THE WATERDOWN REVIEW

Issued Every Thursday morning from the office, Dundas Street, Waterdown

G. H. GREENE Member C. W. N. A

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1921

USING LIGHTNING RODS

Erroneous Opinions Corrected by Statements of Expert.

Why Buildings Should Be Rodded— When Metal Roofs Are Safe— Shelter of Trees Unsafe During Thunder Storms.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

The many direct questions concerning lightning rods or cables, methods of installing, etc., sent to the Department of Physics, O.A. C., Guelph, are often accompanied by statements of the views of those submitting these questions. The following list of corrected views, or impressions, will prove helpful to those who are at all interested in the protection of their property from lightning discharges.

E. denotes an erroneous view of statement.
C. denotes correct explanations or

statements of facts.

E. Lightning rods attract the electric charge on the cloud and then allow the flash to travel down the system of lightning rods to the

ground where it disappears.

C. The rodding system forms a connecting link between the charge on the cloud and the charge on the earth and structure protected. The charges on the cloud and on the earth are of opposite polarity, and the induced charge on the earth or structure is quietly neutralized by the redding system including the ground rod, the cable, and the points on the ridge. The neutralizing of the charge takes place in the form of an almost silent discharge from the points placed on the ridge, or on prominences at various parts of the building. It is in thus "preventing" the sudden flash from the cloud that the chief efficiency of the rodding system consists. The system helps to avoid destruction by fires even in cases where a flash cannot be prevented, but these flashes are almost unheard of to-day with the efficient rodding systems being installed by lightning rod dealers. "Rodding systems properly installed do protect."

E. Any kind of rodding "system" is satisfactory if the proper kind of rod or cable is used. It all depends on the rod.

C. Rather say any durable rod, copper over three ounces per foot, and iron 4½ ounces per foot, sind iron 4½ ounces per foot, and iron 4½ ounces per foot, sind iron 4½ ounces per foot, and iron 4½ ounces per foot, sind iron 4½ ounces per foot, sind iron 4½ ounces per foot, sind iron 4½ ounces per foot, and iron 4½ ounces per foot, sind iron 4½ ounces per foot, and iron 4½ ounces per foot, sind iron 4½ ounces per foot, sind iron 5% of the properly installed." Emphasis cannot be too strongly laid on the "method" of installations.

E. If the ground rod or cable is placed in the ground a distance of six feet, it is considered satisfactory.

C. Ground rods must be down to perpetual moisture, or (where this is impossible) special arrangements must be made to provide the best grounding, more ground rods being necessary and special advice must be sought as to the best method in each special case.

E. A building with metal roof is safe from electrical discharges. on the cloud and the charge on the earth and structure protected. The

necessary and special advice must be sought as to the best method in each special case.

E. A building with metal roof is safe from electrical discharges.

C. A metal roof grounded at the corners, and with a "sharp" ridge-board or points, makes an excellent system for fire protective purposes. The chief metal parts in the building must, however, be connected to the main system as suggested in rodding specifications. Builetin No. 220 of the Department of Agriculture for Ontario.

E. Even properly rodded buildings are sometimes struck

C. Although the above is true, the chances of their being injured if struck, or struck at all, are so few that one is safe to challenge the statement as "misleading" When hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of property is being destroyed annually in the Province of Ontario there are on record spaces of twelve months' duration where no single properly rodded building was burned, and practically none even infured.

E. The safest place in a thunderstorm is a sort distance from a tall tree, but lightning is liable to strike anything, or anywhere.

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L. J. MULLOCK. Clerk of Said Municipality

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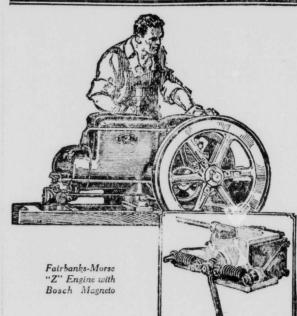
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