Prizes were offered at the Essex Agricultural Show for length of service on one farm. The first prize winner was John Chapman, who had the remarkable record of working at Hole Farm, Finchingfield, for seventy-one years. He started at ten years of age as a ploughboy, and during his long service there have been five masters. The man was married on wages of 8s. a week and a cottage, and has never earned over 14s. at any time. He was certainly an example of faithfulness and frugality.

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The August foreign trade returns of the United Kingdom were very satisfactory. Imports increased by £3,600,000, and exports by over £6,500,000. Imports of cereals and flour were both less than in August, 1909. Being the end of the cereal year the annual figures showing imports of wheat and flour were included in the returns. The year 1909-10 showed an expansion for the first time for four years. The quantity imported was the equivalent of 27,600,682 grs. of wheat, against 25,281,871 qrs. for 1908-9. The values reached the large totals of £51,216,475 and £48,621,427 respectively. What vast numbers of people are employed abroad to feed the hungry Britisher!

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In the southern half of England much progress has been made in harvesting owing to favorable weather conditions. The northern section has had more rain, and in some places severe storms have beaten down the grain, which will make cutting more difficult. New wheat is fairly plentiful at some markets, and sells at prices ranging from 33s. to 35s. per quarter. The bulk of the barley has been secured in good condition. The market demand is small. Malting barley sells for about 24s. to 28s. per quarter. Oats are proving the most irregular of all the cereals, and are selling at 17s. to 20s. per quarter. The board of agriculture's September crop estimate gives wheat as 99; barley 100, and oats 98. Potatoes have suffered from the excessive rains of August, and disease is prevalent. Turnips promise to be a big crop, but mangolds have not done so well. Dairy farmers have had a good summer, as pastures have kept in excellent condition. Herds and flocks are in fine shape.

Pigs are in excellent demand at better prices, and sheep have recovered somewhat from the low quotations.

F. DEWHIRST.

Fall Irrigation

Farmers in Western Canada have been told plainly this past dry year that it is most necessary to provide for a season of drought. Many residing in the irrigation tracts allowed the ditches on their farms to fill up with earth and become useless. When the dry season came it found such land practically without irrigation, though situated in the irrigation belt and its owner charged with rates for water that could not be used. The farmer who allowed his ditches to become filled received but slight return this past season for his labor and expenditure, while his neighbor who kept his ditches free was able to water his grain and reaped where he had sown.

While a dry season such as this may not occur every year still farmers who have the water at their disposal should use it. The time to irrigate the land is not in the sultry summer time after the crop has been sown, but the fall before. The land should be cultivated in the fall and the soil well watered in readiness for the crop the following season. Even if there is considerable precipitation during winter there is no danger in the irrigation tracts of the soil being too moist, especially if it has been well tilled.

Summer irrigation makes soft wheat, and for this reason alone it is best to practice fall irrigation followed with cultivation. This gives time for the nitrates to form in the soil and when the seed is sown there is ample moisture and sufficient plant food in readiness for quick growth.

Fall irrigation is not so necessary for the growing of alfalfa. Perhaps there is no other crop so well adapted for irrigation lands as alfalfa. Summer cultivation must follow summer irrigation to prevent evaporation and baking of the soil. After wheat has attained a certain height it is not so easy to cultivate the land without injury to the plants. Summer irrigation may be practicable for certain legume crops, but in most instances the fall is the proper time to irrigate land intended for crop.

Automobile Photographs

If any of readers have clear photographs of automobiles, owned and used by a farmer, we shall be pleased to accept the same for publication. We prefer that the picture show the car on the farm being put to good use.

Hungarian Rye Wheat

For several years past W. H. Elford, of Dufferin municipality, has been growing Hungarian Red wheat with rather encouraging results as far as yield is concerned. In fact, a start was made six years ago with one ounce of seed that came from the Argentine Republic in an envelope. Every year since then it has matured early enough to be cut in July. On the average, it has proven to be ten days earlier than Red Fife, and just as good yielder, but the sample is not of as high grade. However, Mr. Elford claims it is improving each season as grown under Manitoba conditions. It is a large red kernel, and weighs 62 to 66 pounds per measured bushel.

This year press despatches have indicated that this new wheat has given abnormal yields where other wheats are a failure. However, Mr. Elford assures us that reports have slightly overdrawn the return. Parts of a field comprising over 20 acres will give 25 bushels to the acre, but high winds in the early summer resulted in many patches being badly blown out. It was sown about March 18, and covered the ground nicely by April 14 when heavy frost cut it off and froze the ground thoroughly. The crop came on again and was cut July 19, and will give a yield probably of 15 bushels per acre.

Last year the seed was put in May 8, and the crop was ripe July 30, taking only 83 days to mature. The yield was 28 bushels to the acre.

Plow Late in the Fall

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

After the harvest is removed I have found that a set of sharp discs, followed by three sections of peg-tooth harrows, the whole drawn by a four-horse team, is about the most satisfactory outfit to put on the stubble. Disc and harrow across the drills the first time, and, in four or five days, cross disc and harrow. In a week commence plowing as deep as required for seeding the following spring, but do not disc or harrow; leave the ground as plowed over winter, as larger quantities of snow will be held than if the land were levelled with harrows. As soon as harrows can be used in spring, the plowing should be harrowed.

I have the most satisfactory harrowing of fall plowing done with a four-horse brush harrow. The brusher was set going when the ground was about two-thirds uncovered of snow, and an inch or so thawed ground. The soil moisture of that plowing was to all appearance equal to that of the summerfallows, and the process seemed to work vengeance on weeds and wild oats. The fall discing and harrowing seems to cause the ground to become charged with film or plant water, and, notwithstanding opinions to the contrary, immense quantities of weed seeds, especially wild oats, germinated. These are winter killed, even if there is little or no fall rain. If the land is reworked for spring seeding again, large quantities of weeds come to grief. If the fall plowing is done early it may be necessary to replow to kill maturing wild oats, etc., before the fall frosts do the work. It is not advisable to disc or harrow the first plowing.

I know of no fall stubble land treatment to surpass the above process for the germination and destruction of weed seeds and the retention of soil moisture. It is, also, almost sure death to such grasses as creeping wheat weed, quack grass, and is to my way of thinking about equal to summerfallowing.

Sask. J. E. FRITH.

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Alex. McCurdy, Sanford, Man., reports to THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE that crops in that district, despite last summer's drought, are threshing well. One twenty-acre field of wheat turned out better than 30 bushels per acre, and others run from twenty to twenty-five. Summerfallows are yielding well, and stubble in some cases also. The quality is good, most of the wheat going one northern, and one sample marketed making number one hard. This year's experience demonstrates clearly the importance of moisture conserving tillage of Manitoba farms.

DAIRY

Milking Machines in Quebec Dairies

W. F. Stephen, Huntingdon, Quebec, contributes an interesting article to THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, London, on the use of milking machines in the province of Quebec. Huntingdon and Ormstown districts in the province have many fine herds of dairy cattle and a number of milking machines are at work. John Geddes, Ormstown, has been using a Burrell-Lawrence-Kennedy three-pail milker for the past four years. He and his son operate it and milk twenty-three cows in thirty-eight minutes. The cost for gasoline to operate the machine is about 5 cents per day. Little stripping is required; in fact, the writer found only one cow, a large-teated one, that was not milked out thoroughly clean. Large-teated cows, apparently are not milked out as satisfactorily as a small or medium one.

Another place visited by the writer was the farm of Peter Stark. Mr. Stark has used a three-pail machine for three years. After three-years' trial, and used every day in the year, Mr. Stark is quite satisfied to allow it to remain in his stable. Mr. Stark uses the universal teat-cup and mouth-piece, and likes them much better than the old kind, as they fit any teat. He finds that by manipulating the udder better results are had. He buys cows frequently to keep up his milk supply, and finds that most cows take readily to the machine. Heifers that have been educated to the machine hardly ever need stripping. Cows accustomed to the hand-milker for some years, cannot be milked quite so clean, and have to be stripped. He uses a six-horse-power gasoline engine, which operates the milking machine and pumps water to an overhead tank at the same time. The teat-cups and tubes are kept in a solution of salt water when not in use. The twenty-four cows were milked in thirty-two minutes; quite a number were winter cows, and low in milk. In the flow of milk, these same cows can be milked in from forty-five to fifty minutes.

On a third farm a milker has been in use for three years. Forty-six cows are milked in an hour and thirty minutes, two persons attending to the machines manipulating the udders of the cows, changing the teat-cups and carrying the milk. The machine is operated by a gasoline engine. The cost of gasoline is from 10 to 12 cents per day, and for repairs, from $3.00 to $5.00 per season. About one and a half horse-power is consumed in operating the vacuum pump.