

**THE STERLING BANK**  
OF CANADA

**Busy Farmers**

Now is a good time to plan for greater production. To study methods that will increase your profits.

Consult the local manager of the Sterling Bank. He possesses information of value to you, especially regarding money matters affecting farmers.

He will welcome you at any time.

THE STERLING BANK OF CANADA

**Prompt Returns From Shipments**



When you ship Grain, Butter, Cheese or Fruit, put through The Merchants Bank a Draft on the buyer. This is the business way of securing prompt and satisfactory settlement.

It saves time and possible loss.

**THE MERCHANTS BANK**  
OF CANADA

Head Office: Montreal Established 1864.

WATFORD BRANCH, F. A. MACLEAN, Manager.

ALVINSTON BRANCH, G. H. C. NORSWORTHY, Manager.

Everybody In Our House  
wishes  
Everybody In Your House  
A Happy and Prosperous  
New Year

The People's Store, Arkona

W. A. WILLIAMS

**GIRLS WANTED**  
at The Andrews Wire Works.

Good wages, short hours, light and pleasant work and cheerful surroundings, light and sanitary workshop.

Apply to  
**W. L. MILLAR**  
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**PLUMBING and TINSMITHING**

The undersigned having purchased the Plumbing and Tinsmithing business of T. Dodds & Son, is prepared to attend to the wants of the public in any branch of his line.

A full line of Plumbing and Heating Goods will be kept on hand at all times.

Agent for the SUNSHINE, RADIUM and HECLA Furnaces. Travelling and repairing of all kinds promptly attended to.

The patronage of the public respectfully solicited.

**EDWARD MACKNESS**  
The Old Stand—T. Dodds & Son's.

**ENRICHING THE SOIL**

Some Hints Upon the Wise Use of Artificial Fertilizers.

Fuller Use of These Fertilizers Likely—Their Application Must be Handled Intelligently—Study Your Own Soil Closely—General Farm Hints.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

**T**HE use of artificial fertilizers in this country is bound to increase. These materials are, however, expensive and those intending to make use of them should make an effort to inform themselves regarding the conditions under which they will give the best results. Too many people are using fertilizers without fully realizing that they carry plants food and that the real object in applying them is to supply needed available food for the plant.

To intelligently make use of these materials there are three points to be considered. First the needs of the soil, second, the needs of the plant, and, third, the nature of the materials to be applied.

It should always be kept in mind that the soil carries immense amounts of plant food, but that only a small quantity of this is rendered available during the growing season. The acids formed by the decay of the organic matter in the soil is the chief natural agency operating to bring the big store of mineral matter into a form that may be taken up by the plant. The organic matter is also the source of nitrogen to the plant, and it increases the water holding capacity of the soil as well as improves its physical condition. Consequently every effort ought to be made to maintain or increase the amount of decaying organic matter. Otherwise the crop will be grown largely from the added fertilizers and not from the plant food of the soil. It is for this reason that it is sometimes stated that if you commence to use fertilizers you must continue their use.

However, no matter how much we try to render available the immense stores of food in the soil, we cannot bring it about fast enough to supply the needs, especially of heavy feeding crops, such as the maize, turnips and garden crops. Hence the need of manures. Stable manure cannot always be got in sufficient quantities to fulfill requirements, nor does it always furnish the needed plant food in the right proportions to develop the plant properly. To supplement the manure is the place of fertilizers.

Stable manure is essentially a nitrogenous fertilizer. Hence if used in large quantities it will force big leaf and stem growth and retard maturity. Consequently, a plentiful supply of stable manure would help the growth of lettuce, spinach, mangold, etc.; but it would not be so satisfactory for tomatoes, sugar beets, or other crops that must be brought to maturity. What these plants need is some stable manure and some mineral fertilizer to force early maturity. On the other hand, plants like lettuce, spinach, etc., are grown for their leaf and stem and maturity is not a necessary point, hence a soluble form of nitrogenous fertilizers may even be added after heavy applications of manure with good results.

The manufacturer of mixed fertilizers seeks to prepare special mixtures that will be suitable for different crops, but the farmer or gardener should strive to inform himself regarding his soil and crop needs that he may be able to select the form of fertilizer that will bring about the growth desired, and he should study the fertilizer materials available that he may buy intelligently and economically.—R. Harcourt, O. A. College, Guelph.

**General Farm Hints.**

Put a plant or two of rhubarb in the cellar which should be kept at a temperature of 60 to 70 degrees in sand, which is kept moist and in the dark so that it will produce stems and no leaves. Do some reading on gardening work for this year, but more especially think over the failures of the last.

If the roads are in good shape, get your manure out and spread. A dressing of 8 to 10 loads per acre will keep the orchard in condition. If buying in the larger cities, order early as the car situation is serious enough to delay shipments.

Light pruning of apple orchards, taking out the small wood with the long-handled pruners, may be carried out during bright weather. Grape trimming may also be looked after when the weather is suitable.

Before feeding or selling any grain crops make good provision for your own seed supply.

Finish cutting out of black knot of cherry and plum.

Inspect and oil windmill before winter.

If weather is fine and warm may continue to spray peach trees and give first application to trees badly infested with San Jose scale.

On rough days during this and suc-

ceeding months it is well to go over all packages, barrels, boxes, etc., mending broken carriers, handling baskets.

Be sure pumps are in good condition.

It is not too early to consider the question of getting help for the big crop which will have to be raised in 1920.

**Depreciation of Machinery.**

Did you ever think of the relation of the farmer's bank account to the tool shed? Machinery depreciates faster in the weather than it does in use. The time saved by having a rust-free implement will soon pay for the shed.

**Indian Calm.**

"You can't feaze an Indian," said Indian Commissioner Malcolm McDowell. "You can't ruffle an Indian's calm dignity."

"I once had the satisfaction to point out to an Indian chief an airplane sailing across the sky. It was the first airplane he'd ever seen, and I had fond hopes that he'd show some excitement.

"There!" I said. "There! What do you think of it? Isn't it extraordinary?"

"The chief looked up at the airplane calmly; and then he looked calmly at me.

"But it was built to do that, wasn't it?" he said."

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- Counter Check Books
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- Note Heads
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- Circulars
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"Quality" is our Motto.

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FOR FLETCHER'S  
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JOB DEPARTMENT

Sarnia and Port Huron are growing very rapidly. There have never been such opportunities for young people who have a good training in Bookkeeping and Stenography.

**The Secretarial Course in**

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College opens for Winter Term. January 5th.

May 1920 bring you nothing  
but Happiness and  
Prosperity!

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A Happy and Prosperous  
New Year to all.

N. B Howden Estate