

FARM BULLETIN.

Government Ownership of Telephones.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

of water. No less than ten pounds of stores is supplied to any one colony. If they require less than this they are not bothered with.

This system of wintering is preferable to the cellar system of storing on account of the moisture which arises through the cement floor, but in addition to this bees sometimes get restless in the winter time, and their restlessness is telegraphed to their neighbors along the cement floor. Furthermore, when they are wintered in the cellar their winter confinement might create a desire for an early flight in the spring and they would venture out before it is safe for them to do so. When they are packed out of doors, they can continue their work in the spring and go on with their brood rearing, safely packed.

When the spring season opens up, the first thing to do is to examine the colonies, re-queen those that are queenless and introduce new queens into those which do not possess strong queens. Equalizing, as adopted by some, is not practiced in Mr. Holterman's yard. Cards of brood, about ready to hatch, are taken from the vigorous colonies and put into those which are moderately strong, yet not quite up to the standard. This is practiced down to the weakest, which was left until the last. "Stimulating" and "Bruising" was also recommended by Mr. Holterman. The bruising is advantageous in that when the honey flow is short the bees are not prone to uncup their honey, but when this is bruised with a knife the honey will flow out and the bees will gather it and supply it to the young brood. Furthermore, when the honey flow is short, the queen will curtail her egg laying. A mixture of sugar and syrup mixed in the spring, in the proportion of 1 1/4 parts of sugar to 1 part of water, will stimulate the bees to greater action and the queen to more egg laying. The queens are clipped as early in the spring as possible, and the system followed is to clip both wings rather short. In this way she has greater freedom in the cells, and when she comes out her flights are not as long. It should be done as early in the spring as possible, even at the time of the soft maple flow of honey.

As soon as the lower chamber is fairly well filled the supers are applied, but the queen excluders are not put on until the surplus honey flow begins, then the queen is taken out and excluders put on. In this way more young bees are reared and more honey gathered later on. Some complain of the quality of the honey extracted from the comb which has previously produced brood, but so far there has been no substantial argument against it. The bees are taken out of the packing cases just about the time the clover begins. The packing cases are taken outside the yard, but the colonies are still left in groups of four, when the supers are applied some of the full combs are taken from the first super and put into the second, in such a way that the full combs of the supers are above and below each other as are the empty combs.

The change has been made from eight-frame to ten-frame hives, but the twelve-frame is quite as satisfactory, and one that may in the future come into general use. The advantage of it is that it can be easily changed from a twelve to a ten or eight-frame by a division board which is tight at the bottom, and which keeps the bees working in that part of the hive where the foundation or comb already exists, and they will not go into the other part until they are crowded.

A new honey board has been invented, the greater part of which is wire cloth, and a board in the centre contains the bee escape. Some are made which have a double outlet in the centre, so that two bees can get out at one time.

When it comes to extracting, Mr. Holterman's plant is large enough that he can extract from one yard in a day, and have it all over and the excitement decreased by this prompt action. One point in connection with the extracting house is to have a separate entrance where the supers are taken in. If the door is used as an entrance for honey then all the bees will assemble around the door and cloud in whenever it is open, but if the honey is taken in by another way they will be fooled into assembling around this place, and one may go in and out of the door without being pestered or admitting bees. The supers and comb are put back into the hives, but the number each receives is governed by the strength of the colonies. Weak ones are not supplied with any of the supers, but the strong ones may have five or six. This diminishes the amount of labor when the re-gathering time comes, after the bees have carried down all the remaining honey from the extracted combs.

Should Be in Every Home.

I couldn't think of doing without "The Farmer's Advocate," as it is the one paper that always stands by the farmer and has the courage of its convictions. It should be in the home of every farmer (and I might say banker) in the Dominion of Canada.

Oxford Co., Ont.

R. W. BRINK.

have discussed a number of topics of vital interest to them, such as pasteurization of whey, feeding rations, etc. One of the best features is that there is some organization, and that an idea which will often be lost where this is lacking, is frequently discussed and found workable and adopted. When it comes to Short Courses it practically insures that they will be attended to if you are working with the Club."

INSTITUTE BRANCH, TORONTO.

A Good Season in South Ontario.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Ontario County has again experienced a prosperous year, so far as the agriculturists are concerned, and with few exceptions may look with pride on the results of the season just closed and envy none, for the county has given to the world her full share and more of the necessities of life, as well as sons who have entered the business and professional work outside. When we read of the hunger and misery caused by the too-little-work-and-too-many-men-condition in Toronto and other large centres, we draw up closer to our own firesides and vow that the farmer's life is good enough for us.

Dairying has not taken as good a hold as we would like to see, the stringent rules laid down by the board of health are quite a barrier to some, but if one will only stop to consider, these rules are not severe, and little extra time is required in comparison to the advantage and satisfaction derived from having pure milk. This winter the price paid for milk is \$1.50 per can of 82 1/2 lbs. This leaves us \$1.35 net, as 15 cents is required to carry milk to Toronto and return empty can by the railroad. This makes a profitable business when care is taken to grade up a herd, and allows keeping the men by the year and paying them a good wage.

The very high price ruling for cattle of all kinds has thinned some of the herds to quite an extent. A lowering in price on the market does not seem to affect the numerous auction sales, but seems rather an incentive to the buyers.

Those fortunate enough to have had clover for seed reaped a rich reward. The seed mostly was of good quality, and as high as \$9.40 was paid for red clover, and about the same or a trifle better for alsike. The lower grades of seed find a slow market, the barrier placed by the United States on our seeds and the Seed Control Act by our government have made the dealers canny buyers of the lower grades of seed. The buckhorn or ribgrass gives us the greater trouble, and will until more of us come to recognize the seed. When this is done and we refuse to sow seed containing this impurity, we need have little fear of this weed as it soon runs out. Trefoil is the worst pest in alsike, and when once this, while in itself a clover and closely allied to the alsike in its tenacity, has got a hold on the land, alsike growing might better be discarded. Timothy does not seem a profitable crop unless thoroughly understood. The grain machines with blowers attached will not properly separate the seed from the straw, and then so much is hulled. Some sort of hand method should be employed to get the most out of this seed.

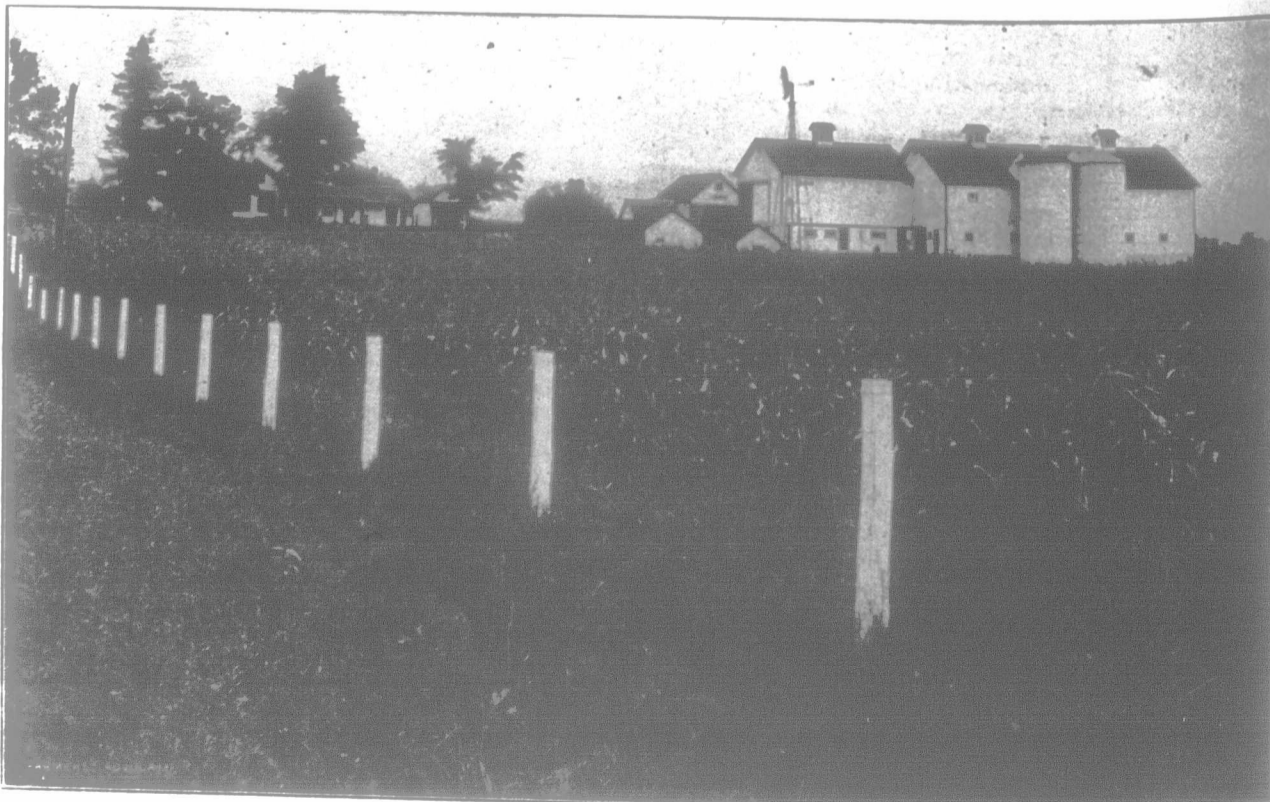
Draining is making some headway, and a mechanical drainage machine has come in the district, and has given very fair satisfaction. We understand a large contract has been let to put in several miles of tile on a farm in the south owned by one of Toronto's gentlemen farmers.

Our county can boast of a number of elegant

Farmers' Clubs.

Reports from many sections of the province would indicate that the farmers are beginning to wake up to the possibilities in Farmers' Club work. The following report from N. C. MacKay, of Walkerton, District Representative for Bruce County, speaks for itself. The Department is anxious to see Clubs formed in all districts. Those who are interested should make application to the District Representative of the County or apply direct to the Institutes Branch, Department of Agriculture.

"In reply to your letter, relating to Farmers' Clubs, I may say that as far as our county is concerned, they have done little towards selling, but a number of our Clubs buy all their salt, flour, feed, seed corn, and small seeds through the Clubs. All of our Clubs have had their largest attendance when they have had an open night. Many of them have this at regular periods, and usually have some outside speakers interspersed with local talent, music, speeches, etc. This to me seems to be a particularly valuable feature, as the young people seem to realize that farming is not drudgery at all times. Our best Club is one which has gone in for education, and they are planning to instal a library. They



Farm Surroundings to Be Proud Of.