

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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FARM AND DAIRY is published every Thursday. It is the official organ of the British Columbia, Ontario, Eastern and Western Ontario, and Bedford District, Quebec, Dairyman's Associations, and of the Canadian Holstein, Friesian, and Jersey Cattle Breeders' Associations.

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FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

INVESTIGATE HOME CONDITIONS OF BACON INDUSTRY

The Swine Commission, appointed by the Dominion Government to investigate the bacon industry in Europe will soon be home. They will be able to present, from a Canadian hog raiser's standpoint, the conditions that impressed them, as having placed such countries as Denmark and Ireland in the lead in production. The commission's practical hog raisers, it may not be necessary for them to inquire to any great length as to the system of breeding and feeding hogs in this country. It is necessary, however, that they shall investigate other conditions at home before they can make an intelligent application of the information they have gained. They should inspect our Canadian packing plants, find just why our co-operative plants failed, what influence the drovers and packers have in the manipulation of prices in Canada and give the packers a chance to bring forward any information they may care to. Unless the

members of the commission have an opportunity to investigate home conditions thoroughly their report will be discredited to a considerable extent before it is issued.

The Hon. Sydney Fisher, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, deserves credit for appointing the commission. He should now instruct the commissioners to make a full and complete investigation into the pork packing business of this country. It is in the best interest of all that a full and complete report be made. Nothing short of this will be satisfactory to the farmers of the country.

POULTRY FATTENING

To crate-fatten poultry is not a new thing. It has been advocated for years and is such an old story that it is generally admitted that it pays to fatten cockerels before putting them on the market. Such belief may be common, but is it put into practice? Only by the few. Much of the poultry that is marketed is a disgrace to the producer. Had it been properly fattened it would have commanded a much increased price, it would have been disposed of at a profit and would have given general satisfaction to all concerned.

The situation was aptly portrayed in the statement made by a Maitland produce dealer some years ago. He said that a farmer came to him in the fall and offered three or four hundred barred rock cockerels that weighed six pounds each. The produce man said, "These are just what I want. I suppose they are fat?" The farmer replied, "Yes, I think they are. I have fed them a shovel full of oats once or twice a week and I think they are fat enough all right. They are roosting in the trees and I want to get rid of them." At this the produce man told him that he did not want his cockerels at any price, but that if he would go home and feed those cockerels for three weeks according to the directions available on crate-feeding chickens, he would guarantee to give him from \$1.00 to \$1.25 a piece for them.

Many who make a practice of crate-fattening chickens claim that they can produce a pound of chicken flesh as cheaply as a pound of pork or beef. Experimental stations corroborate this statement. When beef and pork sells for from five to eight cents respectively, while well fattened poultry flesh commands 15 cents or over, no further argument is needed for fattening chickens. The experience of Mr. D. Burch of Norfolk County, given on page 3 of Farm and Dairy this week will bear careful reading in this particular. We would never think of selling pork or beef unfattened. Why should we sell unfattened poultry when we know that to fatten them is most profitable?

IN CAUSE OF GOOD ROADS

The subject of good roads has had its fair share of comment of late. Much is being said and less done to bring about good roads. The County system of road construction whereby it is sought, by means of Government

aid, to build macadam roads leading to important centres and markets and along the main lines of travel has done much to improve the roads of Ontario. The system, however, is not being taken advantage of to the extent that is desired. Macadam roads are costly and will for many years to come be denied to the great percentage of those who must use our country roads.

Some cheaper means of improving the roads than we already have is imperative. The Farmer's Advocate through their split log drag competition, and the agricultural press in general through their advocacy of the use of this implement, have demonstrated to many that ordinary country roads can be greatly improved at a minimum expense. The suggestion offered in Farm and Dairy this week by Mr. D. James, of York Co., Ont., whereby it is sought to create still more interest in the work of the split log drag is most commendable. Our Provincial Government may well set aside a sum of money to encourage the use of the split log drag in improving the common earth roads of this Province.

CO-OPERATIVE SILO FILLING

The co-operative ownership of the more expensive farm machinery has much to commend it. Many machines are used for but a few days each year, yet they are a necessary part of every farm and cannot well be dispensed with. These implements represent a considerable outlay and as they are used but for a very short period on individual farms, many of them can be owned and operated co-operatively. Possibly no farm machinery that is as widely used lends itself so advantageously to co-operative ownership as does the silo filling outfit. Silo filling, as commonly practised, demands more labor than is available on the average farm and hence interchange of labor with neighboring is necessary. While interchanging labor, machinery might be used save with it as it cannot be used save where the labor is. Those who fill their silos on the co-operative plan—owning their own outfit and exchanging work among themselves—speak very highly of the success of this system.

Many are deterred from erecting silos owing to the difficulty of getting them filled. Where three or four are interested in silo filling, they may well give the matter of owning their own outfit serious consideration. Even where individuals can be secured to fill the silo, their work is not always the most satisfactory and it is at the same time, costly. Silo filling is, as a rule, on with a rush and the last man to get the service is liable to suffer much loss from frost or over-dried corn. Where three or four are interested in a co-operatively owned outfit, a silo filler and a corn binder, each member having his own work for the season, i.e., one man to manage the corn binder, another to run the engine, etc., and the system managed so that the first silo filled this year, will be the second next year and so on in rotation, the silos may

be filled in a most satisfactory manner and at a minimum of expense.

Durham Co., Ont., lost one of its best known agriculturists in Henry Cole Hoar, who died last week of anaemia. Mr. Hoar was of that class of which we have too few, he probably having done more in the last quarter of a century for the promotion of modern methods of farming than any other farmer in West Durham. He has been, from its inception, secretary-treasurer of the West Durham Farmers' Institute, has conducted a great many excursions to the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, was a regular visitor at, and promoter of, the Provincial Winter Stock Fair at Guelph, was manager of West Durham Agricultural Exhibition, secretary of the West Durham Sabbath School Association, for many years an active member of the Provincial Association, and filled many other responsible and useful positions in Darlington Township. Mr. Hoar was a member of the committee in charge of Farm and Dairy's Special Good Farms Competition for Durham Co. Members of the organizations that he served, his fellow-farmers, will deeply mourn their loss in the death of Mr. Hoar.

The efforts of Farm and Dairy in bringing the matter of the reforestation of waste lands in Ontario before the public are bearing fruit. Most favorable mention of the work accomplished to date and of the convention held in Cobourg on June 9th, where the subject of reforestation of waste lands was discussed, is given in the current issue of The Canadian Forestry Journal, which is the official organ of the Canadian Forestry Association. The latest move seeking to further the work that has already been launched is the publicity being given to this matter of reforestation by means of comment on the Cobourg convention in bulletin form, prepared under the direction of Mr. R. H. Campbell, Superintendent of Forestry for the Dominion, issued to the newspapers throughout Canada and which is reproduced elsewhere in this issue. The sentiment that will be created through this publicity should prove helpful in assisting those who are at the back of this forestry movement to attain the objects sought.

Evidence of the increasing importance of the live stock and agricultural interests of Canada is afforded by the fact that a new live stock and farming paper has been started recently in Toronto, under the name of the Canadian Farmer. The editor, Mr. J. H. S. Johnston, is well known among the leading live stock men, particularly among horse breeders. The new paper will devote special attention to the live stock interests, and will be Dominion in character. The first few issues have appeared and show good editorial management.

Thrillers of the type where human life is brought into jeopardy will not be a part of the Canadian National

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