

will illustrate the benefits of the cooperative way. The shipment was of dressed turkeys. The highest bid of local buyers for the lot (3,300 lbs.) was 12 cts. a pound, or \$396 for the shipment. Local offers were not accepted, the turkeys were consigned to a distant market, and the net cash returns, with the express paid, were \$604, a saving to the shippers of \$108, or over 26 per cent. on the business of a single week.

Cooperative Egg Shipping

With the cooperation of Mr. J. C. Stewart, of the Live Stock Branch, Ottawa, three egg circles have been established and are being operated in connection with the three different clubs. The ladies, however, are the important factors in the management of the egg circles, which have been established only a short time, but which are bound to grow until they cover this township almost as completely as the clubs have done. The Minto circle, of which Mr. W. A. Courtney is

manager, had a membership of only 12 to 15 in 1914, but they marketed 5,943 dozen eggs in 32 weeks. "We find this a very satisfactory way of marketing eggs," said Mr. Courtney. "They are collected once each week, and go on the market in good shape." On the day of my visit, both the Minto and Anson circles were shipping several cases of eggs to a Montreal firm.

The Start of the Movement

And where did this cooperative movement start? I got the story from Mr. B. C. Tucker during my first night in the township. Mr. Tucker is a cooperative enthusiast, the secretary of the Minto Farmers' Club, second vice-president of the Provincial organization, the United Farmers' Cooperative Company, Limited, and, as I learned before I left the township, one of the leading spirits in the movement.

"Our cooperative society," said he, after we had put the horse up and were comfortably ensconced

in the living-room of the Tucker home, "had its birth in a literary society that held its meetings in the Baptist church that used to stand just across the road from here. That society thrived the first year; it pretty nearly died the second. Then one of the neighbors suggested that we form it into a farmers' club. The suggestion seemed to appeal to all. The funds of the old society, not very extensive, of course, were handed over to the new one and a farmers' club came to life. That was three years ago. The ladies, who had been members of the old literary, nothing abashed at being excluded from the membership of the new club, organized a Women's Institute, which is still one of the liveliest and most progressive institutions in the township."

Cooperative Purchasing Begins

"When did you start cooperative dealing?" I asked Mr. Tucker.

(Continued on page 8)

Restoring the Fertility of a Worn Out Soil

Dairy Cows, Stable Manure and Commercial Fertilizers were all used by Wilson McPherson & Sons, Wentworth Co., Ont.

"WHEN I went on to this farm some 30 years ago, it would scarcely grow anything. The land is a good clay loam, but from the time it was first cleared it was simply mired. No stock had been kept and the man from whom I bought it eked out a bare existence. He wouldn't have done even that had he not got the farm cheaply and had no interest to pay. We decided that the farm must be fed and that to do so we must feed live stock. As butter fat takes less fertility from the land than any other product we find it our chief source of revenue. It would look as if our scheme had worked. Last year from nine acres of corn we filled a 14x32 foot silo."

In this concise manner did the elder member of the firm of Wilson McPherson & Sons, Wentworth Co., Ont., sum up to a representative of Farm and Dairy, his theory of farm improvement, and his practice as it applied to the farm owned by him and his sons. "For producing butter fat," he continued, "we used grade cows of Durham, Jersey or Ayrshire breeding. We finally decided that the Ayrshire was the cow for us. They are good to look at and if bred right are economical producers. We commenced grading up our herd by the use of Ayrshire bulls, and the result was so satisfactory we purchased a few pure bred females. Last spring we sold off the last of our grades."

Intensive Farming to be Followed

"We intend increasing our stock of pure breeds and going in for more intensive farming. Up to the present, pasture has furnished the principal summer food. When the new dairy barn is built next year, we will adopt the soling method. A few acres will be used for pasturing and exercising the cows, but the main duty of the 100-acre farm will be the production of winter and summer feeds. About one-quarter of the land will be devoted to hood crops and at least 15 acres to alfalfa. A crop of clover will be taken off every four years. I consider alfalfa makes the best hay. Blue grass, too, makes better hay than clover, but it is too tight a yielder to be profitable. Alfalfa, clover and ensilage have formed the roughage of our winter ration in the past. Under our new scheme they will replace pasture as bulky summer foods."

"We have always fed grain, bran, oat chop and oil cake, both summer and winter. The amount varies according to the volume of milk and the excellence of the pasture. We have found that no matter how good may be the pasture, the milk flow decreases when the grain ration is withheld."

Mr. McPherson then spoke of the fertility problem. "Our principal source of fertility is of course farmyard manure," said he. "It is used

on the corn crop. The land is plowed in the fall and the manure applied direct from the stable during the winter. By means of disk, cultivator and harrows it is thoroughly worked into the soil. We had considerable difficulty in performing this mixing process before we commenced cutting the straw used for bedding. Now, however, the manure works in well. We

A Song for April

IT ISN'T raining rain to me,
It's raining daffodils;
In every splotch drop I see
Wild flowers on the hills.
The clouds of gray engulf the day
And overwhelm the town;
It isn't raining rain to me,
It's raining roses down.

It isn't raining rain to me,
But fields of clover bloom.
Where every buccaneering bee
May find a bed and room;
A health unto the happy!
A fig for him who frets!—
It isn't raining rain to me,
It's raining violets.

ROBERT LOVEMAN

have not depended solely on barnyard manure for crop increase. A few years ago we sowed some commercial fertilizer on part of our corn field, but the results were decidedly negative! We would have concluded that money spent on ready-mixed fertilizers was thrown away had we not also tried it on our fall wheat. When applying the fertilizer we left a ridge down the middle of the field unsowed. The difference between the treated and untreated parts was most marked on the higher portions of the field. A hollow at the lower end of the field showed no effect from the application, but commercial fertilizer certainly paid for itself on that wheat crop. We have used it ever since."

Pigs a Profitable Side Line

Pure bred Ayrshires of the butter making type are the main source of the McPherson income, but pure bred Chester Whites are an important sideline. The breeding stock are wintered cheap-

ly on alfalfa and clover chaff, a few roots and a little grain. Oat chop, in Mr. McPherson's opinion, is the best milk producing food and the sow gets plenty of it. The young pigs remain with their dam for six weeks. After weaning they are fed a mixture of oats and wheat. Spring pigs spend the summer on the alfalfa pasture. Last summer Mr. McPherson had no alfalfa that he could use for this purpose, so he turned them into a plot of thickly sown corn. To his surprise the pigs cleared up the weeds before tackling the corn. They did well on the young corn, but Mr. McPherson prefers the alfalfa, and will return to it this summer. He has found that surplus skim milk can be marketed profitably by feeding it to the hogs.

Like all progressive farmers Mr. McPherson and his two sons are enthusiasts. "A better farm, a better herd, a better breed," is their slogan. We will watch with interest their scheme of intensive dairying.

Disk and Drag Efficiently Used

W. M. Wallace, Shefford Co., Que.

WITH increased production the slogan of all patriotic Canadian farmers, and the time fast approaching when the ground must be prepared and the seed sown if we are to perform the arduous but peaceful task assigned to us in the defence of the Empire, farmers will be looking over their equipment to see what repairs or additions thereto may be needed. Last year there was much written in favor of the double-cutaway harrow, and I have no doubt that it is an excellent instrument, but it seems to me an unnecessary expense to the man who already has a disk and a drag harrow too good to be thrown away.

One man with four horses on a disk, with a drag or spring-tooth harrow hitched behind, can do splendid work. The downward draft of the drag draws the disk deeper into the soil obviating the necessity of setting the disks so much as to cause it to ridge the land. The drag also tends to hold the disk to its work on rough ground. The same principle may be applied to many other implements. I am well aware that to many this idea of doubling up is not new, but it may be to some, and as I have sometimes been helped by such simple suggestions in Farm and Dairy, I pass this one on for what it may be worth.

I am not writing this with any desire to prevent sales of double cutaways or to increase the bank accounts of those who would deny those depending upon them, the comforts, not to say the necessities of life, in order to have money at interest. The Ford people say, "Put the rest in the bank." Good advice, no doubt, after the bath, etc., has been installed.

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