

pain. Corn plasters are taken out of the foot and porous plasters from the back. In a drawer in the forehead are remedies for various kinds of headaches. It is not necessary for a person to know how to read in order to enable him to prescribe for himself. If he knows "where he feels sick" he will know where to find a remedy for his complaint. In cities where many languages are spoken this representation of a man will be very convenient, as it will render the services of an interpreter unnecessary. It will be as easy to obtain medicine from this automatic machine as it is water from the town pump. A competent person will take charge of them, refill the drawers and collect the money deposited every day. Philanthropic motives led to this invention. The Dutchman who suggested it states what most persons believe to be true, that the profit on selling drugs is so great as to be oppressive to the poor. He thinks there should be some arrangement whereby they can obtain simple remedies at a low price. He also states that most drug stores are closed at night, when people are often in need of medicines. As to doctors, he says they are generally away from their offices and homes when the sick require their services. Every one, however, will know where to find a combined doctor and druggist when it is made of cast iron and is securely planted at a street corner.

An important Bulletin was recently issued by Prof. Saunders, Director of the Dominion Experimental Farms, on "Barley," in which he strongly urges Canadian farmers to grow two-rowed barley for the market of Great Britain—as it is preferred to any other by the British brewers. It must ever be borne in mind he says, that on no account should the two-rowed and six-rowed varieties of barley be mixed, for when that is the case the sample is of little value for malting purposes as the six-rowed will pass through the different stages of malting from one to two days sooner than the two-rowed. To leave the six-rowed that length of time on the floor after it is ready for drying would result in decay and the growth of mould which would seriously injure the quality of the malt. For this reason no maltster will have anything to do with mixed barleys. On the question as to whether two-rowed barley can be grown in Canada he gives the results of tests made on the Experimental Farms, and those obtained by farmers in different parts of the Dominion from the samples of two-rowed malting barley which were distributed for test, and says "The results now submitted of the tests of these five leading varieties of two-rowed malting barley (Carter's Prize Prolific, Danish Chevalier, Danish Printice Chevalier, English Malting, and Beardless) over a very large area in Canada are sufficient to show that even in an unfavorable season for barley-growing there is a wide territory over which two-rowed barley for the English market can be grown with advantage, and the yield obtained from the samples sent out as well as in the field culture at the Experimental Farms would indicate that heavier crops of two-rowed barley of the varieties named could be raised than of the ordinary six-rowed barley. It is not practicable to entirely change any important crop in a single season, especially when it covers so large an area; it is better for many reasons that such a change should come more slowly, but it does seem feasible to bring this about to a very large extent within a comparatively short time." Good, pure seed is the first necessity, as so much depends on giving the plants a good start at the outset. Valuable hints are given on barley-culture such as: a moist soil is necessary to start the plants properly; a wet soil is detrimental and the land should be well-drained; a light, rich, friable loam is generally regarded as the most suitable soil for barley although it does well on a clay loam if thoroughly worked until it is reduced to a fine mellow condition; a well-pulverized and clean seed bed is all-important; early sowing is much favored, sowing as soon as the ground is dry enough to be well-pulverized; when drilled, two bushels of seed to the acre is commonly used. Barley for malting should be allowed to ripen thoroughly before harvesting, for thus only can a really mellow grain be secured. When cut too early the grain becomes steely, and hence of far less value to the maltster. In conclusion Prof. Saunders says: "The importance of this subject can only be fairly seen when the

magnitude of the interests involved are considered. The total barley crop of the Dominion is probably about 30,000,000 bushels, with an average yield of from 20 to 25 bushels per acre. While this is much larger than is produced in some countries, it falls below the average in Great Britain. Recent returns give the yield of barley in England, Scotland and Wales, for the year 1889 as 31.58 bushels per acre; in 1888 it was 33.14, showing a falling off last year of 1.56 bushels. The results of the tests given in this Bulletin show that there are great differences in the fertility of different varieties, and it is well known that favorable conditions of soil are essential to a vigorous growth. With fertile strains of vigorous seed and skilful and judicious management in the preparation of the soil there seems to be no good reason why the farmers of Canada should not be able to work their crops nearly, if not quite, up to the English standard. Such a result is worth striving for; every bushel added to the acre would amount to \$480,000 annually to the profits of the farmers, and taking the crop at 30,000,000 bushels, the yield at 25 bushels to the acre and the price 40 cents per bushel, the increase of one pound in weight to the bushel would result in an annual gain of \$250,000. With depending issues so great as this, no effort should be spared to place within reach of Canadian farmers the very best strain of seed which the world affords, and to disseminate among them all the information which can be gathered, bearing on the conditions essential to success." The Dominion Government were prompt to acknowledge the importance of the matter as on the suggestion of the Minister of Agriculture they placed \$25,000 in the Supplementary Estimates and an order was cabled to England to purchase two-rowed seed barley of the best variety to that amount. It is expected that the seed will reach Canada about the middle of this month and will be immediately distributed in two-bushel bags, sufficient to seed one acre, so that at the end of the season farmers using the seed will have a good supply for next year.

CORRESPONDENCE

SUBSCRIBER, TWO RIVERS, MAN.—A hammer used for driving fence posts was illustrated and described in our last year's April number. It would be difficult for you to make a pile driver that would give you satisfaction; besides, you would be liable to infringe upon some patent or other.

A YOUNG FARMER, NEW OXLEY, ALTA.—It has been demonstrated that the best preservative for posts is to first of all soak them with petroleum, and then apply hot gas tar to the portion below the surface. The posts should be thoroughly dry, and it may be mentioned that all experiments indicate decidedly that posts set reversed last longest. We should think it would be better not to peel cottonwood posts, at least, not the part under the surface. The question of cheapness as between oil and tar need not trouble you, as both are required.

T. W., WHITEWOOD, N.W.T.—A good and cheap punch for ringing a bull is made by taking a piece of hickory about one foot long, one-half to three-quarters inch through; whittle round smooth and to a sharp point. This is preferred by many to any iron that cuts in any shape, or knife. It never makes the nose sore or inflamed.

4 CASH PRIZE COMPETITIONS

Of Interest to every Farm Household.

MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED has been steadily winning fast friends during the past twelve months, and no wonder, for neither time nor money have been spared by its publishers to fill its pages with interesting and instructive matter and with the handsomest illustrations obtainable.

None of our past zeal shall be wanting in the future to make the ILLUSTRATED a journal of still greater merit.

As this journal is published in the interest of rural homes, and with a view to greatly increasing

its usefulness, we have decided to offer the following prizes for four competitions:—

FOUR CASH PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

No. 1.—For the Best Essay on "Can our present Methods of Farming be improved upon, and if so, How?"—Open to Farmers only.

First Prize, \$5.00 in cash.

Second Prize, goods to the value of \$3.00 selected from our Premium List.

No. 2.—For the Best Essay on "Good House-keeping."—Open to Farmers' wives and daughters.

First Prize, \$5.00 in cash.

Second Prize, goods to the value of \$3.00 selected from our Premium List.

No. 3.—For the Best Plan for a General Purpose Farm Barn.—Open to any reader of the ILLUSTRATED.

First Prize, \$5.00 in cash.

Second Prize, goods to the value of \$3.00 selected from our Premium List.

No. 4.—For the Best Plan for a General Purpose Poultry House.—Open to any reader of the ILLUSTRATED.

First Prize, \$5.00 in cash.

Second Prize, goods to the value of \$3.00 selected from our Premium List.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

The work on each competition must be wholly original and executed by the author's or designer's own hand, and evidence furnished to this effect if asked for.

The manuscript or plans entered for competition shall all become the property of MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED, but will be returned if they do not care to publish them.

First and Second Prize Essays, and Plans, and others if of sufficient merit, will be published in the ILLUSTRATED, and if found desirable will be fully illustrated. Author's and Designer's names will be published unless we are specially requested not to do so.

Work on each competition must be in promptly at time specified below, and must be accompanied by author's or designer's full name and P.O. address.

All communications must be addressed to—Massey Press, Massey Street, Toronto. Any enquiries requiring an answer must be accompanied by a 3c. stamp.

Special Conditions.—Competitions Nos. 1 & 2.

There will be three judges, one of whom will be Mr. Chas. Morrison, one of the editors of the ILLUSTRATED (ex-Editor Toronto Daily Mail), and two others, who have no connection with MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED, and who will be duly appointed and announced. Their decision will be final.

Essays will be judged on the following basis:—

General Appearance, handwriting, etc., maximum,	10 points.
Grammatical Construction and Spelling,	" 20 "
Knowledge of Subject,	" 20 "
Originality of Theme and Argument,	" 20 "
Treatment,	" 30 "

No manuscript must contain less than 800, or more than 2000 words.

Special Conditions.—Competitions Nos. 3 & 4.

There will be three judges, one of whom will be Mr. W. E. H. Massey, who has from youth had much to do with building and the drawing of plans. Another will be a professional architect or draughtsman, and the third a competent and practical judge of the requirements and utility of farm barns and poultry houses.

Plans will be judged on the following basis:—

Neatness and Accuracy of Drawings,	maximum, 20 points.
Exterior Design,	" 20 "
Interior Arrangements,	" 20 "
Adaptability to General Purposes,	" 20 "
Cost of Construction, compared with merits of Design,	" 20 "

All Plans should be carefully done up before being posted, to prevent their being lost in transmission.

When Manuscripts and Plans must be sent in.

The sooner work on each competition is handed in the better, but the following are the latest dates upon which manuscripts and plans will be received:—

Competition No. 1—	up to 6 p.m. on March 14th next.
" No. 2—	" " March 14th next.
" No. 3—	" " March 14th next.
" No. 4—	" " March 14th next.