

we must first know the value of manure as well as what it adds to the productive capacity of the soil. When we top-dress with manure, we add to the soil, in a measure, all the elements needed for plant growth. Farm manure is considered a complete fertilizer, but this is not all. In addition we supply vegetable matter which adds humus to the soil as well as countless bacteria which enliven a run-down soil. The decaying of this manure in the soil makes unavailable plant food in that soil available to growing plants.

The manure proposition then is not merely one of additional plant food. Its great value in improving the physical properties of the worn-out soil is one very important factor recommending its use. The average farmer cannot make or obtain as much manure as he could profitably use in his farming operations. Therefore, he ought to make a lighter application of manure than he did in the olden days. To cover ten acres with ten loads to the acre, in the old way, is a difficult proposition. With the manure spreader, the ten loads to the acre can be cut in two and only five loads used, the total manure being made to cover 20 acres instead of ten. This we get the physical benefit over twice the area by using a spreader. Where the manure spreader is in use, the manure is hauled out much more frequently than where old methods are still in vogue. As the manure is hauled out oftener, the farmer keeps the look-out for some way of making more manure, or of getting more from outside sources. He is also

for grain, hay, pork, rolls, etc. There is, perhaps, a little less money in circulation and farmers are buying a little less.

MARITIME PROVINCES

As we go further east the position of the farmer improves. On the whole 1907 was a good average year for the Maritime farmer. New Brunswick has had a very good year. With one exception the reports from that province show that farmers are in as good financial position as they have been in recent years. Whatever deviation from this there is, is confined to one or two isolated cases.

Mr. John A. Campbell, York County, summarizes the general situation in New Brunswick very well when he says: "The financial position of the farmer is equal to, if not better, than that of other years, owing to better prices for farm products. There is fully as much money in circulation and farmers this spring are buying about the same as usual."

A few of the returns from Nova Scotia are not so encouraging, though the situation there, on the whole, is favorable. In the Yarmouth section, the farmer's financial position is reported to be below the average. Further east the situation improves. In the Windsor and Pictou districts the conditions this spring are as good as in recent years. In Cape Breton no improvement over recent years is reported. A correspondent at Arichat says: "The financial position of the farmer is good. There is about the same money in circulation and farmers are buying about the same as usual."



THE OLD WAY AND THE NEW

Note the even spreading of the machine. This is not a fancy bit, but is an actual fact as confirmed by scores of farmers.

keen to learn ways to save all he makes. Without the spreader, much of the value of manure is lost as it invariably accumulates in the barn yard, where it is subject to leaching and to what it still worse, fire fang. The saving in labor and the increased value of manure from the distribution of 200 fifty-bushel loads of manure is claimed by many to be sufficient to pay for the cost of the machine. It is very seldom that a farmer who has used a manure spreader will state that the spreader has paid its cost during the first year of its use. As the average life of a spreader is from 15 to 30 years when properly cared for, it surely is a profitable investment. H. C. W., Wentworth Co., Ont.

Financial Position of the Farmer

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good as it has been for the past ten years. Farmers have not so much ready money and are buying more carefully. The increase in grain prices has raised the cost of milk and pork. Grain is imported here instead of being exported and those engaged in winter dairying reaped smaller profits. There is a desire on the part of most farmers to curtail expenses by purchasing few luxuries and investing only in the actual requirements of their business."

From Missisquoi County comes a more encouraging report. O. M. Derby of that county says: "As compared with other years the farmers here are well off, owing to the high prices

From Prince Edward Island come the most encouraging reports of all. The island province has had a banner year. Mr. Theodore Ross, Secretary for Agriculture writes: "I do not think the financial position of the Island farmer was ever better than it is this spring. There is more money in circulation and farmers are buying more. Farmers have realized twice as much for their grain this year as in former years. There is no desire to curtail expenses. Our farmers have had to pay a good deal less feed than usual."

Mr. Ross' view is borne out by other correspondents. Rev. Father Burke says the financial position of the farmer is good. Peter Brodie, a leading breeder on the Island, says: "The financial position of the farmers of York and Marsfield Farmers' Institute is better this spring than it has been for years. Money is more plentiful and farmers are buying better machinery. Some are buying gasoline engines and machinery for cleaning seed. The grain crop last year was the heaviest we ever had here, and the high prices have helped to keep money in circulation."

THE WEST

There has not been a very large response to our enquiries in the west. People there, perhaps, prefer to keep their financial condition to themselves. Everybody in that part of Canada is looking ahead. 1907 was not a good year. Let that pass. Forget about it. Build your hopes on 1908. This is what they are doing,



The reason why we make such a feature of our Free Sample offer in all the advertisements of Amatite is because we realize that Amatite itself is its best advertisement.

As soon as a practical man sees Amatite, he recognizes its superiority. The practical roofing buyer realizes, in the first place, that he can judge a roof's wearing qualities pretty well by the weight of it to the square foot. A thin, flimsy fabric can not possibly wear so long as a thick, heavy one.

Amatite weighs twice as much as other roofings of its price, and is tough and strong and reliable. While



BARN AT PARK RIDGE, N.J., COVERED WITH AMATITE

we could say this in our advertisements without convincing people, the sample itself will prove it instantly. Another important thing which the sample shows is that *real mineral surface* of Amatite. This mineral surface takes all the wear of the weather and receives the brunt of wind and storm. Being mineral, it is naturally not affected by these things, and accordingly

It is permanently weatherproof without paint.

No careful buyer would dare neglect the painting of the ordinary roofing, and people who are careful in such matters will be the ones who will most appreciate the argument that Amatite needs no paint.

You can't appreciate this mineral surface of Amatite roofing unless you see it, and that is our second reason for being so anxious to send you the Free Sample.

Amatite has all the usual advantages of a ready roofing, in addition to its special advantages. It is easy to lay, as it is sold in handy rolls of 110 square feet ready to be laid on the roof. No skilled labor is required and no special tools are called for; everything that is necessary in the way of nails and cement for laps is furnished in the centre of each roll without extra charge. The nails have very large heads, which take the place of the usual tin caps; the latter, we have found, rust so easily that they do not last very long, and so we provide the large headed nails which are easier to use.

If there is any chance of your need-



DENEMCRE'S CASINO, FAIRLEE, VT., COVERED WITH AMATITE

ly does not wear out as does paint, or coating which is ordinarily used. Most ready roofings have a smooth surface of felt which has to be covered with a heavy paint or coating.

A good many roofings are painted once at the factory, so that when they are laid they will last for a couple of years without the paint. But after that time it is absolutely necessary to give them a new coating every year or two. If the coating is extremely heavy and thick, it may last more than two years; but the paint will be more expensive.

But Amatite having this mineral surface, needs no paint whatever. After Amatite is laid there is positively no care required of any kind.

and reports of seeding operations this spring are most encouraging.

A correspondent at Wetaskiwin, Alberta, writes: "There is no distress whatever here. Money is not just as free as last year and everyone is going more carefully. Farmers are buying less and paying their debts.

Owing to the higher prices, farmers have, on an average, realized as much for their grain as last year. Farmers are curtailing all unnecessary expenses. The chief sources of revenue here are grain, cattle, hogs, sheep, and dairying, which has been advancing very rapidly of late.