board suspended beneath the screen to act as a divider between the earth and medium sized potatoes. Potatoes screened as soon as dug, will keep much better than if left till a slack time comes round in which it may be done. And when wanted to be taken to market, they can be shovelled up directly into bags without further trouble. The heap, too, will not be walked and searched over each day throughout the winter, in search of the largest potatoes for family use. A handy man, with material and tools, can build a very substantial screen in less than a day.

Notes from the Agricultural College.

During the fifteen years of my principalship we have not had a pleasanter or more successful session of the Ontario Agricultural College than that which closed on the 31st ult. The work in all departments has been carried on with unusual vigor and success. At the beginning of the year, we changed the lecture hour from 9 o'clock to 8.45 a.m., and divided the forenoon into four periods of fifty minutes each, instead of three periods of one hour each, thus increasing the number of class-room lectures from fifteen to twenty per week. We also, for the first time, made provision for giving special instruction in spelling, English grammar, composition, and arithmetic, to certain students, whose early education was neglected. Such students received not only our usual forenoon lectures on the work of the first year, but also special teaching for two and a-half hours every alternate afternoon on the subjects mentioned above.

SCHOLARSHIPS.

And just here it gives me much pleasure to announce to intending students that Mr. George A. Cox, President of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, has generously offered us \$100 a year, to be given in scholarships of \$20 apiece to the students who shall stand highest in each of the five departments into which the work of our second year is divided, viz.: (1) Agriculture, live stock, and dairying; (2) Natural science; (3) Veterinary science; (4) English literature and political economy; (5) Mathematics and book-keeping—\$10 to be paid at the end of the first year, and the remaining \$10 at the end of the second year.

THE FARM.

Our farm crops are exceptionally good this year—hay, fall wheat, spring wheat, barley, peas, and oats, all first class as regards both quantity and quality. The only exception is in the case of the oats and spring wheat, which ripened too quickly, and as a consequence did not fill quite so well as was expected. Fodder corn is a fairly good crop, and, under Mr. Rennie's management, the mangels, turnips and rape promise a large yield of good quality.

EXPERIMENTAL WORK.

Early in the year, Mr. Rennie, our farm superintendent, with the help of the students, cleared and cleaned up several acres of old woodland, for the purpose of enlarging and improving the experimental grounds. By the addition of this new land, the experimental field is increased to something over 40 acres, all in one block, laid out into about 2,000 small plots, which are used by Mr. Zavitz, our experimentalist, in testing varieties of grain, roots, corn, potatoes, etc.; different dates and various methods of seeding; special fertilizers; selection of seed, and several other matters of importance to the farmers of the Province. A bulletin, giving the results of this year's tests of fall wheat, has just been published, and is, we think, of real value as a guide in the selection of seed.

HORTICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

With an extra man in this department, the work has been extended and made more practical. Our greenhouses are now complete, and afford ample opportunity for instruction in botany and horticulture at all seasons of the year. The plants have been all labelled by Mr. Hutt, our horticulturist, with both the botanical and common names, in order that both students and visitors may be able to use the entire collection as a direct means of instruction. Benches and other appliances were added during the year for practical work by the second year students in grafting, hybridizing, etc.

EXPERIMENTAL DAIRY.

Our Dairy School opened on the 15th January last, in our new dairy building, and continued in session for two months. The number in attendance was 103, six of whom were ladies, and the work done was in every way satisfactory. The work in the Dairy School embraces cheese-making, milk-testing, butter-making on the creamery plan, and butter-making on a smaller scale suited to farmers.

In April and May we bought twenty grade cows for the dairy department; and, having been brought together from different places, they were constantly hooking and goring one another; so about the 1st June (nearly a month too late) our veterinary surgeon sawed the horns off them with a fine, sharp saw; and, although the operation was, no doubt, painful for the moment, it did not cause any falling off in their milk; and from that time to the present they have run together like sheep.

From time to time throughout the spring and summer, Professors Dean and Bell, with the assistance of our chemist, Prof. Shuttleworth, have been conducting experiments in cheese-making, to ascertain whether the amount of cheese made from milk varies exactly in proportion to the quantity of fat contained in the milk. Two bulletins on this work have recently been issued.

We have already accepted nearly 100 applicants for the Dairy School, to commence on the 1st of January next.

SUMMER SCHOOL FOR TEACHERS.

Our school for teachers was a failure this summer, because the Minister of Education recently struck agriculture out of the list of Public school studies. We had only seven or eight in attendance. If agriculture had been left on the programme, I believe we should have had fifty.

POULTRY BUILDINGS.

After consultation with several of our leading poultrymen, I sketched the outline of two buildings and set our carpenter to work some time in May. These buildings consist of an office, a room for brooders, a cellar, a boiler-room, store-rooms, and pens for fourteen breeds or varieties of hens; also, a larger pen for non-breeding stock, and an extension containing twenty small pens for male birds. We hope to have yards and all ready for use this fall.

LIBRARY, ETC.

Our library, containing over 6,000 volumes, is being indexed and catalogued by Mr. Harrison, Professor Pantou's assistant, and is thus being made of much greater benefit to both students and professors. A room for photography has recently been fitted up in the botanical laboratory; and, all considered, I think I may say that we are now ready and fully equipped for the new session to commence on the 1st October. JAS. MILLS, President.

A Catchy Harvest in England.

During the last two or three years the weather seems to have been dealt out in wholesale lots. Last summer, England suffered very seriously from drought, and this year, although they have had a very favorable season of growth and maturity, much grain is being ruined by stormy weather. The crops were so badly laid and twisted before cutting, by violent thunderstorms, which continued for weeks, even after the grain was ripe, that much anxiety prevailed among farmers, who had the satisfaction of seeing bulky crops in the fields, but wondering when they would be transferred to the stack or barn. Such a circumstance has triple disadvantages incurred, of increased labor charges, damaged and unsaleable grain, and rain-stained straw and fodder. Last year it was only a question of commencing cutting soon enough; the crops were light, upstanding, and the self-binder worked splendidly. Shortly after the cutting was done, the grain was ready for hauling, and an early completion of harvest was the result. How different the position this season! Bulky crops of wheat, oats and barley ripened somewhat irregularly, owing to portions being laid. If machines were taken to the field, patches had to be cut out by hand, or one or more sides of the field had to be traversed by a machine running idle, and in many cases whole fields had to be cut by the hand sickle or scythe.

A New Dressed Meat Enterprise.

In our issue for Sept. 1st it was stated that one result of the continuance of the British embargo against Canadian cattle would be to stimulate action in the direction of an export dressed meat trade. As a matter of fact, we are enabled to inform our readers that at Collingwood, Ont., the Collingwood Meat Co. is now completing an establishment, having in view such a possibility. The intention, however, for the present, is only to ship fresh beef over a certain portion of Canada, but their plant will be capable of handling properly meat to be exported fresh to Great Britain. The Collingwood Meat Co. expects to commence operations about the middle of next month, and will probably commence exporting bacon and hams this fall. The Company intends handling both beef and hogs, but for the present pork will be the larger part of the business. The present shareholders in the Company are T. Long, J. J. Long, C. E. Stephens, Robert Stephens, A. L. Stephens, F. F. Telfer, H. Y. Telfer, G. W. Brown and T. C. Brown, all of Collingwood, except Mr. T. Long, who resides in Toronto.

The Company expects to be able to get their supply of hogs in Ontario, and would also like to get their supply of beef cattle in the same Province, but they expect they will have to bring some cattle from the Northwest.

"Sheep breeders are to be congratulated upon the generally good averages obtained at the sales of rams and ewes which we have reported in recent weeks. The general run of prices has been higher than for two or three years, to say the least. At the sheep fairs, too, prices have been satisfactory. With abundance of keep for the autumn and winter assured, breeding and other store stock could hardly fail to sell well, though the damage done to the corn crops must be some drawback, as it will diminish the money available for the purchase of stock."—[British Agricultural Gazette.]