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Wayside Cleanings

By W. G. Orvis, Field Representative, Farm and Dairy.

Road Patriotism

"I AM not in favor of any extensive system of road building until after the war is over," is the way Mr. W. W. Sparks, ex-creeper of Pickering township, expressed himself recently. His arguments, which are the cost of the best and only enduring types of roads ran into the thousands of dollars per mile; that every township is carrying a good financial load in connection with the war, and if they can raise any more money it should be expended in a way that will make more sure of our winning the war. The public should be willing to get along with the road as it is until this point is gained. "This should in no way keep us from formulating plans for the building and maintenance of the best possible type of road as soon as the war is over," was the concluding thought of our friend on the subject.

A National Highway.

There has been much talk about the road running across the counties bordering on Lake Ontario. This road has been known for many years as the Kingston Road, for the reason presumably that it at one time was the only connecting link between Kingston and Toronto. Many of the members of the various councils interested in it, claim that it should be taken over along with all other roads of like nature in the province, by the government. The traffic over these roads is largely foreign to those counties, and most of it is auto traffic. From the bulk of the travel over this road, the government collects a certain revenue and the different towns and cities derive some benefit also from it. It is only reasonable that the government should become responsible for the re-building of this type of road and should also be expected to keep it in repair in the continuation of these officials. This is a live subject in these counties and is worthy of an interest from all ratepayers.

Cleaning Grain.

Every farmer knows something of the value of cleaning his seed grain well. Few, however, appreciate to the full extent the value of the extra cleaned seed. Because of the exceptional dry season last year, many farmers will have difficulty in getting real good plump seed on their own farms. As one farmer jokingly put it recently, he was afraid to run his grain through the fanning mill for fear it would all go out with the waste behind. The fact remains, however, that if we expect good returns this next year, we must sow good, clean, plump seed. Mr. Harwood, Dundas county, told the farmers of Peterborough county recently of an experiment that he tried on his own farm some years ago. He took 100 bushels of grain that had been sown through the fanning mill and planted them by themselves, doing the same with 100 kernels that had been run through the mill two, three and four times. The result was that he had a 100 per cent. germination from the grain that had been run through the mill four times and only about 20 per cent. germination with the grain that had been cleaned but the once. In the light of this experiment, can we afford not to thoroughly clean our seed grain, even if there is a seemingly big waste in the process?

Crop Rotation.

The winter season is usually the season in which the farmer makes his

plans for the rest of the year. Definite plans for farm work and the crops to be sown are a necessity on every farm. There are but few farmers who have not some plans already made for their next year's operations, yet there are not very many who can consistently tell you that they have a regular crop rotation which they follow closely and systematically. The live dairymen realize the value of this as possibly no other farmer. One of the subjects being discussed at the different Board of Agriculture meetings in the different counties this winter, is the one of crop rotation. The speaker emphasizes the short rotation for cleaning land and providing the crops necessary for the production of large amounts of milk. He also outlines in this short rotation a system of annual pasture crops that will help the cows over the season of dry pastures. The different annual pasture mixtures recommended by agricultural authorities should be looked into, and the one chosen which will suit the farm conditions in the locality, in which the farmer lives, and tried out this coming season.

Farm Help.

Upon a recent interview with Mr. J. W. Richardson, Haldimand county, he stated that the dairy cow had been the most profitable thing ever sown at Riverside Farm. He went on to explain that she had been profitable in other ways than those generally considered. In order to keep her it became necessary to consistently and intelligently crop their land. To be able to do this, it also became necessary to employ labor the year round. The winter months, according to his statement, are just as busy months with them as those of the summer season. The secret of keeping good farm help," said Mr. Richardson, "is in keeping them comfortably employed. Hired men are like school children; unless they have something to do, they become restless and want to move." There is much homely talk in what Mr. Richardson says, and if applied on more Ontario farms we would hear less about the farm labor scarcity.

Why Silos Save Money

By W. W. Fitzpatrick.

BY the use of a silo, a succulent feed may be provided the year round, keeping up the milk flow of dairy cattle and fattening beef cattle.

Silage is the best and cheapest form in which to provide this sort of feed in winter.

Silage keeps cattle in more thrifty condition than any other feeds.

Silage has a beneficial effect on the digestive organs of cattle.

Silage is very palatable and stock eat it with relish.

There is less waste in feeding silage crop will support more cattle, good silage properly fed is entirely consumed.

Through its health-giving qualities, silage improves the outward appearance of cattle and horses.

The same acreage devoted to a silage crop will support more cattle than it would if devoted to hay or other roughage.

Pasture acreage may be greatly reduced when silage is fed the year round, and more land can thus be brought into cultivation.

Growing silage leaves land clear in the season for planting fall and winter crops.

The silage system helps to maintain soil fertility and builds up run-down soils.

On the same acreage, two cows can be kept on silage at the cost of keeping one cow on hay or other roughage.

Silage may be harvested in wet weather and when conditions are such that other crops could not be harvested without a total loss.

Green feed in the form of silage can be fed in summer to great advantage in seasons when pastures have dried up.

Feed storage in silos is much cheaper than in hay barns, since a ton of silage requires less than half the space required by a ton of hay.

An acre of corn can be placed in a silo for no more than the cost of shock, husking, grinding and shredding.

The value of a crop preserved by using a silo is about 40 per cent. greater than that of a crop harvested in the usual way.

HORTICULTURE

The Mouse Pest

THERE are many things about the farm and orchard which demand constant vigilance in order to prevent loss from one thing or another. Now that the snow is beginning to get a fair depth, there is the danger of young trees being girdled with mice. The extra busy autumn season may have prevented the usual precautionary measures being taken, and winter has found the orchard uprooted and possibly a thick coat of grass or weeds on the ground. If this is the case, it is ideal for the mice and there is a grave danger of some of the trees being injured.

The old remedy of tramping the snow around the tree trunk is a good one, and if tramped for some distance away from the trunk it has the additional advantage of acting as a safeguard against snow scald. This is accomplished by holding the frost in the ground near the tree longer, and thus retarding the flow of sap and lessening the danger of the scald. The binding of the tree trunk with building paper is also advocated. This operation is quickly and easily done and is not expensive. It will pay to protect the trees at any cost, for it takes years to replace them.

Light on New On'ario

DEFINITE practical facts for the new and prospective settler are contained in a new bulletin, "Hints to Settlers in Northern Ontario," just issued and now available from the Department of Agriculture, Toronto. This bulletin covers in detail the experiences the settler must expect in hewing out a home for himself in the great clay belt of the northern part of the province. It is well illustrated and in a most practical way covers each step in the clearing of his farm; warning against the most common errors the settler is apt to make. One writer deals specially with the clearing of land and shows the actual cost as found by experience at the Monthiel Experiment Station.

Where the settler has allowed the first hewings to grow up with second growth timber, it is pointed out that the cost of clearing this may run as high as \$7.00 or more an acre. If seeded down immediately after burning with mixture of red clover, alfalfa and timothy, an abundance of pasture is secured and second growth prevented. The bulletin is prepared by G. W. Nixon, the District Representative at New Liskeard, and H. I. Clemens, Superintendent of the Demonstration Farm at Monthiel. It is issued free from the Dept. of Agriculture at Toronto and should be in the hands of every prospective settler who is considering the making of a home for himself in our great Northern Ontario.

for a Horse

Save a horse and you won't have to buy one. Don't sell or destroy any horse on account of a bottle. Write to Free Book, "Poisoned Witches."

KENDALL'S SPAVIN CURE

It has saved a great many horses who put them back to work, even after they have been given up. Over 20 years of success have proved its value.

Mellor Criven, Marquette, Sask., wrote last February: "I have used your Spavin Cure for many years and I have never known it to fail." Get Kendall's Spavin Cure at your druggist's. Price \$1.00 a bottle, 5 bottles for \$5.00. "Treatise on the Horse," from Dr. B. J. Kendall Co., Scarborough Falls, N. S. W.



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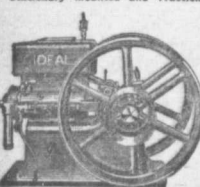


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