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## EDITORIAL.

### The Short Courses at Guelph.

Farmers and farmers' sons who can manage to leave home for a couple of weeks in January to attend the short courses at the Ontario Agricultural College in judging live stock and seeds, will find these courses exceedingly helpful in their business, and well worth the cost. These courses for 1907 will commence on the 8th of January, and last two weeks. No tuition fee is charged, and the only expense involved to students is their railway fare and board and lodging, the latter being available in the City of Guelph at three to three and a half dollars per week. A portion of each day will be devoted to lectures and discussions on seed selection and judging grain, grass and clover seeds, and the identification of weed seeds commonly found in grass and clover seed. Practical work in judging cattle, horses, sheep and swine for breeding purposes, is engaged in each day, together with lectures and addresses by Professors in the College and practical breeders and feeders who have been successful in their business. Fat cattle, sheep and bacon hogs will be judged alive by the class and by recognized experts. The same animals are then slaughtered, and the carcasses brought before the class to be judged and cut up, to illustrate the relative values of the different parts. This, in the past, has been regarded by the class as one of the most instructive features of the course. A course has also been provided for poultry-raisers and those contemplating taking up that industry, either as a specialty or as a branch of regular farm work, instruction and practical demonstrations and experience being afforded those who enter that course, in order that they may become familiar with the characteristics of the various breeds, the planning of poultry houses, the feeding, care and management of poultry, the working of incubators, and the killing, dressing and preparation of the birds for the market.

The training afforded by these short courses cannot fail to be distinctly helpful to those who avail themselves of the opportunity of attending them. The instruction received will increase a young man's interest in his business and give him pleasure in his work, from the fact that he has gained a more intelligent understanding of the principles of advanced stock-rearing and management, and will prove an active stimulus to the adoption of improved methods in his work.

A special course for instruction in dairying is also provided at the College, lasting from the first to the sixth of April, at which lectures, experiments and practical demonstrations in dairy work will be given, and for which no fee is charged.

These short courses will be found to be valuable, not only as a preparation for improved practical work on the farm, but will serve to prepare students for taking an intelligent part in the discussions provided for in the programme of Farmers' Institutes and Clubs during the winter season, or at whatever time they may be held in the various sections of the country.

These courses have been largely attended in the last two or three years, not only by young men, but also by farmers well on in years, and the dairy and poultry classes have been attended by a considerable number of women; but there is room for more in each class, and we heartily commend to our readers the useful and helpful instruction afforded by the short-course system.

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The salvation of the wood lot is in keeping out stock.

### Now for Woodland-exemption By-laws.

At the last session of the Ontario Legislature an Act was passed giving township councils the power to exempt from taxation farm woodland to the extent of one acre in ten of the farm's area, though not more than twenty-five acres under a single ownership. The conditions are that the land so exempted shall contain trees in sufficient numbers of the varieties named in the act. Grazing is absolutely prohibited. Unless the conditions are complied with and the wood-lot properly looked after, the owner is liable to have all back taxes charged against him. Application for exemption must be made in writing to the township clerk on or before the first day of February of the year in which it is desired that the exemption shall take effect, whereupon it becomes the duty of the assessor to examine the lot and determine whether it comes within the meaning of the act.

In principle and aims, this is one of the most beneficent pieces of legislation that could be devised, but in order that it may be operative, action must be taken by the township councils. The way is now open for public-spirited councillors to confer a lasting boon upon their respective municipalities by agitating this matter and getting the necessary by-law through.

We believe it should not require exemption from taxation to induce the owners of woodland to fence it and keep out their stock. The advancing price of fuel, the rapidly-increasing value of timber—especially hardwood timber—and the valuable shelter afforded by a thick piece of bush, all point to the wisdom of each farmer maintaining a wood-lot of ten or twenty acres. Such would, in time, by its yearly harvest of fuel and lumber, provide good interest on the value of the land and favorably affect the productiveness of the cleared portion of the farm. In these days, when there is such general complaint of labor scarcity, what temptation is there to clear more land? Far better to work the remainder of the farm well, and preserve the existing wood-lot zealously.

But there is another and stronger argument for woodland preservation, and this is the general effect on climate. We all know of some road on the south or east side of a good thick bush which is always a joy and a relief to reach on a wintry day. The effect is perceptible for sometimes nearly a mile. How fine it would be to have more such wind-breaks, and how bleak with none at all! Not only is the forest a comfort, but expert opinion declares and experience affirms that it is a benefit to health. And besides all the foregoing, is the argument of landscape adornment. Plainly, the preservation of the remaining forest is one of the most pressing duties of our old-settled communities, and there will be no more appreciated legacy we can leave to our children than some good thick belts of wood.

It therefore behooves not merely councillors, but everyone who has the interest and prosperity of the country at heart to agitate this subject and get a by-law passed in every township in Old Ontario. Those who have wood-lots of which they are taking good care should be the first to bestir themselves, for they can have the serene consciousness that they are not merely promoting their own interest, but what is unmistakably for the public weal.

It may be thought that many of our wood-lots are too far gone to do anything with. Such is not the case. Even those which are dying and in which the grass has formed a stiff sward will renew themselves if only stock are kept out. Last winter we presented some pictures showing how a thick growth of vigorous saplings had sprung up in a lot where twenty-eight years before there were only a few scattered trees growing amidst the grass. We could show many other instances equally as striking, and it will be the same wherever the bush is given a chance to reseed and the seedlings to get a start. Once the saplings get the better of the grass and hold the autumn leaves, the old trees pick up and produce much greater annual growth.

Councillors would do well to read this article at the council meeting; and if it so happens that the subject has escaped the attention of the local municipal legislators, private citizens might make it a point to be present and urge the matter upon their attention. Now is the time to act.

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### Convection vs. Conduction.

In this issue of "The Farmer's Advocate" we present several contributions to the discussion opened by our editorial, "Is the Basement Stable a Success?" The topic is worthy of a great deal of space, and inasmuch as there is often virtue in repetition, we take occasion to set forth again the focal point of our previous argument.

As one of our correspondents truly observes, the problem is one of ventilation. An all-sided consideration of the topic of ventilation involves the other points. How? In this wise: As we stated before, there are two ways in which heat may be lost from a stable. One is by convection, viz., exchange of inside with outside air. The other is conduction, which is a technical term signifying that the heat is lost by passing through some substance—a wall, for instance— without any exchange of air. Ventilation is nothing more nor less than convection, which seeks to admit and distribute fresh air without causing uncomfortable or injurious drafts.

In the winter season ventilation invariably lowers stable temperature, unless some means is devised to warm the fresh air before it is diffused. This may be accomplished to some degree by conducting the air through underground tile.

Since ordinary ventilation lowers temperature, it is plain that if we were to secure perfect ventilation we would have the temperature of the inside air approaching that of the outside atmosphere. Few of us care to do this, especially those who feed succulent feed, or who water from troughs in the stable. In such cases it is considered necessary to keep the temperature above freezing-point. To do this, we have to content ourselves at times with somewhat less ventilation than is desirable, for it is plain that the more heat we lose by conduction the less we can spare by ventilation. Hence the great importance of:

(1) Having walls that lose very little heat by conduction.

(2) Tempering the ventilation current before admission into the stable.

The stone wall wastes much heat by conduction. Concrete is somewhat better, and brick, we should judge, better still, though not as strong or durable. The best kind of masonry wall is one with a good dead-air space in the center. The wooden wall of several plies will lose probably less heat by conduction than the stone wall, and but little by convection. An imperfect wooden wall will lose considerable heat by convection, but as this means so much additional ventilation it is not an unmixed evil.

There is a third and more or less independent consideration which must not pass without note, and that is the difficulty, in practice, however it may seem in theory, of providing a regular and