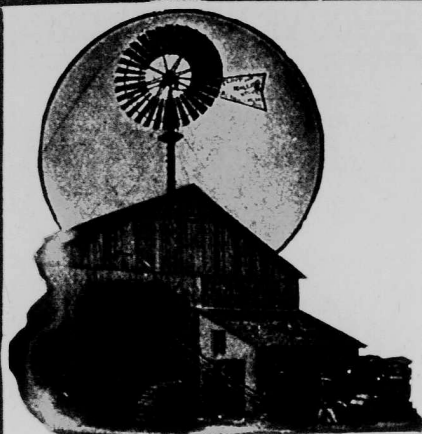




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Certainly, in this instance, it seems to be one of the reasons for the spread of the metallic roof that seems so prominent in your advertising columns. After you have decided on the side of shingle you need, then the next essential is the way it is manufactured. A roughly-cut shingle will never give good service. In the first place, it seems to have the power to draw the water up under the weather line by capillary attraction, and the fuzz in dry times is a harbor for sand and a vantage ground for mosses to start. Then, too, the edging must or ought to be carefully done, so that the butts are a little narrower than the points. If it happens that the butts touch, and the joint above is wide, the joint fills with debris and starts a rot; where, if the butts were open the stuff would wash out and be carried off the roof. And for that reason, the shingle that is edged by a wheel-jointer is a better article than one edged by a saw, for the wheel planes smooth, while the saw makes a rough cut.

When you have your shingles ready to put on, decide whether you want to paint them, or not, before they go on. If you want a good job, dip your shingle in any of the advertised shingle stains, and see that it is well done, and let dry before it is laid; but if you don't dip, don't paint and expect satisfaction. There is no paint or other dressing that I know of that will give good results on a roof after it is laid, and I have often remarked that the better the paint was, the worse it was for the roof, and the reason is not far to seek, as the work is very often done in the heat of summer, when the wood is hot and dry, and it drinks up the oil of the paint till all the exposed surface is saturated with it, and, if you notice a man painting, he is always seen to be most carefully dabbing it thick on the weather line. Then, when the rain comes, it breaks through the joints upon the shingle below. The wood being dry and free from paint, absorbs the water, which soaks down to the weather line, there to be met by the wall of oil-soaked wood. The water must stop where it is until evaporated, and so it runs for three or four years, and then the butts start to break off and come fluttering down, and the water comes through the roof, and the idea is borne in on the owner that "shingles are no good," or at least not what they used to be.

A shingle of proper size, properly dipped, will give as good results as any roof I know of, but a painted roof, or a roof made of those skimped and pinched little pieces of wood, will never give satisfaction, and they

will, I think, eventually put the public from using them entirely in all sizes and quantities.—Millman.

TO IMPROVE THE HORSES

Despite constant warnings through agricultural papers, and at Farmers' Institute meetings, the practice of using low-grade mares for breeding purposes, and of crossing breeds, continues to be responsible for inferior horses in all parts of Canada. For many years, Mr. George Gray, of Durham County, Ont., has passed judgment on horses at fairs in all parts of the Dominion. A short time ago he returned, after an extended trip through the West and in British Columbia.

Asked his opinion regarding the present status of the horse industry, Mr. Gray replied: "Great damage has been done to the horse industry of Canada by a persistent mixing of breeds. When a man starts rearing colts of a certain breed, he should not change, unless he finds that he has made a wrong selection. He should not, in any case, continually change the breed of stallion made use of. "At all shows, a glaring weak point is found in the class of brood mares. Too many farmers dispose of their best females, and breed from inferior animals. I have sometimes turned down whole classes. Clydesdale mares, as a rule, have more quality than those of other breeds. Females of the light breeds are deplorably weak. No brood mare in any class should get a prize if she is blemished.

"In all parts of Canada we have as good sires as can be found in any country. Every farmer should make use of these. Canadians are well equipped with means of ascertaining desirable type and proper conformation. Short courses in judging are doing much to improve the class of horses. If every farmer would take advantage of the educational facilities available, and act according to the teachings of those who have made a study of horses, there would soon be a great change for the better in the class of horses at our shows."

THE QUESTION OF HUMUS

It is commonly supposed that the fertility of soils is largely determined by the organic matter they contain, especially in the form of black humus. Indeed, so generally is this idea held that the expression "rich black soil" is very generally used. While it is unquestionably true that most soils which are fertile are well supplied with organic matter, and even that those which are very fertile are usually quite black in color, there are a large

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