

be lost. The first runs of sap are always the best and it does not pay to lose any by carelessness. Have your evaporator and storage tanks in place, your spouts and buckets ready so that you may be able to tap for the first runs.

TIME TO TAP

No hard and fast rule can be laid down for the proper time to tap; a good deal has to be left to one's own judgment. When speaking on the subject a gentleman once remarked that the proper time to tap was when sugar weather arrived, but we often have days about the 15th or 18th of March that much resemble sugar weather but are only the forerunner of a storm. There is nothing made by tapping at such a time, as after a certain time the holes bored are apt to dry and blacken causing a decrease in the flow of sap. It is claimed that the new galvanized spouts prevent this and so increase the flow of sap at least a third more than the old iron spouts. That it does increase the flow of sap has been proven beyond a doubt. There are so many kinds of spouts that are really good that much has to be left to individual preference in the selection.

We do not consider it advisable to use a bucket larger than 10 quarts, as buckets should be emptied frequently. The buckets should be made nearly straight so as to hold so has been remarked, "the full of it." It is not to have a market where sugar or syrup can be shipped while fresh so as to bring the highest price. To this end an attempt has been made to form a sugar makers' association. It would at least serve a two fold purpose, that of providing a market and also in a measure preventing adulteration, which is so detrimental to the best interests of sugar making.

Spring Care of the Spring Calving Cow

J. H. Grisdale, Agriculturist, C.E.F., Ottawa

The great majority of cows in the cheese making districts of Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec, calve in the months of April and May. The good farmer usually makes some effort to get his cows in passable condition. Too many of our farmers are satisfied to let the cow get through the winter as best she can, or at most try to improve matters by giving the cow some little extra feed in March and April, after having let her gradually lose flesh all the rest of the housing season.

This neglect or indifference to the well-being of the cow in the spring is one of the weakest points in our dairy farming system in Canada. Badly wintered cows start out giving poor yields of milk and can never be expected to give anything like the generous flow that might have been expected had they been fed suitable rations during the whole winter through and more particularly during the spring months before and immediately after calving till the grass is plentiful and of good quality. Such as have not fed well up to the present stage of the game, cannot, of course, make up entirely for past delinquencies. They can, however, by judicious and generous feeding from now on do much to atone for past faults and to ensure a much more than usually successful season in 1910. From now on, the cow coming to the calving in April or May should receive excellent care, an abundant and nutritious ration and every kindly consideration possible.

As to care, I would suggest grooming every day or two and letting out only when ground and dry is not so icy as to endanger her falling. By an abundant and nutritious ration, I would understand good ensilage and roots, if available, chaff or cut straw, mixed therewith, say one pound thereof to each five or six pounds of ensilage, three or four pounds long hay and a couple of pounds meal, say equal parts bran and oats and oil cake meal or gluten meal. The dry cow should be putting on flesh. There need be no fear of milk fever, even with the best of cows, provided always proper precautions are taken at the calving time.

Very few cows are good enough to make any danger from good feeding at all probable in that direction.

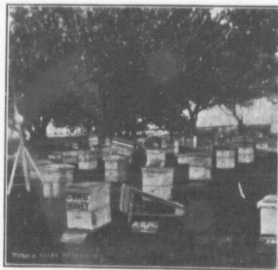
Every cow coming to the calving in good flesh and contented with her lot as a dairy cow is sure to do anywhere from 10 to 50 per cent. better than usual. Let us take advantage of this fact for the increased returns are sure to pay many times over for the slightly increased cost of feeding.

Bees from Cellar to Stands

J. Storer, Victoria Co., Ont.

After having kept their bees for nearly five months confinement in a dark cellar most beekeepers are anxious to see them on their summer stand. My experience has been that if the hives are clean and dry and the bees fairly quiet it is better to leave them where they are until there is some sign of growth in vegetation. When the soft maples begin to bloom is a good time to remove bees from their winter quarters.

Last year my bees were put on their summer stands on April fifth and sixth,—three weeks too



Don't Hurray Bees to Summer Stands

Mr. James Storer gives some practical advice on this point in the adjoining article. The apiary illustrated is that owned by Mr. Albert Pife, Wellington Co., Ont.

soon for that season. If a beekeeper has only a few hives he may easily take them out on a fine day and let them have a cleansing flight and re turn them to the cellar again.

Rabies, a Most Dreadful Malady

Dr. H. G. Reed, V.S., Halton Co., Ont.

Rabies is one of the oldest known diseases of animals. It has been described by Aristotle in the fourth century, B.C. Even at the present time very erroneous opinions are held by many as to the real nature of the disease. Some persons believe that the disease will develop spontaneously as the result of great heat, thirst, nervous excitement, anger, too high feeding and other causes. However during recent years authorities agree that the only cause of the disease is a specific micro-organism which must first be introduced into the system of an individual before it is possible for the disease to develop.

The germ of Rabies has not yet been identified, but experiments have proved that such an organism exists. It is thought to be so small that the best modern microscopes are unable to detect its presence. The saliva of a rabid animal is the most frequent and so far as at present known the only means of spreading the contagion.

A DISEASE OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

Rabies is a disease of the nervous system and the brain and spinal cord are the parts most affected in animals suffering from an attack.

While all warm blooded animals are liable to contract the disease, the dog because of his natural habits, which prompt him to bite in his own defence, is the animal most likely to become infected and also for the same reason most likely to spread the contagion through a community.

After the virus has been introduced into the system it may develop rabies in a comparatively short period or it may not develop for a considerable length of time. It will depend somewhat on the amount of the virus introduced, the location of the bite and the resisting powers of the individual. It is believed that the nearer the bite is to the brain or spinal cord the shorter the incubative period and when the extremities are bitten the longer it will take to develop the symptoms.

The disease has been divided into two forms, viz., Furious and Dumb Rabies. In the case of furious rabies the brain is thought to be the part most affected and in dumb form of the disease, the spinal cord. In furious rabies we have extreme excitement, in dumb rabies we find stupor or paralysis. In the last stages of the furious form we almost always have paralysis.

SYMPTOMS OF VARIOUS STAGES

Again furious rabies has been divided into three stages: first, melancholy stage, second, maniacal stage, and third, paralytic stage. The first or melancholy stage lasts on an average from 12 to 48 hours, in which the animal will become restless, frightened or sullen, his manner will be entirely changed, he will show a taste for abnormal food, or possibly refuse food of any kind. He will lick cold objects and may have difficulty in swallowing. The second or maniacal stage lasts three or four days and is characterized by attacks of fury which may last for some hours, and is often followed by convulsions. In this stage the animal will evince a great desire to run away from home, if on the chain it will make enormous efforts to break away. It will run in an aimless way and often come many miles in a few hours and will bite and snap at anything that comes in its way, even at posts or stones or anything that obstructs its progress. This is of course the dangerous stage of the disease.

The third or paralytic stage will find the animal in a most miserable condition, much emaciated, hair standing on end, sunken eyes, staring and glassy and a generally loathsome appearance.

The lower jaw will drop, the saliva will dribble from the mouth and paralysis of the hind quarters will render him unable to walk. There will be attacks of convulsions and usually death about the 10th day since the disease developed.

A DANGER ALL TOO REAL

This most dreadful malady is attracting special attention just now because of the "mad dog" scare and the action of the government has been severely criticised in many quarters for the ordering of dogs to be muzzled. But while there is no doubt that many of the cases reported in the press of rabid dogs have no real foundation in fact so far as rabies is concerned, and although many a poor dog has no doubt been hunted to death without real cause, yet to those more closely in touch with the situation the danger is unfortunately all too real. We have had rabid dogs in the country and any means that would help to rid the state of such a dreadful disease should be encouraged by all thoughtful, law abiding citizens.

After all a muzzle does not irritate a dog to any great extent after he has become a little used to it, a young horse will resent a bridle when it is first put on just as much as a dog will a muzzle and yet we hear no cry against the use of a bridle. The danger will soon be past and our dogs may run again in their former freedom. The danger is at present with us. Let us all unite to stamp it out.

It is thought by some that the harder the spray liquid is blown or thrown against the tree, the better. Such is not necessary for good results, and has even been known to prove damaging by driving the spray liquid into the stomata or breathing pores of the leaves.