

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles.

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FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

ANOTHER FAKE

Almost every year some new fake in the horticultural line makes its appearance in Canada. The variety and ingenuity of these fakes is astonishing. Even more astonishing, however, is the number of farmers and fruit growers who are bitten by them.

We have had powders which by being injected into a tree, would be carried by the sap through all the branches and result in phenomenal yields. Paints that would protect trees against all insect life and insure large crops, have had their day. "Seedless" apple trees that were going to revolutionize the fruit growing industry have appeared and disappeared. Now we hear of Northern Spy apple trees grown by a new budding process, that will insure young trees coming into bearing inside of three years' time. Agents who are booming this new discovery (?) we learn are operating in such counties as Simcoe, Grey and Dufferin, in Ontario and possibly elsewhere.

The agents who represent these con-

cerns are smooth talkers. They know that their frauds will not be discovered before several years, which enables them to get a portion at least of the money they are after and get safely out of the country before their victims discover that they have been defrauded. Our farmers and fruit growers should be on the lookout for these gentlemen and demand that they show reports from the experiment stations and government institutions proving absolutely the merits of the goods they offer. When the agents are unable to do this then they should be given a hot time, and the country should be warned of their presence.

WEED LAW UNSATISFACTORY

The Ontario Act to prevent the spread of noxious weeds needs to be radically amended. In fact, the present law could well be discarded and replaced by a new one.

Its chief defect lies in the fact that its enforcement is left in the hands of the local municipalities. Under such conditions no attempt to enforce the law is likely to be made until conditions in each municipality have become so bad that the majority of the people of the township are suffering serious loss from the weed pest thus creating a condition of affairs where drastic action becomes necessary.

Like all other laws of the same nature, which are left in local hands for enforcement, the weed law is practically a dead letter. At one time, the prosecution of parties who broke the sanitary laws relating to the handling of milk and cream was left with the municipal officers. This proved a failure and finally provincial inspectors were appointed by the Provincial Department. Recently, we find that the work of the enforcement of the criminal laws is being so amended that the county constables hereafter will be managed by the Provincial Government. Other instances of the same nature could be cited.

We need a law in Ontario which will compel the cutting of noxious weeds before they go to seed and the enforcement of which will be left with Provincial inspectors. This matter should be agitated at farmers' institute meetings and by farmers' clubs.

BETTER ROADS ARE NEEDED

A person who travels through the various provinces, counties and townships of Canada cannot fail to note the great difference in the public roads. The contrast is often great where the division is only a township, and sometimes it is most marked between a rural municipality and a town and that not to the advantage of the town. Why such difference? The same soil and material from which to build a road are available. We must look for other causes. The method of construction is one of them.

If we travel through a township which has 100 to 150 pathmasters we will see many different ideas set forth in road building; such as differences in width of road, grade, ditching, the

placing of culverts and building of bridges. One of the first requisites of road building is uniformity. This can be best accomplished by having some competent person to lay out and superintend their construction. The leading roads should be wider than those that are less travelled. The ditches should not be too deep, but sufficient to carry off all water during the spring or a heavy rain. Where the ground is springy the road bed should be thick. The road bed must be properly graded with the road grader so as to carry the water from the centre to the ditches and make a good foundation for broken stone or gravel. The covering of stone or gravel should be thick so that it will form a solid body and should be wide enough to catch the wheels on each side.

The road grader has become common and is an excellent machine when properly used for grading and rounding up the road bed by cutting off the shoulders that form on the sides of the road and throwing them out. In many municipalities the grader appears to be used for destroying roads with a solid foundation of gravel by scraping the soft soil from the sides to the centre of the road. A road so treated will be a mass of mud in wet weather. By its improper use the grader becomes a menace to roads instead of an advantage. New made gravel roads are avoided as much as possible by travellers in dry weather on account of the loose stones. The road roller if properly used, will put all stones down and make it a splendid road to travel upon. More care should be taken in the making and management of our roads.

FAIRS MUST BE KEPT CLEAN

The following despatch from Woodbridge, Ont., was published recently in one of the Toronto papers:

"As in the case of all fairs through out the country, the confidence men and owners of chance games were on hand in force. So prominent did two of the layouts become that Magistrate MacClure took a hand in the proceedings and made a summary conviction on the grounds, both owners being assessed \$20 and costs. The arrests and convictions were so quiet and promptly effected that the crowd was not aware of what had taken place. The directors stated that they intended to enforce the law in this regard."

It is most remarkable that every time a society is caught running games of chance upon their grounds, and the sharps are convicted, that the directors always declare that they had no idea that such things were taking place on the grounds. If they do not know the nature of the games being operated, then they are not proper men for directors. Ignorance is no excuse. The law states that a society that runs games of chance on its grounds shall forfeit its government grant for the year next ensuing.

One reason why Farm and Dairy keeps hammering at this question is because it is constantly receiving evidence of the manner in which these sharps defraud the public. Within the past few days our corre-

spondent in King's Co., N. S., writes us as follows:—

"There were several fakirs playing their games of chance at our fair at which small youngsters lost heavily. The fakirs and the societies which permit them to operate should both be taught a severe lesson. This is the only way in which this evil can be driven out of the country. We must keep our fairs clean."

A Remedy Needed

(Peterborough Examiner)

In another column of this page is reproduced an important article from "Farm and Dairy." It is well worth the study of every farmer. "The unfair burden on the farmer" is additional to what he has to bear in respect to bad roads. If, as asserted in the article named, the farmer is subjected to bearing an unfair share of taxation to the advantage and relief of the cities and towns, he creates and maintains, a remedy should be provided. But who could be brought to believe that the farmer realizes the burden of unfair taxation, if he quietly submits, as he has done and is doing, to the burden of bad roads? "Farm and Dairy" pertinently inquires: "If our farmers are increasing the value of land in cities, should they not reap their share of the unbalanced value?" In justice they should do so. But the remedy proposed—the single tax principle—will be slow of attainment and will only remedy, if it does that, one part of the burden that oppresses the farmer. It may readjust taxation more fairly, but it still leaves the burden of bad roads to be entirely borne by the farmer.

Why Do They Do it?

(Toronto Star)

On a beautiful sunlight October day two passengers were looking out of their car window and admiring the rich coloring of the Ontario woods, when one of them invited the other to observe the farm houses along the line. For the most part they were handsome brick dwellings, each attended by large frame barns, set on stone foundations.

But do you notice that in these houses every window is tight shut? Where there are shutters the shutters are closed too. Take that house—the kitchen door is open, but that is for convenience, no doubt, not for fresh air. All the windows are closed down fast."

It was true. All along the line for miles the houses were sealed up close, except for an occasional door, in which usually the figure of a woman would appear as the train went by. The day was warm, and the golden sun and fine air of October carried life and energy wherever it reached. But the farm houses within sight of that railway line on that day were shut and barred against sun and breeze, as if they carried pestilence instead of death.

Why is it? Is it the habit of winter carried into summer? If so, the sealed house, even in winter, is a mistake, for cold air is as bad as hot if not fresh and new. Or are these hand-

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