

Water Shortage Causing Trouble

Owing to the drought which has prevailed in many parts of Ontario and Quebec and even in the Maritime Provinces the water supply situation on many farms is critical. Some correspondents have written us that they have had no rainfall worth mentioning since August. Wells and springs and in many instances creeks have gone dry. Many wells that were never known to fail before are now empty. Farmers are forced to haul water from neighboring creeks and rivers or take the alternative of driving their stock to the water. Since winter has settled down in earnest, and gives every promise of being here to stay, many farmers are anxiously viewing the question of their water supply.

The situation is by no means serious in Nova Scotia. Our correspondent, Miss Bruce Watts, writes: "Nova Scotia is a well watered country and hence no inconvenience has been experienced on account of the dry weather." She says, however, that the brooks have never been so low before, though the springs appear to be inexhaustible.

In Eastern Quebec, also, no partic-

ular fear is entertained as regards the water supply. Mr. John Manson, of Compton County, Que., writes: "After a dry season the farmers have no cause for complaint for the early snow which melted helped the wells and springs considerably." Mr. E. E. Wiley writing from the Eastern Townships, Que., says: "The snow storm in the latter part of November was a great blessing to this part of the country. Coming as it did on the soft unfrozen ground it greatly helped the water supply which had been rather low during the latter part of the early fall. The Eastern Townships have not suffered as have some of the others, as there are plenty of good springs in the hills and valleys."

Coming to Ontario, however, the problem of supplying the stock with water is grave. Mr. W. A. Foster, writing from Prince Edward County says: "A number of the farmers have found great difficulty in supplying their stock with water, having to take them considerable distances to drink. Wells never known to go dry before are dry. The swamps froze, when dry, something extraordinary for this time of year, and hence the creeks can get no water from that source." Mr. Geo. Boyce, Carleton County, Ont., writes: "There are scarcely any wells in this locality where a full supply of water can be got."

The situation is much better in Dur-

ham County, Mr. J. Baker writes: "This locality has experienced continual dry weather throughout the season. The wells and springs, however, have given us a continual supply of water." Haliburton County is also well-fixed for water, Mr. J. P. Hartin writes: "Although in some instances there is shortage of water, speaking generally, we will have no scarcity in this part of the country."

In Bruce County again, the situation is more serious. Mr. Cecil Swaid writes: "There has been much difficulty in getting enough water for stock since Sept. 1st. No one ever saw our lakes and rivers so low before. The recent downpours, however, have relieved the situation somewhat."

Mr. Chester Nicholson writing from Wellington County says: "The water supply is a serious question with many of our farmers. About 50 per cent. are well supplied. The ardent wells are of course standing the test;

Jas. Laird, says: "Fully two-thirds of the farmers are either drawing water or driving their stock for drink."

And so the situation stands; in some cases the farmers have plenty of water and in others barely enough is available for household use. When we take into consideration the large amount of water required by the live stock the seriousness of the situation becomes apparent. When it is necessary to haul water for the stock or drive the stock to the water, there is always a danger of them not getting enough. Again when cows have to be driven long distances for water and then having to drink ice-cold water, the shrinkage in the milk flow and in the consequent income, is no mean consideration.

The only solution of the difficulty seems to be in preparing large reservoirs, either cisterns or ponds, to hold water for seasons of drought, or in drilling artesian wells. Both, however, are expensive, especially the latter

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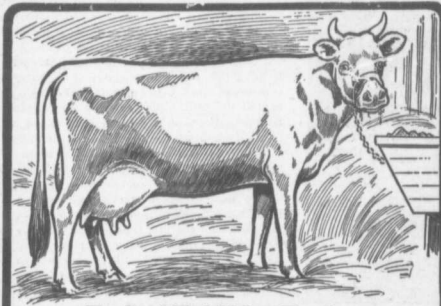
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many, however, find it necessary to draw water for their stock or drive their stock some distance to water, the writer being one of the sufferers, his windmill standing idle and the basins in the barns dry, the first time such a thing has happened in his experience. Another season similar to this would induce many to sink artesian wells."

In Middlesex County farmers are feeling the effects of the drought as elsewhere. Mr. C. M. MacFie, writing from that county says: "Profiting by previous experiences many have prepared for the drought by digging reservoirs for storing the water or by boring wells in rock and in some cases drilling in the rock. Some artesian wells have proved failures although some excellent ones have been found. One well near here is tapping the water on 500 acres in water. As much of our land is heavy upland clay a good pond seems to be the only solution to the water problem in a dry season. On looking over my day book I find we have had only six or seven light showers since August 19th. We need 48 hours of steady rain to prepare the country for winter."

Considerable matter relating to the shortage of water has been published in our "Farmers' Club" department, during the past three weeks, as it came in from our correspondents. In parts of Hastings, Northumberland, Peterboro, Victoria, Brant, Welland, Norfolk, Wentworth, Huron, and Lambton counties, and even in the State River Valley, of Thunder Bay District, the problem of water supply is a critical one. One of our correspondents in Lambton County, Mr.

which besides is not always a sure solution. If the government would adopt a proper forestry policy great benefit would result, especially in sections where there are large areas of waste land.

Seed Exhibit at Guelph

The Winter Fair Board this year offered prizes for oats from the prize winning fields that were in the Standing Seed Crop Competition last summer. There were seventy-six entries and Prof. Klinek, who judged the grain said that the exhibit was one which would make the heart of any seedman glad.

The exhibit was the largest that Prof. Klinek had ever seen. The remarkable thing about it was the good quality of the grain. Only a few samples could be thrown out on account of weed seeds and almost every sample showed unusual care in cleaning.

A few samples were thrown out because the crop was out on the green side and fully ten per cent. were set aside because of lack in uniformity. About one-half of the exhibits were thrown out because of the presence of other grains and not a single sample was found to be pure in this respect.

In giving the final decision the weight per measured bushel was taken into consideration. Several samples were also hulled and the percentage of hull calculated.

The prize winners were announced in last week's issue.—H. C. D.

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