

games in the home; he can enjoy his newspaper; sleep as late as he likes in the morning, with no business cares to worry him, and can hitch up his team and drive to the city if he wants to spend the day there. I think Mr. Burns had better come to Sidney Township, County of Hastings, to see how the average farmer does live. I don't refer to the lower classes, as we have a few of them here who don't look as though they had ever washed; but they are not the average.

Hastings Co., Ont. A SIDNEY FARMER'S WIFE.

#### A CHATTY LETTER FROM FRONTENAC CO., ONT.

I sincerely thank you for extending my subscription in consideration of my article, which appeared in "The Farmer's Advocate" in November. I certainly shall not fail to put in a good word for "The Farmer's Advocate," which, by the way, seems to be improving all the time.

In my previous article, I spoke of fodder versus stock in anticipation of the coming winter. Of fodder, I said there was a big shortage for the amount of stock on hand, and that there probably would be one-third less stock put through the winter than former years. My anticipations have been fully and even more than realized from what I can gather from reliable sources.

A great deal of the stock, of course, was sold before feeding time began. Old cows and young stock came in for the biggest sacrifice; but the dread of dear fodder caused many to sell good cows, which would be sorely needed after the grass comes. There was not much fat stock in the bunch, mostly all thin, on account of the shortage of pasture. Prices realized very low, many thin cattle going as low as \$5 each; calves, \$1. The saying that a light crop means a light winter was not verified this time, for we have passed through a very hard winter. The snow that fell early in December stayed with us till nearly the 1st of April. The ground is now pretty bare, but the weather looks backward. A great many have been buying mill feed and hay, which is not as dear as expected. We hear of a good many cows dying, more "lifting," which perhaps, in a great measure, is due to shortage of feed. It is considered a conservative estimate that there will be one-quarter fewer cows for the dairy this year than last. From the aforementioned facts it will be seen that the dairy industry, which is one of the mainstays of Frontenac, has received quite a blow. Shall this be intensified by lower prices is a question we will leave to others to discuss. We have passed through a very dull winter, not much doing in either town or country. A Kingston newspaper, of a recent date, has it that fully 300 men are walking the streets idle. Of course, many of these are immigrants, some of recent arrival. While there are many undesirable immigrants, I might make mention of one married couple that I was acquainted with, and, in my opinion, they would make a creditable acquisition to any country. They came from England two years ago, were quite young, thrifty, industrious, and bound to succeed. It certainly is a great mistake to encourage the coming into the country of undesirable immigrants. What Canada wants is intelligent, healthy workers, especially those who understand something of farming. I said the winter had been very dull. Of course, things will brighten up considerably with the advent of spring, but that business will be brisk, like former years, it would seem rash to expect. It would seem that wages cannot maintain their former standard. Farmers do not seem inclined to employ hired help as usual.

Farm laborers, although more plentiful than last year, are not any too numerous. Wages probably are 10 per cent. to 20 per cent. lower.

The most of last year's seeding of timothy and red clover, did not do well on account of the dry weather. A great deal of it was plowed up. A great deal more of it, on account of the unpropitious weather, will likely be plowed up after spring opens. On account of the present high price of clover, it is not likely much will be sown this spring. This is unfortunate for both farms and farmers, for we know that the clover crop is very profitable for feeding and increasing the fertility of the soil.

Money is tight, and we hear it said on every side, that times are not as good as they used to be. This is true, but after so many prosperous years we should be able to stand a period of depression. Times are good enough yet for the intelligent business man. It is the careless ones that are not prepared for reverses.

It looks as though it would be near the first of May before working on the land will begin. Unless heavy rain come, the land will work well on account of so much frost. The great drawback with farming in Frontenac is the lack of drainage in many places. Many farmers stand to lose heavily of a very wet year. As much of the land is shallow, this makes it more difficult, as ditching is so expensive through the rock. As there is so much broken land, Frontenac is more adapted for dairying and stock-raising than anything else.

Nearly all the cheesemen have put up the price of making from 1½c. to 2c., paying about all expenses. Three years ago, it was down to 1½c.

The price of stock is not dear, when we consider the cost of wintering. Dairy cows maintain their price better than horses. Good, serviceable horses, not too old, can be purchased anywhere between \$50 and \$100. For a fine animal you would have to go higher. Cows are from \$25 to \$40, according to quality.

Farmers, for some reason, in a great measure, have gone out of sheep, although sheep have paid exceptionally well for the last two years. There are many reasons for this. The two principal reasons, perhaps, are danger of being worried by dogs, and, as everybody knows, it is not good policy to pasture sheep and other stock together.

The number of hogs wintered was comparatively small. Even at present fair prices there is not much money in it, considering the price of feed, the scarcity of suitable bedding, so much needed, as there are so many cold hogpens in every direction.

It is probably twenty years since fodder was so well cleaned out as it was this spring. The scarcity of last year is teaching a useful lesson. Let those who have eyes to see, see.

The news you print from the different counties, to me, at least, is very interesting. Your editorials alone are worth the subscription price. The questions answered give a great deal of information.

FRONTENAC.

#### A BRUCE COUNTY FARMERS' CLUB.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The farmers of the Township of Brant, Bruce Co., Ont., have formed a club, and have called it the Brant Farmers' Institute Club. There is nothing more lacking, and, at the same time, more necessary, among the farmers of to-day, than co-operation. Co-operation means working together towards one goal—Success. It does not, however, mean the success of the individual; but it means the success of the farming class. If farmers would keep their eyes on the success of the farming class a little more, and perhaps not quite so much on the success of the individual, the benefit derived, individually, would be far greater than by pulling alone. Pulling alone against other combined forces is very slow work, and very often there is not much to show for our efforts; but the combined strength of a number of persons working on a co-operative basis knows no barriers or limitations. To instill a co-operative feeling among the farmers is one of the objects of these clubs, and it behooves every farmer who is interested in his own welfare to join these clubs where it is possible.

Our meetings are held once a month, when a timely topic is taken up for discussion. Our meeting on the 7th of April, attended by 35 farmers, despite almost impassable roads, had for discussion the subject, "Seeds and Seeding." The subject was ably handled by Mr. J. L. Tolton, and the general discussion on the subject by Mr. J. A. Lamb was also very interesting and useful. The practical points and experience of Mr. Tolton may be briefly stated as follows:

Seeding is one of the most important operations on the farm, because on it depends all the following operations. The proper or improper methods of seeding determine the amount of feed we shall have for the winter. If we have poor results in one way or another, it is a good plan to go back to seeding time to discover the cause. Here are a few of the causes that we would perhaps find: (1) Poor condition of soil, due to a lack of returned fertilizer; (2) poor cultivation before seeding; (3) lack of drainage; (4) poor seed, perhaps full of weeds or small, inferior grains. Good, clean, plump seed should be sown in every instance. Like produces like, and as we sow so shall we reap. The Law of Nature is always just. The largest and plumpest grains should be selected for seeding. Sow only standard kinds, and let the agricultural college do the testing of new grains. The earliest-sown grain produces the best crop, but that should not induce us to go on the land when it is yet wet. The amount of seed per acre will depend on the richness and tilth of the soil. Whether to use a roller or not depends on the state of the soil. A rough, knolly field should be rolled to allow close cutting in fall, if necessary, and to save the jolting and shaking of the binder.

Mr. Lamb's talk may be summed up as follows: The procuring of fresh or new seed is unnecessary; simply select the largest and best seeds of what you have, and in that way improve the strain. By selecting our best stock for breeding purposes, we improve the breed of our stock. Just the same with grain. We are not getting the full benefit of what our soil is capable, due to the lack of returned fertilizer. To do this, plow down a second crop of clover whenever possible. It is found that by seeding oats and barley together, four pecks of each, that more bushels per acre are reaped than if either had been sown separately. To kill smut, the old method of bluestone treatment is fast being superseded by the formalin treatment (4 ounce formalin to 1 gallon water). Two gallons treat about ten bushels. Instead of immersing as formerly, simply sprinkle over seed, mix well, and cover it over for some time; then lay out for drying, and, when dry, it should be sown immediately.

The experience of the President, W. A. Rowand, is that twenty-five per cent. smut one year was changed to none at all the next by the application of formalin. A small piece of untreated grain was sown to show the difference. With regard to the roller, Mr. Rowand thought that it should not only be used after seeding, but may be used to good advantage to break up lumpy soil.

Mr. Sherrington, of the Experimental Station at Walkerton, suggested that seeded land, when rolled, should be slightly loosened up with a light harrow to retain the moisture. A. E. W.

#### DID HE WEAR BLUE GLASSES?

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have read, heard and dreamed "that if one lives long enough, all one's illusions will have vanished." I think there is something in it, for a good many of mine have gone, and now, J. H. Burns, in his letter of April 9th, has shattered one of my very strongest.

For years, yea, from my youth up, I have heard "Ontario" spoken of as "the farmer's heaven," so to speak of Eastern Canada—fertile soil, good markets, etc. If one went from Nova Scotia and settled there, he was always spoken of, by his friends and relatives, with becoming awe, "Oh, he is up in Ontario; doing very well, too." (Anyone acquainted with the vernacular knows that this is high praise.)

And, furthermore, I have known a few from that favored land, and their sentiments, clothed in judicious and modest (?) language, seemed to imply that all that I had previously heard was really far short of the truth, THAT ONTARIO LED. Nova Scotians, and a few other Provinces, might try in their feeble way to follow—the exercise would be good for them, anyway. And, now, after all these years of admiration, to find out that the objects thereof fight shy of soap and water, that their work is "degrading and dirty," and that they won't wash themselves. "How have the mighty fallen!"

I was under the impression that I had seen men from Ontario at the Winter Fair held in Amherst, our country town, and they looked well-groomed. Did those men not really represent the farmers of their Province, or were they washed up for the occasion?

And, then, the Ontario housekeeper's idea of ornamentation struck me as being unique. Would J. H. Burns kindly tell us just how that "bath tub" was used as an "ornament"?

Like all housekeepers, I am always glad of new ideas for home decoration, so, doubtless, there are others who would also like to know about it.

"The bad weather keeps the farmer and his family confined to ill-ventilated house or stable, causing disease." Verily, conditions there and here DO differ vastly. I have never known a farmer or his family to live in a stable; and, as fresh air is cheap, I fail to see why farmers cannot ventilate their houses, and I think they do.

And how is it that the farmer up there has so little to do winters that "the members of his family would want work in a city"? Down here the winter is the time the farmer makes his money. By the time he gets his fire and furnace wood hauled and cut up, his hay shipped, root crops sold, farm implements looked over and repaired, agents (for everything in creation that can be used on a farm) talked to and dogged off the farm, and a few other needful things done, it is spring.

And, as for "the city cousin's help in summer," heaven help the farmer who has to depend on that. He deserves the prayers of all well-meaning people. No, no, J. H. Burns, that plan is not "feasible," for this part of our glorious Dominion, anyway.

Speaking generally, people usually get what is coming to them, good or ill; but if farmers think "they are sat upon," all on earth they have to do is rise up. They are a mighty mass, and "large bodies move slowly"; but anyone can see that the movement is well under way. Our daughters and our sons will reap the benefit of the long years of struggle, if we do not.

The days of the non-reading farmers are nearly at an end, and that means more than one realizes, until one thinks about it.

Judging from what I have seen and heard, I used to think that farmers were rather apt to let somebody—anybody sometimes—do their thinking for them; but of later years I notice they hear all they can, read all they can, and do their own thinking, form their own opinions, and the results show. If it is the ambition of the management of "The Farmer's Advocate" to make a magazine that is a help, both on the farm and in the home, that is perfectly honest in presenting both sides of any question, that is doing much to elevate farm life and place it in the rank that it deserves, and that is high-class in every particular, then (I am voicing the opinions of many) I think it is attaining its ambition.

If it would suit J. H. Burns to come to Nova Scotia, I can show him several bath tubs in farmers' homes that are used summer and winter for their legitimate purpose, if it would not frighten him.

NOVA SCOTIA FARMER'S WIFE.  
Cumberland Co., N. S.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

April 29th to May 2nd.—Canadian National Horse Show, Toronto.  
May 6th to 9th.—Montreal Horse Show.  
May 6th and 7th.—Glasgow National Stallion Show.  
June 18th to 20th.—Galt Horse Show, Galt, Ont.  
June 18th to 27th.—International Horse Show, Olympia, London, England.  
June 30th to July 4th.—Royal Agricultural Society's Show, at Newcastle-on-Tyne.  
June 29th to July 9th.—Dominion Exhibition, Calgary, Alta.  
July 11th to 17th.—Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition.  
July 21st to 24th.—Highland Society's Show, at Aberdeen.