

Farm Notes from Waterloo.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Two and a half inches of rainfall during the week ending June 9th, following, as it did, a period of dry weather, has proved a blessing to growing crops. The hay crop, which was beginning to suffer severely, may now be an average one yet. Young clover was generally a good catch, and seems to be holding its own nicely. Spring grains are pushing up rapidly, and at the same time strongly. Wheat is a good even stand, practically none having been plowed up this spring. Corn is late, as the dry weather retarded its germination. Sugar beets, in many cases, came up unevenly, seeds which got down into the moist soil starting at once, while the rest remained dormant until started by recent rains.

Prices for farm produce are in general satisfactory. Hay brings \$3 to \$9 a ton, according to quality; oats are 42 cents a bushel. The surplus potatoes were shipped, at 65 cents a bag. The high prices prevailing for dairy produce and for hogs, shows the wisdom of staying by this grand combination, even through occasional periods of depression. In striking contrast to the dairymen, this spring, is the feeder, who may count himself fortunate if he comes out all right. Horses are higher-priced than ever, and farmers are launching into horse-breeding as though they were confident they would remain so.

Statute labor is nearly all done for another year. Many roads have, no doubt, undergone more or less improvement of a permanent nature, but at what a tremendous expenditure of time and labor. Surely, with such a dearth of efficient farm laborers, farmers might see that this is work which might be left to the most ordinary kind of laborers, employed under a competent road overseer. If farmers are once agreed that they want another system of maintaining country roads, there will be nothing to prevent their getting it; but they are not yet by any means unanimous about it in this county. Roads here are mostly in good condition, owing to the good gravel procurable in plenty.

"SOUTH WATERLOO."

Fireproof Cement Concrete Structures.

Cement is rapidly coming into general use for building purposes. In the great Peavy elevator fire, at Duluth, the wooden working-house, containing 938,000 bushels of grain, valued, in all, at nearly \$1,000,000, was a total loss, but the concrete annex, containing an immense quantity of rye, flax and wheat, went through the fire intact. According to a report in the Northwestern Miller, the two buildings were about 35 feet apart, and the heat from the millions of feet of dry timber in the wood house was so great that steel rails between the two were subjected to a welding and fusing temperature, while for hundreds of feet away it was so hot that men could not live in the glare. The 8 to 12 inches of cement between this heat and the wheat within the nearest row of bins in the concrete house were amply sufficient to protect the grain from injury.

With the foregoing in view, the new elevator of the Goderich (Ont.) Elevator and Transit Company, now in course of erection, is being constructed throughout of cement and steel. Both working-house and storage bins are being built of those materials exclusively. This fact is regarded as of the utmost importance to patrons of the Goderich elevator, as it guarantees safe storage for their grain in a fireproof elevator. Not only will this be of great advantage to Ontario millers in ensuring the safety of their grain, and obviating any risk of disturbance to their business by the sudden cutting off of their supplies, but it will also do away with the payment of heavy insurance charges.

Cultivating Corn in a Buggy.

Invention begets invention. In the County of Essex, Ont., a large area of corn is raised. "Only ten acres," was the way one man's diminutive acreage was referred to. The rows are long—forty rods, and upwards. Naturally, 2-horse corn cultivators have come largely into use. In one portion of the county last week we saw dozens of them, and only about half a dozen one-horse scufflers. Of course, all the two-horse outfits are riding implements, and it is found that sitting on a cultivator, under an Essex sun, with head down and eyes watching the rows, is a drowsy job, liable to give one a headache. Did they discard the machine on that account? Scarcely. They have rigged up sun-shades for their cultivators, much like buggy-tops. In fact, old buggy-tops are very convenient for the purpose. One man, again, had a neat canvas over the top and extending part way down each side, though not so low but what he could look out and see what was going on. Another had an expansive top, without "side curtains." Remembering the days we have trudged after the scuffer, or broiled on the riding cultivator, disk, self-binder, and so on, we were quite taken with the notion of the covered carriage for cultivating corn, and would commend it to the "sporty" boy or hired man who finds it hard to keep awake during the day time. The idea is, on the whole, preferable to Charles Dudley Warner's scheme of having a person of African extraction to hold an umbrella over him while he hoed. We will now be prepared for a further innovation in the form of a double seat, so that the boys may take their sisters—or some other boys' sisters—out driving while they work. Really, farming is getting to be quite a delightful job.

Picou County, N. S., Crop Prospects.

It is to be sincerely hoped that the "unexpected will happen" in reaping the harvest of 1906, for, in looking over our fields at the date of writing, it is surely not a case of "great expectations." Not often has the good prospects of early spring been so ruthlessly dissipated. Following a winter of alternate freezing and thawing, came a very mild April and a cold, wet May, and so far in June there has been little change, except that for the last week the weather was dry, and with two very heavy frosts. On June 8 and 13 ice formed on still water, but the following days being cold, the damage will certainly not be so great.

Fruit trees, especially plums, blossomed well, as also did strawberries, although the latter were considerably winter-killed. Fall-plowed land set very hard, and in a good many cases had to be plowed again. Two very heavy rainfalls so thoroughly soaked the ground that seeding is not over yet, and rarely has so much bare ground been seen at this time of year. Pasture, very good at first, owing to the mild weather in April, is not so good now, as stock was turned out too early for the good of the land.

Live stock of all kinds is high in price, and butchers are experiencing a good deal of trouble to get what they want. Wool is selling for 27 cents per pound, and some choice lots brought 28, and mutton and lamb high, accordingly. This will have a tendency to induce farmers to increase their flocks by refusing to sell their best ewe lambs.

Principal Cumming, of the N. S. Agricultural College, is inaugurating a vigorous campaign in Institute work this summer, in which sheep-raising is receiving considerable attention. A society has also been formed for the encouragement of sheep-raising in Nova Scotia, with headquarters at Truro. A. R. Coffin, Esq., is Secretary, and the society comprises most of the woolen manufacturers and others interested in the woollen trade.

A feature of the live-stock trade this spring is the scarcity, and consequently the high price, of young pigs. Generally they sell at \$2.00 or \$2.50 at two or three weeks of age. This spring, however, \$3.50 and even \$4.00 was asked and received. Small litters, and the failure of a great number of sows to breed, seems to be the reason. The high price of pork has also something to do with it. Butchers are offering 9 cents by the carcass for pork. ANDREW McPHERSON.

Mr. Gordon on the Cattle Trade.

Mr. J. T. Gordon, M. P. P., head of the firm of Gordon, Ironsides & Fares, cattle exporters, has returned from Great Britain, and, in discussing the cattle markets, he said: "I think we have touched the bottom rung of the price ladder, and, though I do not this year look for the high prices of four years ago, I consider the prospects excellent for steady and healthy improvement, brought about by the enormous increase in consumption in Canada and the United States, and the steadily improving conditions in all lines of trade in Great Britain, which is, after all, our natural market. South American chilled beef is our strongest competitor to-day in the British market, and it is certainly to be reckoned with, as cattle can be raised there so cheaply, and can be put on the market in such fine condition. Competition in this direction is certainly keen."

"Trade already opened up well this season, and shipments have been heavier than usual, owing to the increasing number of cattle that are being fed in Manitoba during the winter. We have shipped more stalled cattle this spring than we ever did before. On my return to Liverpool from the Continent, I inspected a shipment of Manitoba stalled cattle that had just been landed, and I must say I was proud of them, as they were of excellent quality, and arrived in good condition."

"I think the British Government did a wise thing when they disallowed the act to remove the embargo on Canadian cattle. As you know, I have always maintained that it would be a most serious matter for producers of cattle in Manitoba and Ontario if the embargo were removed. Our cattle can be fed just as well and much more cheaply at home than they can in Great Britain. No sane man can believe that our farmers can continue to take everything out of the soil and put nothing back, without ultimate disaster, and the cheapest, easiest and most natural way of returning fertility to the soil is by feeding stock and growing crops suitable for feeding. I am quite satisfied the British Government have no idea of removing the embargo, and those most interested in the trade, outside of the commission men, are in favor of the embargo remaining."

Spraying for the Destruction of Mustard.

The most effective, safest (as regards the grain crop) and most economical spray to use is a two-per-cent. solution of copper sulphate (bluestone). This is made by dissolving 2 pounds of bluestone in 10 gallons of water.

The spraying should be done thoroughly, and for that purpose 50 gallons per acre will be required. If a heavy rain follows within 24 hours, the operation will have to be repeated.

In order that the work may be effective, spraying should not be delayed after the mustard plants have

reached a height of 6 to 9 inches. If allowed to grow taller than this, stronger solutions will be necessary, and in larger quantity, as the grain would then protect the mustard. FRANK T. SHUTT, Chemist.

Dominion Experimental Farms.

To Place Telephone and Express Companies Under the Railway Commission.

A special Parliamentary Committee at Ottawa has been considering the question of regulating telephone companies and bringing express companies under the control of the Railway Commission. One drafted clause, declaring that, "notwithstanding anything in any act heretofore or hereafter passed by Parliament, all telephone tolls to be charged by the company are to be subject to the approval of the Board of Railway Commissioners of Canada," and requiring the filing of copies of the tariffs, passed the committee without opposition. So, also, did the clause providing that contracts giving exclusive privileges are not to be taken into consideration in determining compensation. A clause which occasioned some controversy and some proposed amendments was the one providing that the Board may order the telephone company to make connections with municipal telephone systems. It was finally carried in amendment that the connection should not be given when, in the opinion of the Board, the lines serve the same territory in whole or in part, as the Bell Company.

A bill providing for the bringing of express companies under the control of the Railway Commission, was introduced into the House by Mr. G. O. Alcorn, and passed its first reading on April 3rd. After holding it up for some time on the question of constitutionality, the Government, finding it was very popular in the House and country, have adopted and recast it, and it will appear with the telephone clauses as an amendment to the Railway Act of 1903. Mr. Alcorn has announced that he considers Mr. Emmerson's clauses, dealing with the subject, go far toward meeting his object, and, as his own bill, being a public bill, would not be reached in the House this session, if passed by the committee, he agreed to accept Mr. Emmerson's clauses. An opinion was read from the Department of Justice disagreeing with a constitutional objection that had been raised by a representative of the Canadian and Dominion Express Companies, to the effect that the Federal Parliament had not jurisdiction in the matter, but that such regulation was a matter of property and civil right, and, therefore, within the jurisdiction of the Provincial Legislatures.

Dual Telephone Service a Nuisance.

"In some rural districts," says The Farmer (St. Paul, Minnesota), "we are getting a very unfortunate condition of affairs in the shape of dual telephone service. The usual outcome is that the patronage becomes divided, with the result that when one farmer wants to call up a neighbor, he finds that he cannot reach him on account of his being on the other system. A farmer desires to call together a threshing crew, but can't reach more than half of his neighbors. The business man in the village must rent two phones in order to communicate with all his country customers. After two telephones are once established in a community, it seldom happens that either one is driven out. If complete telephone communication is to be had, keep out the second company."

This tip may prove a timely warning to some of our readers, not forgetting, of course, to make as secure provision as may be against any possible exactions by a monopoly.

Fair Dates for 1906.

Toronto Open-air Horse Show.....	July 2
Inter-Western Exhibition, Calgary.....	July 10-12
Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition.....	July 23-28
Brandon Exhibition.....	July 31-Aug. 3
Cobourg Horse Show.....	Aug. 14-16
Canadian National, Toronto.....	Aug. 27-Sept. 6
St. John, N. B.....	Sept. 1-7
Canada Central, Ottawa.....	Sept. 7-15
Western Fair, London.....	Sept. 7-15
Michigan West, Grand Rapids.....	Sept. 10-14
Sussex, N. B.....	Sept. 10-14
New York State, Syracuse.....	Sept. 10-15
Chatham, N. B.....	Sept. 14-21
Dominion Exhibition, Halifax, N.S.....	Sept. 20-Oct. 5
Prince Edward Island Agr. and Industrial Exhibition.....	October 8-12
Provincial Exhibition, New Westminster, B. C.....	Oct. 2-6
American Royal, Kansas City, Mo.....	Oct. 6-13
International, Chicago.....	Dec. 1-8
Ontario Winter Fair, Guelph.....	Dec. 10-15

Packing-house Inspection.

An Ottawa despatch states that Mr. W. W. Moore, Chief of the Markets Division of the Department of Agriculture, has been delegated by Mr. Fisher to make an inspection of all the meat packing-houses in the Dominion. He commenced with the Hull factory of the Geo. Matthews Co. While such an inspection may be useful as a temporary move, what would seem to be needed is the inauguration of a permanent and comprehensive system of inspection by a staff of qualified officers, clothed with ample powers to prevent the development in Canada of conditions such as were recently exposed in Chicago.