

**Municipal Improvements.**

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

It is sometimes said, how can we expect improved legislation unless we ask for it? Now, to my mind there could be legislation enacted that would be of general benefit, especially to rural municipalities, and now would be an opportune time to make our wants known, being just on the eve of our representatives entering the session. I will not pretend to offer any criticisms upon the laws affecting towns and cities, but I believe the assessment law should be amended so as to encourage rather than discourage improvements as is the case under present conditions. We know that if an assessor does his duty as he is sworn to do, that every tree or plant, every tile we put into the ground, or every fence we build, will justify him in raising our assessment, and the same may be said about buildings up to a certain valuation. I have no hesitation in saying this is not as it should be. The farmer should be especially encouraged in improving his farm and general surroundings, because through the improvements everyone either directly or indirectly is benefited, even to the man who handles the pick in the iron or coal mines. Another matter that is worth considering is the time that is fixed for assessing in the rural districts. To my mind, it now has to be done the very worst time in the year, either for the assessor to get around or to study conditions sufficiently to enable him to make just valuations. On the other hand, if the work were done in May and June, it would be done in half the time and with a much greater degree of fairness than when the land is covered with snow or water. Another matter that is worth considering is making the term of municipal councils three years instead of one as it is at present. It might be well to make the term on a scale similar to school trustees so as to avoid having it at any one time a completely new, or, in other words, green council. Whether that would be advisable or not, there would be no more likelihood of an all new council under the proposed plan than under the present one. I feel sure that if the term were a three-year one there could be men induced to go into it that will not now waste their time for the public good for little or no remuneration and face an election every year. The need for a change in this system was never so great as now. With the introduction of "hydro for the farmer," "natural gas for the farmer," etc., we must get the best and most broad-minded men we have into municipal offices, and if we are to get them the system must be changed to encourage them. With the average council doing their own commission work, much more systematic work in road making, etc., would be done if when a body of men went into office they could lay their plans for three years instead of one as at present.

Another question that should be opened is the sheep or dog law. I think that it should be compulsory that every dog should wear a tag to correspond with his assessment number. There is good reason to believe that many dogs are still at large without ever being taxed. While this condition prevails there is little encouragement for farmers in many districts going into

sheep raising. Of course I don't pretend to lay the blame for the dogs running at large without being taxed upon the Government, but someone is responsible and someone should see that those laws are better enforced. To the Ontario farmer I would say in conclusion, let your local M. P.'s know your needs. R. H. HARDING. Middlesex Co., Ont.

**Winners in a Students' Crop Competition.**

Herewith are given the names of twenty-six young farmers of the Province who will, without cost to themselves, take the two weeks' short course in seed and stock judging at the Ontario Agricultural College this month. They are the winners in a very interesting acre-plot competition, which has been carried on by the Ontario Department of Agriculture during the past summer. The idea is a new one, and has been worked out through the district representatives. The competition was open to the students taking the four weeks' short course with a district representative. The contestants then selected the kind of crop they desired to grow, and hence, as will be seen, a considerable variety of crops have been included in the competition. It was decided that the crop should cover a full acre in order to avoid mistakes which very frequently arise in connection with small plot crop competitions and also to make it conform to ordinary farm conditions. It was further decided that emphasis should be placed upon the net profit, rather than on the yield, in order to avoid an effort to produce enormous crops regardless of cost of production. Forms were supplied by the Department to the contestants setting forth the details of their methods, and the figures in each case were certified to by two neighbors, who are not relatives of the contestants. Every effort was made to place the contestants on an equal basis. In the cost figures, five dollars was put down for the rent of an acre of land, and the labor was figured on a basis of ten cents per hour, and ten cents per hour extra charge for each horse. The actual cost of commercial fertilizer, seed, special mixtures, etc., was put down, while barnyard manure was valued at fifty cents per load. Although this is lower than the real value of the manure, it was realized that the full manurial value does not go to the first crop, and consequently this was considered a fair figure. In arriving at the gross income the crop was figured entirely on the basis of market prices. No attempt has been made to show big returns by fancy figures. In fact in adhering to market prices, an injustice has been done to some of the contestants, whose careful seed selection and cultivation resulted in superior crops, which would command for seed purposes much above the market price.

Altogether about one hundred and fifty young men entered the competition. Only one prize was offered, being free transportation and living expenses for the short course at Guelph, so that

the place will prove of further educational value. In addition, at the conclusion of the course at Guelph, they will have the opportunity of competing for a gold watch presented by W. B. Roadhouse, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, and C. F. Bailey, Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture, for the one attaining the highest standing in stock and seed judging.

In potatoes the Thunder Bay district scored, Arthur Sitch, of Hymers, producing 427½ bushels from his acre at a cost of \$25.05, leaving, at 60c. per bushel, a profit of \$231.45. Other winners in potatoes were: For Welland Co., Will Chrysler, Allanburg; for Parry Sound District, Ernest Inch, Burk's Falls; for Kenora, Jas. W. Hatch, Dryden; for Dufferin, Roy Best, Shilburne; for Grey, Otto Foy, Rocklyn, and for Ontario, Harold T. Lick, Oshawa. The lowest yield of any of the winners was 180 bushels per acre, and the lowest profit was \$73.82 per acre.

Corn for silage was another crop in the competition. The corn was valued at \$2.75 per ton and the highest yield was 19½ tons per acre, produced by Stanley Griesbach, Collingwood, Simcoe County, whose expense was \$15.15, leaving a profit of \$38.47. Wm. Zufelt, of Consecon, Prince Edward County, produced 19 tons, but it cost him \$23.40. Leslie Sanderson, of Paris, was the winner for Brant County. In Norfolk County, Trueman Charter, of Tyrrell, was first. Manitoulin was headed by Arthur Wickett, of Mel drum Bay, and Victoria by Howard W. Hardy, Oakwood. The lowest yield was fifteen tons and the lowest profit \$22.73, while the highest cost per acre was \$23.40.

Essex County led in corn for seed, Jas. Hafford, Maidstone, growing 107.52 bushels at a cost of \$19.80, leaving, at \$1.00 per bushel, a profit of \$97.73. In Lambton County, Hugh Cameron, Inwood, led with 82.16 bushels, at a profit of \$56.38.

The best yield of oats was produced in Middlesex County, Loftus O. Muxlow, Strathroy, at 89 bushels, which cost \$12.74, leaving a profit of \$17.52. Clarence Marchant, of Lloydton, York County, produced 82½ bushels at a profit of \$18.60. Other winners were Harvey Pearesien, Cornwall; W. H. Graham, Huntley; Norman Poole, Perth, and Jas. Scott, Walkerton.

The best acre of barley was grown by W. J. Fawcett, Inkermann, Dundas County, at a cost of \$13.80 and profit of \$19.80. Ross Frisken, Napanee, produced 55 bushels at a profit of \$21.30.

In Algoma District, Wm. E. Dickison, Sault Ste. Marie, grew 975 bushels at a cost of \$42.45; profit, \$103.80.

E. H. Martyn, of Port Hope, grew 537 bushels of mangels at a profit of \$53.85, and Nelson Usher, of Wicklow, produced 569 bushels at a profit of \$54.15. Roots were figured at fifteen cents per bushel; barley at sixty cents, and oats at thirty-four cents per bushel.

Prof. J. H. Comstock, for 35 years professor of entomology and invertebrate zoology, Cornell University, and over 40 years connected with the faculty, has resigned and will retire in June next to devote his time to research work in his own field. Prof. Comstock is widely known as the author of several valuable scientific works.

**Markets.**

**Toronto.**

At the Union Stock yards, West Toronto, on Monday, January 5, receipts were 128 cars, comprising 2,024 cattle, 1,560 hogs, 668 sheep, and 93 calves. Quality of cattle was medium to good, with a few choice. Trade active. Choice butchers' steers, \$8.50 to \$9; choice heifers, \$8 to \$8.50; good steers and heifers, \$7.75 to \$8; medium, \$7.25 to \$7.75; common, \$5.75 to \$6.25; cows, \$3.50 to \$7.25; bulls, \$5 to \$7; feeders, \$6 to \$7; stockers, \$5.25 to \$5.75; milkers, \$6 to \$8.5; calves, \$5 to \$11. Sheep, \$5.50 to \$6.25; lambs, \$8.75 to \$9.25. Hogs, \$8.75 to \$9 fed and watered.

**REVIEW OF LAST WEEK'S MARKETS**

The total receipts of live stock at the City and Union Stock-yards for the past week were:

	City.	Union.	Total.
Cars	8	91	99
Cattle	158	1,042	1,200
Hogs	—	2,560	2,560
Sheep	—	470	470
Calves	—	114	114
Horses	—	2	2

The total receipts of live stock at the

two yards for the corresponding week of 1913 were:

	City.	Union.	Total.
Cars	12	175	187
Cattle	176	1,961	2,137
Hogs	88	5,663	5,751
Sheep	119	1,420	1,539
Calves	18	208	226
Horses	—	4	4

The combined receipts of live stock at the two yards for the past week, show a decrease of 88 cars, 937 cattle, 3,391 hogs, 1,069 sheep and lambs, 112 calves, and 2 horses, compared with the same week of 1912.

**LARGEST LIVE-STOCK RECEIPTS AT UNION STOCK-YARDS, TORONTO.**

Biggest year's business show increase of 7,917 carloads.

Receipts of live stock at Union Stock-yards for the past nine years:

Year.	Cars.	Cattle.	Sheep.
1905	4,414	77,828	5,902
1906	4,805	88,808	12,021
1907	4,618	91,156	16,094
1908	4,651	70,730	25,237
1909	7,093	114,808	53,972
1910	9,456	165,586	56,342
1911	11,019	153,347	93,506
1912	13,649	191,657	132,919
1913	21,566	340,983	180,215

Increase 1913 over 1912..	7,917	149,325	47,296
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Year.	Hogs.	Calves.	Horses.
1905	50,442	1,072	465
1906	30,088	824	666
1907	58,616	2,214	293
1908	60,774	4,083	5,957
1909	59,331	6,571	6,982
1910	67,463	6,531	6,140
1911	213,653	5,662	4,557
1912	248,962	15,590	5,607
1913	340,732	49,373	2,317

Increase 1913 over 1912..	91,770	33,783	—
Decrease 1913 under 1912.	—	—	3,290

Receipts of live stock at the Toronto yards were light all week. The quality of the fat cattle was not up to the usual standard, nearly all offerings being common to medium, few good, and no choice that we saw during the week. The prices were higher, when quality is considered. All other classes of live stock were in good demand, and sold readily at steady to firm prices, the market being cleaned up each day during the week.

Butchers'.—Choice steers and heifers; that is, the best on sale, \$8 to \$8.50; medium to good, \$7 to \$7.75; common to fair, \$6 to \$6.50; choice cows, \$6.50 to \$7.25; medium to good cows, \$5.25 to \$6; common, \$3 to \$4.50; good to choice bulls, \$6 to \$7.25; medium to good bulls, \$5.25 to \$6; common bulls, \$4.50 to \$5.50.

Stockers and Feeders.—The demand was greater than the supply. Choice, heavy

steers, \$6.75 to \$7.25; good steers, \$6.25 to \$6.75; stockers, \$5.25 to \$5.75. Milkers and Springers.—A moderate supply met a good demand, at \$60 to \$90 each, and we heard of two or three extra quality cows that brought \$100 and \$110 each.

Veal Calves.—Receipts of calves during the week were not equal to the demand, and prices were higher all round on the average. Choice veal calves sold at \$10 to \$11 per cwt.; good calves, \$9 to \$10; medium, \$7 to \$8.50; common, \$5.75 to \$6.75.

Sheep and Lambs.—There was a strong demand all week for both sheep and lambs. Sheep, ewes sold at \$5.50 to \$6.25; culls and rams, \$3.75 to \$4.50; lambs, \$8.60 to \$8.90.

Hogs.—The bulk of the hogs sold at \$9 to \$9.15, fed and watered at the market, although there were a few very choice lots quoted at \$9.25, fed and watered.

**BREADSTUFFS.**

Wheat.—Ontario, new, red, white or mixed, 84c. to 85c., outside; 88c., track, Toronto; Manitoba, No. 1 northern, 93c. to 94c.; No. 2 northern, 91½c. to 92½c.

Oats.—New, No. 2 white, 33½c. to 34½c., outside; 35½c. to 36½c., track, Toronto. Manitoba oats, No. 2, 41c.; No. 3, 39½c., at lake ports.

Rye.—No. 2, 63c. to 64c., outside.

Peas.—No. 2, \$1 to \$1.05, outside.

Buckwheat.—No. 2, 66c. to 68c., outside. Corn.—American, No. 3 yellow, 72c., all rail, track, Toronto.