

largest eggs possible for it does not cost more to produce large eggs than small, while the former weigh more and consequently yield more profit. In Ireland there is direct encouragement to poultry keepers to produce large eggs, as the co-operative societies send round their carts with weights and scales, to buy by weight and not by count, and this method has already been largely adopted by other dealers also with the result that the producer gets better prices in some cases, the increase being equivalent to 4 cents per dozen.

FRUIT OUTLOOK

The English soft fruit crop has been an exceptionally bountiful one, strawberries being in very large supply.

Literally hundreds of tons have been placed on the market during the past two weeks and naturally all other fruits have been eclipsed. Strange as it may seem, too, the abundance of fruit has put a stop upon business in both the egg and bacon market. The preference for fruit to eggs is sure to prevail for a time, especially if the weather is extra warm, as it is yet somewhat early to speak of the prospects of the home apple crop. A Herefordshire correspondent says, "The apple crop is very disappointing after the splendid blossom, and nearly all the good sorts have nothing on them." This is attributed to the prevalence of insect pests and consequently the results are not likely to come up to early promise.

asked for his reason, he said he thought it was due to the greater amount of nourishment contained in the large grain.

Here, then, is a lesson for us as farmers. If the mere difference of the size of the grain will make a difference in yield, surely, as is being proved in the United States every year, a little plant food right in the drill with the grain will increase the yield still more.

We all know the importance of giving the young plant a good start in life and also that just at the time when the young plant has used all the nourishment of the parent grain and has not yet become strong enough to take its food from the soil, is the most critical time in the life of the plant.

We have all seen fields of grain yellow all over, called by farmers the "outing" season, when some cause, such as cold, wet and drouth has interfered with the growth. Frequently fields have received set-backs from which they have never recovered, often becoming a total failure. Now, if from a hundred to two hundred and fifty pounds of a properly mixed fertilizer had been applied to the drill, either with a regular fertilizer attachment or what will answer the purpose, but is not so exact mixed with the grain in the hopper, the young plant just at this critical time would have found a store of plant food immediately at hand and would have made a great gain over unfertilized fields, which would have tumbled at the threshing machine.

For such a purpose, practical experience has shown that a 3-8-6 goods or two per cent. of nitrogen, eight per cent. of phosphoric acid, and six per cent. of potash will give the best results.

It would pay each farmer in Canada to apply this amount to every acre of grain sown without regard to the nature of soil. If this were done our United States cousins would have to look elsewhere for the fertile material and we would become an importer instead of an exporter of fertilizers. Surely it is time that Canadian farmers woke up to the fact that it will not pay to sell their birthrights for a mess of pottage by selling from the country that which should be returned to soil to provide food for the plant, thereby producing food for the farmer and his family.

Geo. F. MARSH,
Gray Co., Ont.

Milk Fever

The Bureau of Animal Industry at Washington, D.C., has prepared a short statement describing an important discovery and treatment for milk fever in cows, which, as a matter of fact, is a laborer, Mr. John R. Mohler, says is not a fever at all. This affection of the udder, which attacks old nursing cows has heretofore yielded in only about sixty cases out of a hundred to what is known as the iodide treatment. The new treatment is simply injecting sterilized air into the udder, an extremely simple and inexpensive operation, but which proves successful in nine-seventy per cent. of the cases treated. It has been extensively practiced by the manager of the Billmore estate and is of general usage in the Island of Jersey of the channel group.

North Bruce Fair

The North Bruce Union Exhibition will be held at Port Elgin, Ont., on Sept. 20th and 30th. For particulars apply to R. Munro, Secretary, Port Elgin.

Correspondence

Rural Free Mail Delivery

Editor THE FARMING WORLD:

Within the past two or three years there has been no subject discussed in our leading farm papers and journals, which will benefit the farmers more than that of rural free mail delivery; and, I think one of the best and quickest ways we can obtain it is by keeping it constantly before the public.

Some time ago I noticed in some of the papers the report that our postmaster-general had announced that the country was not ready for rural mail delivery. But I do not agree with him on this particular point, for I think that if he took a vote of all the farmers in the country, he would find that the large majority would be in his favor. Undoubtedly, there would be a great many difficulties in the way and it would involve a considerable expenditure of money to the outset, but if at least one-third of the small post-offices and mail routes were done away with, and each township had, say, one or two central post-offices with mail routes radiating from the amount of mail handled, considerable money could be saved, which would somewhat lessen the expense.

Within a radius of twelve or fifteen miles of almost every town or city today, there are on an average twenty or twenty-five post-offices, some of which do not more than pay the cost of maintaining them. This emphasizes my statement that fewer of them, with rural mail delivery, would at least increase the mail handled by one-half as much as at the present time, farmers would then be enabled to take more daily papers, and would obtain knowledge of any important event going on, without having to wait a whole week before hearing of it. This would put the farmer on an equal standing with his city brother, who at the present time has the advantage in this respect.

If more of our farmers would write on this subject, through this and other farm papers, and also have it talked up and discussed at Farmers' Institute meetings, I think that our Postmaster-General could be induced in time to comply with our demands.

FARMER'S SON,
Petersboro Co., Ont.

Judicious Use of Our Own Fertilizer Resources

Editor THE FARMING WORLD:

We in Canada have as yet been but very little interested in fertilizers, in fact many of our farmers are prejudiced against all commercial manures.

Owing to the fact that we have

been blessed with a rich soil to begin with, which has been kept up to a high standard by stock raising and clovering, we have not as yet felt the need of fertilizers to such an extent as some other countries, but even here on our good land a judicious use of fertilizers will yield a handsome return for the money invested.

I have often heard farmers and even institute speakers say the time has not yet come when it would pay for us to buy commercial fertilizers. But if the time has not yet come to buy, it has surely come to keep what we have.

It is not to the credit of Canadian agriculture to see in all United States papers, Canada unleached ashes advertised for sale. Also it is a notorious fact that all our meat packing companies depend upon our United States cousins for sale of their tankage.

What would we think of a farmer who would sell all the manure off his farm? How long would it be before he would be sold out by the sheriff? It is just as unwise for a country to sell to foreign nations the material which will feed their crops to be in time sold in competition with our own.

In the ashes is contained the mineral matter of the plant, especially potash, which is necessary to build up a hard, firm grain and a stiff straw. Again, all of the meat packing companies have an enormous amount of waste materials, which are first steamed to extract the fat, afterwards dried and ground, and forms the tankage of commerce.

This is a valuable manure containing varying amounts of nitrogen and phosphoric acid, but is not a complete manure as it lacks potash, and should be balanced up by adding potash, which can be done more cheaply by the use of some form of potash salts. Refuse products from the packings are largely shipped across the line to help the United States farmer raise better crops and beat us in our own natural market in England. But you may say, I do not understand fertilizers and do not know what my soil needs nor which particular element I should apply. I will show you how Canada can use all her waste fertilizer material to good advantage and never take into consideration the composition of her soil in the slightest.

Prof. Zavitz, in his class at the short course at the Ontario Agricultural College last winter laid great stress upon the importance of the selection of large, plump grain for seed, and stated that a series of experiments had given a much larger yield of grain from the large plump over the small plump grain. When