

### Freight and Passenger Rates on Railways.

A letter from Verdun Station, C. P. R., states that a passenger on the C. P. Railway, on August 14, was charged \$4.30 for a journey of 38 miles, and another person \$4.60 for the same journey. Nine cents a mile is, it would appear, a pretty round charge for travelling on a line for which the people first pay and then give it over to a Company.

Mr. T. W. McDermott, of Almonte, who recently returned from Portage La Prairie, Man., relates some interesting experiences of excessive charges on North-West Railways. He purchased at the Portage some sixty thousand bushels of wheat for the Pillsbury Flouring Mills of Minneapolis, and on enquiring of the Canada Pacific Railway Superintendent was informed that the lowest rates that could be offered from Portage to St. Vincent were \$67.50 per car. The distance is only 120 miles, or the same as from Ottawa to Montreal, over which route the rate is only \$15 per car. There being no alternative, Mr. McDermott accepted the rate, and on arriving at St. Vincent was informed that the cost from there to Minneapolis, about 450 miles, over the St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Manitoba Railway, was only \$56 per car. Mr. McDermott says he knows several farmers who have sold their properties in Manitoba and gone to the States because of the exorbitant charges on the Canada Pacific and St. Paul roads. In some cases it takes the price of two bushels of grain to pay for the transportation of one bushel to market. Freight is carried from Sarnia to Prescott, about 400 miles on the Grand Trunk, for \$55 per car.

There does not appear to be any reason why the passenger and freight rates on all our railways should not first be approved by the Supreme Court and then made law by Order in Council. Passengers and shippers should be allowed to appeal to any Court about local rates instead of waiting for any Government interference.

### The London, England, Dairy Show.

The seventh annual exhibition of the British Dairy Farmers' Association, just held at London, drew out a large class of Shorthorns, a very large class of Jerseys, some Ayrshire and Kerry cattle, and a few Dutch and Swiss. Entries of butter and cheese were fewer than last year.

Of Jerseys there were altogether ninety head, among which the judges had some difficulty in making their selections. Many well-known exhibitors, such as Lord Braybrooke, Mr. G. Simpson of Reigate, and Mr. Arkwright of Chesterfield, sent stock, but others, notably Mr. Wingfield Digby of Sherborne Castle, were not represented. Mr. J. Cardus of Southampton took first prize in the cow class, Mr. LeBrocq of Jersey second, and Mr. George Simpson third. In the heifer classes the prizes were—First to J. R. Corbett (Beckworth), second to Mr. E. J. Arnold, of Jersey, and third to Mr. P. J. Bideaux of Jersey. There was a third class of Jersey heifers, bred in the Channel Islands, and imported expressly for the show, and here Mr. E. J. Arnold of Jersey was first, Mr. G. Simpson second, and Mr. H. A. Rigg, Walton-on-Thames, third. The Guernsey cows were few but choice, and the three prizes fell to Mr. J. James of Les Vauxbelets, Guernsey. He also took first prize among the heifers of the same breed, the second going to Mr. E. P. P. Fowler of Southampton. Messrs. J. Welford & Sons of the Warwick Farm Dairy, who were the largest exhibitors of the show, had a number of valuable cows in all classes.

Of Shorthorns there were two classes—one for those qualified for the Herd Book, and the other for animals of the same breed without registered pedigrees. Of these the *Field* remarks:

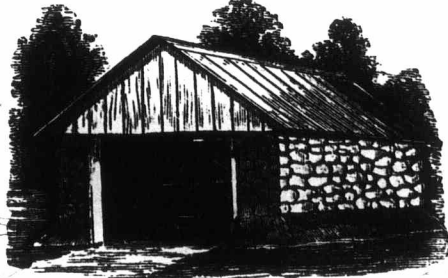
"There were some very useful good Shorthorns shown, and as a proof that pedigree cattle have won their footing in London milk-sellers' cow houses, the class was worth seeing; but it could not hold a candle to class 2 (i. e., that for unpedigreed Shorthorns) from a dairyman's point of view. Class 2 had some magnificent cattle in it, and how any one could look at these and say that England wants a new dairy breed is a puzzle. Can any one in his mind's eye conceive anything more adapted to modern wants than the lot exhibited by Mr. Thomas Birdsey, Southcott Farm, Leighton, Buzard? He won first prize with his Primrose (which also stood reserve for the cup, and if milk had been recognized as merit, should have won it)."

One of the Shorthorn cows present was said to be giving 34 quarts a day, and another was suckling a triplet of calves, two bulls and a heifer.

### Hints and Helps.

#### A Farm Tool House.

One of the most useful and money-saving buildings that a farmer can place on his premises is a spacious and convenient tool-house. It is generally the case that there is room enough in the various out-buildings to house the farm implements if it is economized; but it is a corner here, and a few feet of barn or shed floor there; sometimes in a cellar, and sometimes in a loft; possibly easy of access, but probably difficult; and in all such instances it is space originally intended and really needed for some other purpose. The main reason why so many farmers neglect protecting their implements from the weather when not in use, is the lack of convenient and roomy storage.



Our illustration is suggestive. It is adapted to a locality abounding with stone. The walls of the buildings are made of that material, laid without mortar. The foundation is placed below first, and the earth is banked on the outside to further protect them, and to throw off water. The top of the wall is leveled with mortar, and a two inch plank laid on to which the rafters are spiked. The latter are braced on the inside by nailing on cross-strips. The roof may be made of cheap material. There is one window in the end opposite the door. If the locality is not too much exposed there is little need of doors. The ground is the floor. The walls are but 6 feet high, and the structure should be 20x30 or 40 feet long.

#### Ice Ladder.

The ice ladder is used to draw the floating cakes up on the surface, and to load them upon the sled or store boat for removal to the ice house. We give an illustration of this ladder with description of making and using the same. It is a perfect implement for the purpose. The ladder is about 12 feet long and 20 inches wide. The upright pins must be strong, and the round at the end extend



through both sides to make handles. The latter is lowered into the water, and the cake of ice floated over it. Then draw out the ladder, and, at the same time, lower the handles. The pins will hold the cakes upon the ladder; when upon the surface it can be quickly unloaded by raising one side of the ladder. The ice should be taken to the house and packed at once.

We believe that those who go into black rasp berries for evaporating and canning, and the red canning (say nothing of market for fresh fruit), heavily now, will reap an abundant reward. A hint to the wise is sufficient.

Now that the long evenings are at hand, communications and questions, reports of Farmers' Clubs, &c., give us the benefit of your experience. When renewing your subscription state how you like your paper, offer suggestions for improvements in the paper. The paper is yours to improve, to build up, and to increase in usefulness month by month.

Friends of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, show your copy of this paper to your friends. Tell them to try it just one year, and that if, at its expiration, they do not find it the most profitable investment they ever made—why, then, in that case, they may send the bill to you! Such words, you see, would forcibly demonstrate your good faith.

### Stock.

#### Cattle Diseases Spread by Earthworms.

The investigations of Pasteur, in regard to the transmission of contagious disease through the agency of earthworms, offer some important suggestions to our dairymen and stock-growers in regard to the disposition and burial of animals dying on the farm on account of diseases infectious and not well understood. Several instances occur to my mind where farmers with whom I am acquainted have lost a number of animals from year to year in succession from complaints that appeared mysterious. In one case, a dairy was broken up for a number of years in succession, the animals dying suddenly while at pasture and supposed to have been poisoned, though no evidence could be obtained against the suspected parties.

In this case the loss was very great, and was distributed over a number of years, absorbing much more than the income of the farm. The dairyman was a man of strict integrity and highly esteemed by those who knew him, and never having had an altercation or any trouble with his neighbors, with his acquaintances or hired help, he knew no reason why his animals should be poisoned. He examined very thoroughly his pasture lands, but could find no plants likely to injure his stock. Finally his lands were plowed up, and dairying for the most part was abandoned; and after an intermission of some years, on returning to the dairy business, no trouble was had with his herds. Though for a long time the cause of these losses was suspected to be poison administered by some person having ill will or a grudge against him, I think this idea was at last abandoned and the cause of the trouble attributed to some destructive element in the pasture land or the plants growing therein.

In another instance the losses for several years on account of stock dying of a mysterious disease were very heavy, and they continued without interruption until the place where the diseased animals were buried was fenced about, and his stock excluded from any contact with it. While looking over this cemetery of dead dairy stock, the farmer said to me that he had no doubt that the disease attacking his herd came from the dead animals buried in his pasture, and although the carcasses were buried deep in the ground, his stock roaming over the graves must have in some way taken diseases from this source. He considered the abatement of the troubles on his building a fence about the burial place so as to keep his herds from it, a conclusive proof of the truth of this theory.

Pasteur's investigation in respect to splenic fever have shown how grass grown over the graves of cattle dead of this disease and buried even for years, is a source of infection to animals feeding upon it. His discovery points to the agency of earthworms in carrying the germs of deadly bacteria from buried carcasses to living cattle. He obtained earthworms from the soil filling a pit into which the carcasses of animals dead from splenic fever had long before been thrown, and from the intestines of these worms he obtained the means of reproducing the disease in its most virulent form by inoculation. "He showed that the worms by casting out over the surface earth containing the bacteria germs, were the cause for their presence upon the vegetation which grew upon the spot, and that animals which ate of this vegetation were as certainly killed by the germs which they swallowed as were those which received the same germs through the prick of the inoculator's needle."

Now if one disease may be communicated in this way why may not others? The result of these investigations it seems to me is of great practical importance. From it we may learn that all animals dying of infectious diseases, or indeed of diseases not well understood, should be buried in places not accessible to healthy cattle, or where the vegetation growing on the graves cannot be eaten by stock. Farmers not infrequently are very careless in this regard, burying cattle dying of disease in such places as are most convenient and allowing stock to range and feed over the graves. I have no doubt that many farmers in their experience can now trace the deaths of cattle to this source.—[Cultivator.]

We cannot afford to do without it. The girls are as much interested in it as the boys, and the mother as much as either of them. Yours, &c., PETER FRANKS, Vellore, Ont.