

A Breezy Letter from "Jonas."

We have been busy thinning turnips. It is so much easier when the ground has been well prepared, fine and mellow; then the young plants grow up before the weeds. It pays in every way to have the ground well prepared as early as possible for all kinds of crops. All our crops are looking well. We have not had better prospects for years. We cultivated all the ground for spring grain twice—first one way, then the other. And I think it pays. Fall wheat looks well; best where it was manured. Manure is really good medicine for a sick field; in fact, there is nothing better than good cultivation when the ground is in proper condition, and a moderate application of barnyard manure.

The roadwork is getting to be a great problem in our township. We still hang on to the old statute-labor system, but its days of usefulness or necessity are certainly ended, and we are ready for something better. There are so many farmers who go to the gravel pit mainly to lean on the shovel handle and gossip. We believe that the roads would be much better if the statute labor were commuted at say 50 cents per day. And, then, the most of us are paying wages, and find it hard enough to keep the work from getting behind, without going on the road to work. Will some readers who live in townships where the old system has been abolished write to the "Farmer's Advocate" and let us know what system they have adopted in its place, how the money is levied, how spent, and if the new systems are more satisfactory than the old.

We have just about finished going through our grain to cut thistles, pull yellow docks, etc. We are beginning to get some ox-eye daisy in our farms, and find the eradicating of that pest to be a very serious problem. That and mustard are, we believe, the two worst weeds in this country. It seems hard to get the better of them. We can handle wild oats and mustard without much difficulty, but when it comes to ox-eye daisy and mustard we feel like sitting down in despair. The "Farmer's Advocate" has done and is doing a very great work for the farmers of Canada. I would like some reader of the "Farmer's Advocate" to write a short letter describing a practical method by which ox-eye daisy has been eradicated and the ground kept free from it.

I don't know what we would do without the "Farmer's Advocate." It would be like trying to run a farm without a wife. Well, some of these old bachelors try to do that, but it is pretty tough; it is like sawing wood with a hammer. The Great Creator said that it was not good for man to be alone, but these bachelor farmers seem to say that they are wiser than their Maker. Perhaps they never thought of it in that light. The principal mission of your paper is to get its readers to think. The inspired writer said, "As a man thinketh in his heart so is he." If a man carefully reads the "Farmer's Advocate," and thinks upon its teachings and works them out upon his farm, why of course he is bound, ultimately, to be a successful farmer.

The cheesemakers are continually telling farmers how to take care of their milk; how to keep it free from taints, germs and harmful bacteria. Now, we are grateful for all this, and try to do the best that we can; but sometimes we feel very much discouraged when we go into the cheese factory and find the cheesemaker smoking his tobacco pipe while his is working up the curd. And sometimes the ashes are dropping into the curd. I think that the Legislature ought to enact a statute making the cheesemaker liable to a fine of \$50 if he smokes or allows smoking in the cheese factory. I saw in the agricultural college cheese factory a notice posted up saying that smoking was strictly prohibited. Speaking of the college, I would like to say that we enjoyed the excursion there very much. It is about the best day's outing a farmer can take; but there is so much to be seen that a person cannot take it all in, intelligently, in one day.

The price of live hogs has been keeping up pretty good, about 6½ cents being the ruling price. Cheese is now a little higher, and is worth 9½ cents. The pasture is very good, and the rains keep it fresh. It is a good plan to have two pasture fields, so that the cattle can be changed from the one to the other every three weeks. The flow of milk is beginning to abate slightly now, consequent upon the appearance of the flies and hot weather. I noticed that the cattle at the college had been treated with a preparation for the flies, but in order to be of any effect, we presume that the cows would have to be sprayed with it every other day, and this would entail a great amount of labor. It is very doubtful if it would pay.

The importation of farm help from the Old Land has somewhat relieved the situation in regard to the labor problem, but, really, hired help costs too much more than the farmer can afford to pay.

The poultry business has been a profitable branch of the farm economy this season. The hens have laid well, and the eggs have been a good price. Since we commenced to burn coal

our hens have eaten a great portion of the coarser grit in the coal ashes. It is wonderful the amount of it they eat.

There has been little demand for stockers in our immediate neighborhood, and I have not heard of any grass beef being sold yet, except some old cows that were well forward before they left the stables. These sell at from \$30 to \$40, according to size and quality. That is one drawback of living in a purely dairy district—we have to eat up all the old cows; but some of them make nice juicy meat when properly fed.

Horses have been and are a good price, good Clydesdale grades bringing from \$150 to \$200, according to style and weight. There were a great many mares bred last season, but in this neighborhood the mortality amongst foals has been very heavy. The Clydesdale is the fashionable draft breed here. The best stallions get more than they ought to do at \$15, while good horses of other draft breeds do not get so much to do at \$10.

Many farmers have commenced haying. It is generally a good crop. The leaves on the fall wheat are rusted considerably. Small fruits have been fairly good. JONAS.

Clauver Ha Lea.

East Prince, P. E. I.

After the hard, trying winter through which we have recently passed, on account of the shortage in last season's crop, the people of Prince Edward Island are enjoying this year a most perfect growing season. Farmers are jubilant over the prospect of an abundant crop. Rain has fallen in abundance, and all crops are looking most promising. The hay crop will be an excellent one, although few pieces are extra heavy, but on account of the deep snow of last winter the timothy and clover roots were well saved, and we will have an excellent quality of hay for next winter's feed. Grain, especially the early sown, never looked better, and we are likely to have a heavy growth of straw at least. Potatoes, of which a large acreage is planted, are looking nice, but the bugs are likely to be very thick, as they, like the grass roots, wintered well.

The farmers in general are not sowing so large an acreage of turnips as in former years. There are several reasons for this. There is a lot of labor in connection with a turnip crop, and the cutworm destroyed large fields in some sections the past few seasons. Turnips are objectionable for feeding milk cows, but I think this trouble could be overcome to a very great extent if cows were fed immediately after milking, but perhaps the greatest objection to raising turnips is that they are heavy feeders on the soil, and few, if any, of the ordinary farm crops raised take as much out of land as a heavy crop of turnips. More attention is being paid to raising clover, and instead of the bulk of our manure being used for growing turnips, we use it now for top dressing. I might mention the way the manure for top dressing is handled in this section of the Island. We take a field that has had a crop of sod oats last season, plow in as soon as harvest is off, harrow it well, and cross-plow it late in the fall or early the following spring; give it a scratch or two with a spike harrow to smooth it, then cart on the manure, spread it, and work the land and manure up well with a disk harrow. This makes an excellent seed-bed, and the manure is well mixed with the surface soil; then sow to grain and seed out. I prefer a mixture of oats, barley and peas to oats alone. We sow about two bushels of oats, one of barley and half bushel peas to an acre. This is sure to give us a good crop of grain, and a heavy crop of hay the following year.

The pastures this year so far are good, and our cheese and butter factories are doing a big business. On Monday, July 3rd, Dunk River factory received over 22,000 pounds of milk, and the amount is daily increasing. Butter (factory) sells for 20c. Cheese is also good, about 9½c. at present. Oats for local trade are very scarce and high; as high as 55 cents per bushel was paid in Summerside the other day. Old wheat is about all gone—\$1 to \$1.10 is about the price. Potatoes were not worth handling any time this spring, about 14 cents being the ruling price. The prospect for fruit is not so good as last year. The late frost did much damage to wild strawberry and cherry blossoms; many apple orchards which were full of fruit last year are almost bare this year, and vice versa. Farmers are not keeping nearly so many hogs as formerly. It seems strange that our farmers could raise pork for 4½ or 5 cents per pound a few years ago, and now they say there is no money in pork, when we can get 6½c. to 7c. per pound. There will likely be a lot of grass beef for sale shortly, as nearly all cattle are in excellent condition. C. C. CRAIG.

C. S. G. A. Exhibit at Ontario Winter Fair.

It is expected that a feature this year in the Seed Department of the Ontario Winter Fair, Guelph, will be a creditable exhibit of seeds by the Canadian Seed-growers' Association. Besides the general prize-list, there will be a special list of premiums for the benefit of members of the Seed-growers' Association. As a result of a conference with Hon. Mr. Monteith, Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, Secretary-Treasurer L. H. Newman hopes to have the association's exhibit housed in the inner part of the building, instead of the annex, as last year; and to have at least half a day of the total time of the programme devoted to seed work.

Cement Cistern Construction.

I wish to get some information in regard to building a cement cistern, all above ground, about twelve feet in diameter and fourteen feet in height; what thickness of wall, and how to prevent it from freezing to any great extent. Would wall twelve inches, and two-ply felt paper, with plank outside and well hooped, be sufficient to strengthen and make it frostproof? R. A.

Ans.—If Mr. A's cistern were inside a building where the water would not freeze, or if there were a continual flow of water, it would be better. About as good a way, and inexpensive also, as we know of to keep a cistern from cracking would be to make cable of four or five barbed wires, and build one in about every twelve inches in wall in the soft concrete, and put all the way round, fastening at the ends and putting as near the outside as possible. If Mr. A's cistern were built inside of barn there would not be much danger of frost injuring the walls, but if built outside it must be protected in some way or other from freezing, as the frozen water would be as liable to burst cistern as it would an ordinary rain barrel. ISAAC USHER.

[Editor's Note.—A few days ago one of our staff saw a cement-concrete cistern about 8x4x4 feet, inside measurement. The bottom was about four inches thick, and the walls ten inches thick at bottom and eight inches at top; about ten inches of bottom below surface of ground. It was built last fall, and came through the winter all right, carefully covered on top by planks. Walls were made of Portland cement, one part to ten of sharp gravel, and stone bedded in. It was supplied with water pumped by windmill from well through elevated tank in house, and then flowing from cistern to barn located on considerably lower ground. It was giving good satisfaction. In using Queenston cement, we presume about one part to six of gravel should be used for such a job.]

Bright Crop Prospects in Lincoln.

Prospects for good crops are exceedingly bright at present for Lincoln County. Farmers seldom had the ground worked better than this spring, and favorable weather since has helped the crops to such an extent that it looks as though 1905 would be a banner year. Fall wheat is looking fairly well, and unless there is some drawback yet, the general opinion is that it will be a better sample than it has been for several years. Dawson's Golden Chaff is the leading variety here yet, although the Early Red Clawson is again coming into favor. Oats and peas will be a heavy crop; the wet weather in the spring hurt the peas to some extent in low land, but taking them as a crop they will yield the heaviest that they have for some years. Farmers have ceased sowing grass peas. They did well here for some years, but failed entirely. They do not seem to be a very reliable crop. Corn is looking fine. Roots will be better than usual, although they are not grown to a very large extent in some parts of the county. There seems to be a great mistake made by many farmers in not raising more roots and grain and feeding cattle, instead of raising hay and teaming it to market. The prospects for fruit are good. Cattle are selling quite briskly at present—stockers, about 4½c., and milch cows from \$35 to \$40. Veal calves are in good demand.

The horse market is a little slow, demand being mostly for heavy horses. A great many bronchos are being brought in, which will not likely enhance the quality of horses in this district.

The weather at present is not very favorable for haying, being too showery, but will undoubtedly help the grain. I. E. N.

Big Creamery Project.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—We understand that London, Hamilton, Toronto and Montreal capitalists are interested in the Canada Produce Company, which was recently organized, and is now seeking a Dominion charter. The company contemplates operating a large creamery in the vicinity of Montreal, with a daily capacity of 20,000 pounds of butter. The intention is to give particular attention to the export trade, which the company purpose developing on a large scale, the present idea being to send the bulk of the output to Great Britain. Considerable attention will also be devoted to the egg and poultry export trade. The collection of cream is proposed at a central creamery, the intention being to have farmers within a radius of 100 miles express it to the factory, a system which the promoters of the company say has been instrumental in building up the dairy industry in the Western States. It is understood that the bulk of the capital stock has already been subscribed, and the company say they will start operations immediately after receiving the charter. The head office will be located in Montreal, and if the creamery there proves a success, it is proposed to establish others on similar lines in Ontario and other portions of the Dominion.

H. C. Sparling, the Canadian manager of the Empire Cream Separator Company, is, I believe, at the head of the project. J. B. H.