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# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL.

Is the stable ready for the stock?

Harvest the root crop before bad weather sets in.

It is economy to provide shelter for the farm machinery.

Organize early for a profitable winter of club or society meetings.

The crops are mostly garnered in; the marketing end now requires attention.

The scarcity and high price of coal emphasizes the importance of the wood lot on the farm.

Rural de-population is no new topic. Writers in the seventies wrote about this worrying theme.

Speed the plow. Next season's crop is largely dependent upon the amount of plowing done this fall.

It doesn't pay to leave the stock shivering in a fence corner during a cold, bleak October night. Shelter should be provided.

The officially appointed Thanksgiving Day is drawing near, but most of us in Canada have something to be thankful for every day in the year.

Judging from the appearance of some plowed fields, plowmen do not take the interest in turning a straight, even furrow that they once did.

With the increasing difficulty of securing feeders of the desired quality many are finding it profitable to raise their own stockers and feeders.

It is not too late to plant bulbs for spring flowering. Flowers increase the attractiveness of a place, and should be grown around every farm home.

Have a look at the drain outlets before it freezes up. A partially-blocked outlet does not let the water get away fast enough, and delays seeding in the spring.

Pullets should be put in their winter quarters and cockerels placed in fattening crates. Leaving the young birds to roam the fields late in the fall is not conducive to the greatest profits.

With the strengthening of the hog market and the lowering of grain prices, some people are sorry that they disposed of their brood sows. The hog has proven itself worthy of a place on most farms.

Too much organization on the part of manufacturers, and too little organization on the part of producers, has overbalanced the industry and thrown it out of true. The proper adjustment of the enterprise calls for closer community co-operation, and local control of the product which producers have to sell. They realize this in New York State, and many dairymen are beginning to realize it here. Producers will not long stand for a slap in the face when it pleases the purchasers of milk to administer it. Dairymen must place themselves in a position to be independent and dispose of their milk on the best market. More than that, they must be able to make a change on short notice with the minimum of inconvenience. The pooling of milk in a well-equipped local plant, as has been repeatedly advocated in this paper, seems to be the only and best solution.

### Rebuffs for Dairymen

There are few people outside of those actually engaged in some special branch of dairying who appreciate fully the unhappy position in which dairymen have been placed by recent developments in the condensed and powdered milk enterprises. When the Canadian Milk Products Company declared themselves unable to accept milk on the usual basis, but willing to manufacture cream into butter at the patron's expense, farmers found themselves without hogs to consume by-products, and without separators in case they desired to skim at home. However, an outlet was provided for the milk in case an alternative was not chosen, and unsatisfactory as the situation was for those patrons it was less galling than the experience of some patrons of condenseries. Why the market should break so suddenly and why the manufacturers of milk products should all at once find themselves overstocked cannot be easily understood. Had producers been given some warning, a fortnight at least, they could have re-organized their business and sought new outlets in less haste and with more success. It is the feature of the situation which disturbed and annoyed producers most, for patrons of the plants were entitled to a reasonable warning and an opportunity to adjust themselves to the change. This phase of the problem leads many to believe that the whole disturbance is being engineered from across the boundary line, where the real headquarters of our milk product plants are located. The dairymen of New York State are now smarting under even worse treatment than is being suffered here. The situation is a complicated one with many ramifications, and last week a representative of "The Farmer's Advocate" went to New York for the express purpose of studying conditions in that State, and getting at the root of the whole trouble. This matter is further dealt with in the Dairy Department of this issue.

### Loss Through Fire.

The yearly fire loss in Canada is enormous, and the fact that much of it could be avoided makes the loss more appalling. In a single hour the results of a year's work or possibly of the greater portion of a life-time is wiped out. In towns and cities there is a system of fire protection, but in the rural districts there is little opportunity of stopping a conflagration once a blaze is started. Therefore, the importance of taking every precaution. In almost every paper one picks up at this season is a report of a barn with the season's crops having been destroyed by fire, and in many instances the cause is attributed to a spark from the threshing engine. In all cases there is heavy financial loss, and in some instances human lives perish in the flames. Fire is a good servant but a poor master, and it appears that too often through carelessness it is allowed to gain the upper hand.

When threshing or silo filling, the engine may be set too close to the stack or barn, but it has been done before without any accident, so it is done again. It is known that an occasional spark escapes the smoke stack, but how often are a barrel of water and a pail placed in a convenient place for an emergency? Or, how many will refuse to allow the machine to operate when the smoke and cinders are blowing directly on to the buildings? Taking chances has cost many farmers a high figure and a great deal of inconvenience.

Fires occur from other sources. Defective chimneys have resulted in the loss of many houses. Then, the careless smoker who throws away the stub of a cigar or cigarette without first making sure that there is no fire, is guilty of a grave offence. It is not uncommon to see men smoking around buildings, but it is a practice that should not be condoned on any farm. Smoking may be all right in its place, but that place is not around where there is ready inflammable material. Fires

sometimes start from spontaneous combustion. Leaving oil rags in a heap or allowing the barn floor to become saturated with oil and grease dripping from some machine is courting destruction from the flames. The lantern which does duty in thousands of barns night and morning during the fall and winter months has been the means of setting barns on fire. In some cases the lantern has been at fault, but nine times out of ten it is due to carelessness on the part of the one using the lantern. Why some men will deliberately set a lighted lantern down on the barn or stable floor, littered with straw, while they go about their work is a conundrum. The lantern may become upset and fire is attributed to an accident, but it is carelessness when it would not likely have happened had the lantern been hung on a wire or nail?

Familiarity breeds contempt, and so we become so accustomed to handling matches, cigars, lanterns, etc., that we do not see the danger. The use of gasoline or kerosene power aids in the accumulation of inflammable material about the premises, and one should be doubly careful when the engines are located in the barn. Burning oil or grease is difficult to fight. Fires caused from engines back-firing are not unknown, but with reasonable care the danger is not great.

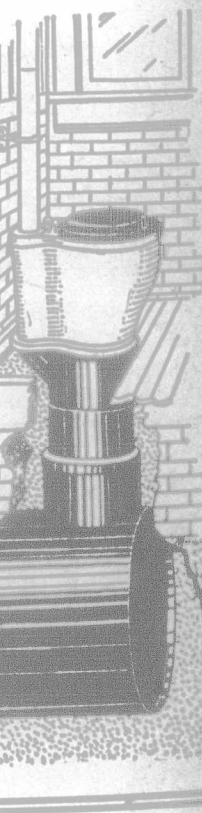
Every precaution should be taken at all times to prevent fires. A thorough clean-up of waste material and rubbish which accumulates in and around buildings is one step in fire prevention, carrying matches in a metal box rather than loose in the pocket is another, and carefulness in handling the lamp or lantern is important. One should know how to fight fire and where to lay the hand on fire extinguisher or other material should a blaze occur, but above all do all that is possible to prevent a fire occurring. Have a clean-up day this fall and have all members of the family heed the "Safety First" sign.

### Late Pasturing Injurious to New Seeding.

Many a splendid catch of seeds has been ruined by late fall pasturing that leaves only the bare grass roots, without protection, to withstand the winter ordeal. There are some cases, perhaps, where a little feeding does no harm, but in the great majority of cases the succeeding crop of hay is injured to a considerable extent. The truth of this statement was driven home to the writer when visiting Macdonald College late in June of this year. There in the cereal husbandry plots were to be seen concrete examples of the effect of cutting or grazing new seedlings in the autumn. The plots were in the form of small squares, and last October one-half of each plot was cut and the other half left untouched. The timothy and clover plots, particularly, demonstrated beyond a doubt that it is extremely unwise to remove the growth that acts as a winter blanket to the roots. There was a sparse growth indeed on the portion cut last October, and growing right beside these was a good crop where the aftermath had not been removed last fall. We mention these two crops specially, since they constitute a very large portion of the seedings in Ontario. In the Farm Department of this issue Professor Summerby gives the actual result from the weights and measurements taken in connection with this test.

Where a whole field is pastured on the farm there is no check left to reveal the actual loss from such a practice. However, we have the actual results of experiments which are conclusive enough. Close pasturing is undoubtedly inadvisable, for, while it may help to tide one over a feed shortage in the autumn, it creates a dearth the following year.

We fully appreciate the position many farmers are in when they keep the farm well stocked. Feed is short in September and October, and a few weeks feeding on the newly-seeded fields relieves the situation



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