

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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Co-operative dairying is increasing largely in New Zealand. New creameries and factories are reported at frequent intervals in various parts of the islands.

The Russian government has issued new regulations concerning the manufacture and sale of margarine and all artificial substitutes for butter. Special inspectors, who have received technical and medical education, will visit these establishments and analyze the products, with authority to impose fines or close the works, for infringement of the regulations.

Freeman's Potato Contest for 1893.

Last year when we reported the Freeman Potato Contest, the proprietors of the fertilizers used notified contestants that they would again offer the same premiums this season. It has again been left with us to decide which of the competitors is entitled to the premium for 1893.

The past summer has been very similar to that of 1892, except that the drouth was more severe, and for this reason the results were not as satisfactory as they would have been had a more favorable growing season been experienced.

In testing the benefit to be derived from any manure, be it stable manure or special fertilizer, much depends on moisture. It does not matter how rich the soil may be in plant food, or how much manure in the most favorable state has been applied, without moisture the growing plants cannot derive the necessary sustenance. Because of the parched condition of the land during the long-continued drouth of last July and August, many crops suffered to such an extent that yields were terribly diminished. Potatoes are perhaps more susceptible to drouth than any of the hoed crops. Just in the most critical stage of their growth the dry weather was most severe; the fall rain came too late to be beneficial. Under these circumstances we consider the yields in this contest very good. When nature is not willing to fulfil her part, there is the more need of artificial help, and it is right here that the skill of the agriculturist comes in. This contest proves that, with sufficient shallow cultivation, by which the soil may be kept moist, and with a plentiful supply of plant food, in the form of a reliable special manure, fairly good results may be obtained, when the most unfavorable climatic conditions have to be contended against.

Freeman's Potato Manure is manufactured for a specific purpose. It is composed of the elements needed by the potato plant in all stages of its growth, and is put up in the most soluble form, so that it is ready to give nourishment as required. It is thoroughly reliable, having been tested by the Government analyst, who attests to its high fertilizing quality. Another firm has endeavored to push the sale of a manure which is altogether inferior. Those intending to purchase a supply for next season should see to it that they get the genuine brand, with trade mark attached, as given in our advertising columns.

The most successful competitor in this season's contest was Mr. M. J. Mullock, in the township of East Flamboro, in the County of Wellington, who grew 347 bushels and 32 pounds upon one measured acre of land. His soil was a sandy loam, which for the three previous years had grown hay, which had been cut and drawn from the field. The only preparation that this land received was, that it had been plowed six inches deep on the 3rd day of June, 1893, just before planting. It had, however, received a thorough working with a disk harrow, which was run over the ground four times. The drills were then marked three feet apart and three inches deep, in which were planted 1,200 pounds of seed, consisting of whole and half potatoes of Rural New Yorker No. 2. One thousand pounds of Freeman's Potato Manure was then applied in the drills over the covered sets. The after cultivation consisted of three times cultivating with Planet, Jr., and hand hoeing three times. The ground in this case was kept nearly level. Very favorable weather throughout June was experienced for starting the plants, but the extreme drouth of July and August greatly lessened the yield. September proved more favorable, and the rains during this month revived the crop, which was harvested on the 21st and 22nd of October, with the result mentioned above. The crop was dug with forks by hand, five men being employed in the work, who gathered, weighed and stored them in the cellar. Mr. Mullock states that he never before had so large a crop. He has already disposed of a large quantity for seed.

The second largest yield was produced by Mr. J. R. Hodgins, of the Township of Adelaide, of the County of Middlesex. This acre consisted of a sandy loam, on which the three previous crops had been corn, to which eight loads of manure per acre had been applied, in 1890, oats in 1891 and hay in 1892. The ground was plowed in September, 1892, harrowed with a common harrow twice and cultivated May 12th, 1893. The ground was marked four inches deep and thirty inches apart each way; the sets planted in hills; 720 pounds of seed per acre; two varieties planted were Empire State and Green Mountain. In this case the seed was cut two eyes to the set, twelve days previous to planting. This acre was planted May 20th, and the plants appeared above ground the 8th of June. One thousand pounds of Freeman's Potato Manure was applied, of which 600 pounds was sown broadcast and 400 pounds placed around the hills. The after cultivation consisted of four times cultivating with a horse hoe and hand hoeing twice and hilling up with a plow. Very dry weather was experienced throughout July, August and September. The crop was harvested October 5th with potato forks, and 160 bushels was the result.

The third most successful contestant was Mr. Francis Peck, of the Township of Ameliasburg, Prince Edward County, Ontario. His land was chiefly clay loam, which had been in timothy and Alsike clover two years, followed by peas. The land was plowed on the 30th day of May, previous to being planted and harrowed twice with an iron harrow. The drills were made six inches deep and thirty-six inches apart, and the seed was covered two inches deep. Six hundred pounds of Freeman's Potato Manure was then applied in the drills after the seed had been covered, and 400 pounds had previously been sown broadcast on the land. In this case 645 pounds of seed was used, cut two eyes to the set, the variety being Munro's Seedling. The after procedure included three times cultivating with a horse hoe, the drills kept free from weeds by hand hoeing. In this section the weather was very dry. There were only three slight showers between the 15th of June and the 29th of August—at the latter date there was a heavy rain. The crop was harvested on the 7th of October with an Improved Junior Potato Digger, the produce being 147 bushels and 14 pounds. There was no sign of blight, but on account of the dry weather a large proportion of the vines died before August 20th. The others kept green until digging, and from these the bulk of the crop was produced.

We have awarded the \$50 prize to Mr. M. J. Mullock.

The Poultry Exhibition.

The twentieth annual exhibition of the Poultry Association of Ontario will be held in New Hamburg, Ont., Jan. 1st to 6th, 1894.

This exhibition promises to be a grand success, the officers having spared no pains to make the show for 1894 the best on record.

The handsome sum of \$1,500 is offered by the Association in prizes, while in addition to this, those interested in the work have come generously forward and offered a large number of substantial special prizes, which include consolation prizes for exhibitors coming the longest distance east of Toronto, and also to the one coming the longest distance west of London.

The annual meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday, Jan. 4th, at 1 o'clock, for the election of officers and general business. There will also be an evening meeting. We regret that we have not as yet received the programme. We are, however, informed that a number of valuable papers will be read and addresses, delivered by prominent visitors and members, on subjects pertaining to the poultry industry in all its branches. All interested in poultry raising should make a special effort to attend this exhibition. They will find much to instruct them in all of the different phases of the poultry interests, besides meeting with live men from all over the country. Reduced rates may be obtained on all railroads. The fare will be from one and two-thirds to single fare, according to the number who attend the exhibition. Be sure and ask the agent at starting point to give you a certificate stating you purchased a full-fare single ticket, which, when signed by the secretary, will enable the holder to obtain whatever reduced rates are offered.

All exhibitors must become members of the Association. Members' tickets will admit them at any time during the exhibition.

Entry and membership fees must be remitted to the Secretary, Mr. Thos. A. Browne, London, with entry form not later than Monday, Dec. 25th. Entry forms may be obtained from the secretary. We congratulate the society upon having the most complete, simple and concise entry form we have seen, and one which we heartily recommend to other associations.

Express companies will charge full fare on fowls to the exhibition, and will return them free of cost.

Birds from the United States will be admitted free of duty, provided that they are not sold.

Exhibitors from a distance may send their birds direct to the exhibition, where they will be received by the superintendent and properly cared for, and at its close promptly returned, or otherwise disposed of, as the owner may direct.

Road Improvement.

The Canadian Institute has taken up the question of road reform, and has passed a resolution which reads as follows:—"That the Canadian Institute, having followed the various steps which have been taken in the past few years to awaken an interest in road reform, and recognizing the inestimable benefit to the community arising from improved and well-constructed roads; be it resolved, that the Canadian Institute issue an invitation to all persons interested in road reform to meet in convention at an early date for the purpose of forming a National Road Improvement Association."

Invitations will be issued shortly to all County Councils, Farmers' Institutes, Dairymen's Associations, Patrons of Industry, and others, asking them to meet in Toronto early in February.