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FARMING

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TOPICS FOR THE WEEK.

It is Worth the Money.

A successful farmer, writing to *The American Agriculturist*, says there are two kinds of farmers. One is progressive. He takes his weekly farm paper and reads it. Consequently he knows the condition of the markets, and if there is a wheat or corn famine in any part of the world he is also aware of it, and governs his sales and purchases accordingly. He minds his own business because he is too busily engaged in that occupation to attend to other people's affairs. He gets rich. The other type is the slow-going ne'er-do-well. He cannot afford to subscribe for a weekly agricultural paper, or any other paper, for that matter. He knows enough to sign his name to a mortgage to buy machinery or build a new house. But he cannot tell how he is going to pay it off. He plods along in his own peculiar way, year in and year out, using his brawn and not his brain, and ultimately develops into a mere working machine. Reader, to which of these types do you belong? We do not want any answer, but would like everyone to decide the matter to his own satisfaction. If you think you ought to subscribe for a weekly farm journal which will keep you in touch with the methods and practices of the successful and progressive farmers of the day, send in your subscription for FARMING. It is the only Canadian agricultural paper which fills the conditions mentioned by the writer in *The American Agriculturist*. No farmer is too poor to subscribe for it, because the subscription price is so low that it is brought within the reach of all, and because, if he hopes to succeed in his business, he must have the information which FARMING alone will supply. There is no farmer who can afford to do without it. Mr. John A. Richardson, the well-known breeder of Holstein cattle, of South March, Ont., says: "I am well pleased with FARMING, and think it is worth the money if ever a paper was, and I wish it every success." If you are not a subscriber become one, and you also will find it will pay you amply for the small outlay involved. Read the letter of Mr. C. C. Macdonald, the Superintendent of Dairying for the Province of Manitoba, which appears in this issue. The thoughts which he unfolds are well worthy the consideration of every Canadian farmer.

Agricultural News and Comments.

Water is the most abundant substance found in living crops. On account of the loss through evaporation from the leaves of growing plants and the necessity of replacing this loss, thirty or forty times more water is needed during the growing

period of a crop than is contained in the crop when harvested. Plants require a large amount of water for their life and growth, and it is necessary that the supply be abundant at all times. If the evaporation from the plant greatly exceeds the amount taken in through the roots, the leaves wilt and the plant suffers.

At the Royal Agricultural Society's show, held at Manchester, Eng., last year, the total cost was £25,479 8s. 9d., and receipts from all sources were £29,533 8s. 10d., leaving a balance in favor of the society of £4,047 0s. 1d. These figures are somewhat larger than the usual run. The expenses of the Leicester meeting in 1896 were £18,140, and the receipts £21,741, the balance being £3,600. The largest item in the cost is that of the erection of the show-yard; the amount paid last year was £16,874 3s. 5d.

The British consumer is being warned against Normandy butter. An examination and chemical analysis of some hundreds of samples of this butter has revealed the fact that in something like seventy out of every hundred samples adulteration had been resorted to. In a few cases as high as forty per cent. of margarine was found, but generally, adulteration consisted in "working up" inferior butters from Belgium, Italy, and Australia with the genuine product.

Pigs require shade in hot weather as well as any other animal. In fact no animal suffers more from excessive heat than the pig. Every pig pasture should have some shade provided for the hot weather. Coupled with this the pig should have plenty of drink when the weather is warm, and especially is this the case with a suckling sow.

A quart of average milk weighs two and one-fifth pounds, and has a specific gravity of 1.032. In making this quart of milk the cow takes out of the food she has eaten 1.18 ounces of fat; 1.18 ounces of casein or cheese matter, 1.76 ounces of milk sugar, and .35 ounces of ash, and mixes them with 30.62 ounces of water. This ash represents all there would be left if the water were all evaporated and the solids were all burned.

An interesting beef dressing contest took place at London, England, recently for a prize of £200 a side. The competitors were Tetzil of New York, and Harper of London. The animals were killed previous to commencing the competition, the judges' decision having to be given as to who killed their beasts in the quickest and most workmanlike manner. The award was given to the American, whose time for two beasts was 18 minutes, 32 seconds; Harper's time being 20 minutes, 22 seconds. The carcasses were afterwards sold by auction and brought from 4s. 2d. to 4s. 8d. per 8 pounds.

Isinglass and gelatine are said to be good egg preservatives. They should be made into liquids and the eggs dipped into them. After dipping, the eggs should be dried on a screen with the small end of the egg down. This solution, when properly applied, will make an air-tight coating around the egg that will enable it to be kept for a considerable length of time. The gelatine can be kept for general use by adding two per cent. of salicylic acid.

A splendid drink for warm weather can be made from bran water and a little lime juice or lemon. Take about one pint of bran and let it soak in a

gallon of water for five or six hours. Then add a small quantity of the lime juice or the lemon. This will give the liquid a pleasant flavor, and make it more palatable. Bran contains a large amount of phosphate, and, soaked in water, a large portion of it is freed, and, in combination with the lime juice, makes a valuable drink.

Gravel is very plentiful in many parts of Canada, and, when it can be obtained of a good quality within reasonable hauling distance, makes a cheap but good road surface. It should be clean, containing little sand and clay, since it is the stone, not the earthy materials, which are needed on the road. Nor should large stones and boulders be mixed with it, as they will work up and roll loosely under the feet of the horses and the wheels of the vehicles.

Is the Present Method of Getting the Threshing Done the Best?

One of the important tasks of the farmer after the harvest is off is the threshing. In fact, a great deal of the fall wheat threshing, especially in Ontario, is now done before all the harvest is off. Where neighbors help each other with the threshing, as is the case in this province, the farmer often loses a lot of valuable time in assisting his neighbors to thresh, which should be given to getting his own grain in the barn. In this way, though this neighborly method of getting the threshing done has many things in its favor, we question whether it is the most economical plan for the farmer to adopt. The farmer certainly has to give a lot of time to it at a season of the year when important work on his own farm needs attention.

In addition to the fall wheat threshing, a great deal of which is done before the harvest is over in some localities, the bulk of the threshing comes on in September and early in October, and at a time when the farmer should be busy looking after the roots or filling the silo, if he has one. Or if it comes later, it conflicts with the fall plowing, a very important part of the farm work. If the threshing were done now, as it was some years ago, in the late fall or early winter, the time necessary to do the work would not be so much missed. But farmers do not care to wait that long in these go-ahead times, and are inclined to get their threshing done as early as possible. Consequently the threshing problem is a very important one for the farmer.

Of course the whole question hinges on whether the present method of doing the threshing in Ontario pays or not. A farmer on a hundred-acre farm will have, on an average, one and one-half days' threshing. To keep the thresher running properly it will require say twelve men, besides those looking after the machine itself, or say ten men outside of the farmer's own help. This would mean fifteen days' work that the farmer will have to give to helping his neighbors thresh. If this time could be given in the late fall or early winter it would not be much missed, but when it has to be given, as is the case in many sections, at a time when every day's work on the farm counts, the threshing costs the farmer pretty dear. We have placed the figures at the lowest point, so as to show the question fairly. On many grain farms of 100 acres it will require two days to get the threshing done, and in many instances more than twelve men would be needed for the work.

There are three or four ways in which this threshing difficulty might be remedied if the