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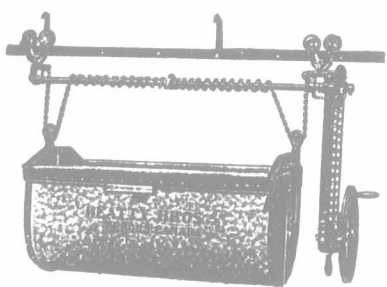
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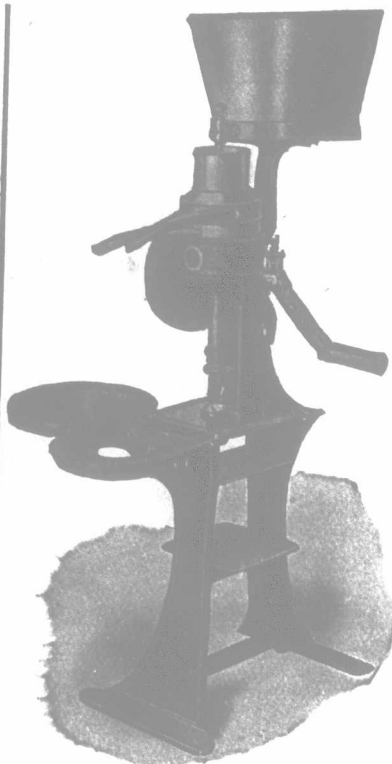
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The Frontenac Situation — "The Farmer's Advocate" Highly Prized.

Being for some time a reader of "The Farmer's Advocate," and not noticing any correspondence from this district, I send a few notes on the agricultural situation; but, first, allow me to congratulate you upon the splendid make-up of your valuable paper. It is certainly worthy of a place in the homes of the farmers of Canada. Frontenac has suffered, perhaps, as much as any other part of Ontario from the severe drought of last summer. This, in a measure, may be due to the fact that the land in this county is largely broken, and not very deep; but, also, in a great measure, to the fact that the rainfall was very scant all through the growing season. At no time did the land get a thorough wetting from the time the grain was sown until it was harvested. The hard winter, which heaved up nearly all the clover, followed by the late spring, left meadows in a wretched state to meet the coming drought. The fondly hoped-for rains in June and the early part of July did not come. The dry weather continued, compelling farmers to begin haying earlier than usual, and to be content with a very light crop, perhaps not over half a ton per acre on the average. The drought continuing, it seemed for a while as though grain would be almost a total failure, but a few showers at the right time made grain fill a great deal better than expected on deep land, while that on shallow land was, for the most part, not worth harvesting. Grain is anywhere from fifty per cent. to an average crop. Wheat and barley are the best; while oats and buckwheat are the worst. Oats were hurt very much by a blight about heading time.

The late spring delayed the planting of corn until the early part of June, at which time the ground was so dry that a great deal did not come up, and had to be replanted, with, in many cases, no better result. Corn that was planted on good land (especially low) made splendid progress throughout July, and seemed to laugh at the dry weather; but the last half of August was too much for it, as a great deal of it showed a yellow leaf, and all presented an unhealthy appearance. It was no wonder, for the cracks in the ground, even on low land, were big enough to thrust in a man's hand. The rains of the early part of September greatly retrieved the corn situation; but, on the whole, either fodder or hill corn must be put down as a poor crop, and only a fraction of what it should be, considering the big shortage in the fodder supply. Pastures, all through, have been inadequate for the amount of stock, consequently the milk flow has been much below the usual, and the returns from the cheese factories are away below former years. As we have been carrying as much stock as we could feed in an ordinary year, the scarcity of fodder has made it necessary to sell off a great many cattle, and droves have left Frontenac and the adjoining counties. Many of these had milked up to time of sale, and sold all the way from \$5 up. Good beef cattle bring a fair price. We do not hear of many horses being disposed of. Taking all stock on the average, we do not think that more than two-thirds will be put through this winter, as compared with last winter. We very much doubt if there is even fodder enough to winter that number, and believe, especially if the winter is unfavorable, that a goodly number will have to buy. If the present high prices of feed are maintained, buying will be reluctantly done, and much stock will be put through on scanty rations. The amount of straw is equally as small as the amount of hay. Potatoes are about three-quarters of a crop, and sell on Kingston market from 90c. to \$1 per bag; hay, \$18 to \$20 per ton; oats, 56c. to 60c. per bushel. As we have had several very prosperous years, the bad crops of the past season will not be felt so much. The worst effect is the parting with stock which will be needed for next season. The farmers of Frontenac do not go in extensively on pure-bred stock. Cheese factories will all close earlier than usual. Patrons here are paid so much the 100 lbs. of milk. From this on, a hog board will be in connection with the cheese board in Kingston.

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