

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE  
DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER

AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,  
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man by the year, and put him at ditching when not otherwise engaged. When choice can be made, however, it should fall upon late autumn or spring, for, no matter how perfectly the grade has been surveyed, it is a satisfaction to see a little water flowing through the ditch, and facilitates the preparation of the tile bed. Besides, digging is much easier when the ground is soft.

There is every indication of an immense increase in the area of land tile-drained, and we venture to predict that operations will continue until much more than 25 per cent. of our cultivated land is underlaid with tile. By underdrainage, productive fields are greatly increased in earning capacity, while waterlogged and all-but-worthless fields may be converted into valuable producing areas. Begin the good work by running large main drains through the hollows, and lead laterals into these as results prove the profits.

Those who hesitate to incur the labor of tiling, should read the letter of Jas. Marshall, of Wentworth County, who has twenty miles of tile on his farm, and is still laying more; while, as to returns, we were impressed by the remark of a farmer the other day, who said he had years ago invested some money in a company which had paid him ten per cent. interest, but he would have been much farther ahead had he expended it for tile.

Non-irrigation is the explanation advanced by a firm of British Columbia real-estate agents to account for the comparative freedom of injury to peach trees in the Kootenay District of British Columbia, while some other districts, presumably where irrigation is practiced, sustained more or less loss. "We consider this," they say, "a strong argument in favor of non-irrigation. Irrigation keeps the roots at the surface; non-irrigation drives them down deep for moisture, and there is, of course, less danger of frost reaching them."

No doubt, there are localities and crops for which irrigation is profitable, and even necessary,

but in regions of abundant rainfall, many indications point to the wisdom of irrigation from below, conserving the underground supply of moisture by a mulch of cultivated earth, or, in some cases, of other material, as, for instance, straw between rows of strawberries. There are oceans of moisture in the earth. The problem is to prevent excessive waste by evaporation.

### Value of Spraying Demonstrated.

Because spraying is not invariably required to insure a satisfactory crop of fruit, there is ever a strong temptation to neglect it, trusting to Providence for immunity from attack. The present season should serve to convince many peach-growers that Providence helps the orchardist who sprays his trees. To the cold, wet weather of late spring and early summer is attributed the unusual prevalence and severity of leaf-curl which defoliated many peach trees in the tender-fruit belt, causing the fruit to fall. The weather, which favored the development of the curl-leaf, also, in many cases, prevented the spraying that would have been done to hold it in check. The defoliated trees will, of course, throw out a new leafage, but at considerable expense of vigor, while all badly-attacked ones will produce no crop of fruit this year. H. S. Peart, B. S. A., Director of the Horticultural Experiment Station at Jordan Harbor, Ont., informs us that, after looking over the Niagara District, he is of opinion that most orchards which were sprayed early are comparatively free from peach-leaf curl, though there appear to be some orchards where lime-sulphur spray seemed to be thoroughly applied some time before the buds burst, which show a considerable amount of curl. "All the evidence we have been able to get," he adds, "is in favor of spraying with lime-sulphur before the buds have advanced to any great extent."

### More Attention to Earth Roads.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

We approve generally of the liberal grants given by the Dominion and Provincial Governments to aid in the construction of railways, as it is to these great highways that we owe largely the development and prosperity of our country. Of recent years, too, liberal assistance has been rendered by the Ontario Government to counties co-operating with the regulations provided to assist in improving the principal roads, and these usually lead to the railway stations. Now, methinks the time is opportune, and we farmers have waited patiently, that Provincial aid should be given to the roads that lead to these highways that have already been improved. No effort has thus far been made to secure this much-needed assistance, hence nothing has been done, and we certainly cannot expect anything without the asking, and generally, in such cases, a good deal of repeated asking is required. I presume those entrusted with our finances have quite enough demands made upon them, without seeking for new fields in which to invest surplus funds.

I think my brother farmers will agree with me, and all others who give this matter due consideration, that, if anyone has any just claim on these funds, the farmers are certainly entitled to participate in these grants now. Good roads, as must be admitted by all, are a benefit to every class, and men engaged in every business, directly or indirectly. I do think it is time that we make our demands, and continue faithfully until our requests are granted, for what we are justly entitled. If a united demand comes from all quarters, our legislators will not be slow to comply with our requests.

The assistance already given to county councils to improve the leading highways has done much to stimulate many to take an increased interest in improving these roads. I can speak from personal observation as to the greatly improved condition of such roads in Lincoln County, and, no doubt, the same applies elsewhere, where advantage has been taken of these grants.

As many of these leading roads have been already so much improved, and further improvements contemplated, is it not about time that some attention, financially, should be given to our earth roads by those entrusted with our finances? Just in what way assistance could be most advantageously given, I am not at present prepared to suggest. Each county or township might work that out for itself. The better way would be to have a uniform system through-

out the Province, whereby aid could be obtained on certain conditions.

A competition somewhat similar to that instituted by "The Farmer's Advocate," in conjunction with the Public Works Department, a few years ago, in introducing the split-log drag, as a means of improving and maintaining earth roads, might do much good. If prizes were awarded for the best stretches of road, one mile or more, and others for the most improvement made, and possibly, also, for the most tidy and attractive sides of road—that is, between gutters or ditches and fences—something of that kind might be the means of arousing an interest in road-improvement.

Not many years since, some of the railways in England offered prizes to those living along their lines who kept the neatest and most attractive back yards, with very gratifying results. Would that the same be introduced in Canada, and have the so-frequently-seen disgraceful sight obliterated along all our highways, leaving so much pleasanter impressions of the country in the minds of the traveller, and speaking volumes for the intelligence of the people!

The results of "The Farmer's Advocate" competition were that here and there, all over the Province, now and then one grasped the possibilities of great improvement and financial saving to be effected by adopting a different system.

To further increase the interest aroused by that contest, Clinton Township, last spring, followed up along in the same line, and, judging from the report of the editor of your paper, who made a personal tour of inspection over the township to learn of the results, must be productive of much good.

What has been done here and elsewhere can be done anywhere. In introducing any change or reform, it always devolves upon some to take the initiative and agitate the needed reform, and such initiator cannot always be found who can give the needed time to the work. Hence, however badly needed, a reform may not be introduced for want of someone, or a little financial aid.

The Good Roads Associations are doing a good work, but their efforts are directed almost entirely to our leading or metalled roads, and our many miles of earth roads remain neglected, or receive little or no attention from them.

Surely, when so large a proportion of people travel almost exclusively on these roads, which are approximately 90% of the mileage of all our roads, is it not about time that these, too, receive more attention? Are we to rest content, as in the past, and allow these many miles of earth roads to be neglected and remain from year to year in such a disgraceful condition, not fit to be seen, much less to have? At a small expense, they can be kept in good condition for traffic during the greater part of the year.

People all over the Province seem to be awakening to the fact that we must have better roads, and I earnestly entreat those interested in this movement to assist in the agitation. Much good can be accomplished by a vigorous agitation through "The Farmer's Advocate" and other leading papers.

Farmers' Institute workers should take it up next winter, and bring it prominently before the people.

With a little financial assistance and encouragement from the Provincial Government, there is no reason why we cannot, in a few years, work wonders in the improvement of our earth roads. Are you willing to put your shoulders to the wheel, and render what assistance you can to secure a little aid for the improvement of our earth roads?  
W. B. RITTENHOUSE.

Lincoln County, Ont.

### Stricter Measures Against Tramps

On the subject of tramps, Jailer Hugh Nichol of Stratford jail, where the negro murderer, Frank Roughmond, was hanged last week, said: "After thirty-six years' experience, I am strongly under the impression that the vagrant act should be changed to make a separate class of the able-bodied tramps, who are simply human beasts of prey, ostensibly peddling shoe-laces or some other fake, or stolen watches and cheap jewelry, and who are a menace to the country. A minimum of two years and a maximum of life, would meet the requirements of sentence."

Is this not more sensible than letting these brutal ruffians roam the country, intimidating women and children, making themselves a nuisance, and finally, perhaps, committing some heinous crime? More severe measures to prevent tramping might lessen the number of tramp crimes. In this, as in many other matters, prevention is a great deal better than cure.

I find there is always something in "The Farmer's Advocate" of interest to me and the family. We are pleased to have it each week, although I am not on the farm. It is the best and most up-to-date farm paper in America.

Wentworth Co., Ont. JOHN MITCHELL.