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Vol. XLVII.

# EDITORIAL.

Who said "old-fashioned winter"?

Snow banked against cold buildings is an excellent safeguard against destructively low temperatures.

Water is more precious than gold, as one quickly realizes when the supply fails during a winter freeze-up or summer drouth.

Water gives off heat in freezing. A tub of it in the cellar will tend to prevent the temperature dropping so low as it would otherwise go.

Bed the stock well these bitter nights. Udder troubles often result from lying on hard, bare, cement floors during extra-cold weather.

The man who does not keep books is like a person carrying a leaky pail of milk without examining to see where the holes are. He knows he is losing the milk, but hasn't the gumption to find out how. One cannot stop a leak till he knows where it is. Accounts show up the leaks.

Ice harvest is on as we write. Don't neglect it. The cheapest kind of a cheap building will serve, especially if judiciously placed. Plenty of sawdust and close packing of the ice are the main requisites. In the milk or cream tank, kitchen and cellar, ice is a midsummer boon. Ice is a cheap crop, which it pays to raise.

During the January cold snap many farmers with water systems had to add plumbing and steamfitting to their various other accomplish-. ments. Fortunately, there is not so very much needed in this exorbitant trade but a few tools and a stock of common sense. The tools are the principal sticker.

From correspondents' returns made to the

## LONDON, ONTARIO, JANUARY 18, 1912

## Power at Niagara.

An exhaustive report on the "Water-powers of Canada," by the Conservation Commission, treats the power situation in Ontario very fully, special attention being given to the power possibilities at Niagara and the conditions affecting development there. Each of the power companies operating there, whether on the Canadian or American side, is described in detail. A imilicant reference is made to the granting of franchises to develop power at Niagara Falls. The report states that the low-water flow of the Niagara River would yield, at the Falls, about 2,250,000 horse-power, of which Canada's share (one-half) would be 1,125,000 horse-power. "Franchises have already been granted," it goes on to say, " and plants partially completed, for the development on the Canadian side of the river, of about 450,000 horse-power. In other words, instead of millions of horse-power being available, as has been sometimes stated, it appears that about half, and by all odds the better half, of Canada's usable share of Niagara Falls power has already been placed under private control.'

In connection with this item, it should be noted that, while, as stated, franchises have been granted to companies for the development of some four hundred and fifty thousand horse-power on the Canadian side of the river, the Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission fortunately has a large block of power under contract from the Ontario Power Company, and has legislative authority to contract for more, as required. The regrettable feature of the whole matter is that the franchises of the developing companies permit them to export over half of the power they are permitted to generate, and this half cannot be touched by the Commission, at least not without the free consent of the developing companies. The net result is that, while by far the greater part of the water of Niagara River flows over the Canadian falls, much less than half the total power is likely to to be available to Canadian users.

from the start that the economy of hydro-electric energy on Ontario farms would resolve itself into a comparison of electricity versus gasoline, and unless extensive and fairly regular use can be found for the power, the advantage would appear to be on the side of gasoline. The cost of stringing wires, maintaining the lines and delivering power to widely-scattered rural users is a heavy handicap against the electric fluid, and where only a little power were utilized, the cost per horsepower would be necessarily high. The hope of utilizing electricity profitably clearly lies in the possibility of employing it to do many operations now performed by hand, and, moreover, in utilizing the current as continuously as possible ... If one can use it for lighting at night, running cutting boxes, choppers, pulpers, saws, churns, bonecutters, fanning mills and grindstones in the day time, pumping water between times, it may be found possible to make an inexpensive daily current accomplish considerable work .. One of the great advantages of electricity is the immense variety of uses to which it may be put. In this connection, we must not overlook household purposes, such as laundry work, running vacuum cleaners, cooking, and possibly heating. An electric toaster on the breakfast table is already a comfort of many city homes. Why not on the farm? Hon. Adam Beck, chairman of the Optario Hydro-Electric Commission reports that in Germany, where labor is far cheaper than here, electricity is used for a great variety of purposes, and farmers would not be without it for twice the cost. It is hard to say what the future may bring forth in the way of substituting electricallydriven machinery for hand and horse labor. One thing certain, the more uses we can find for electricity, the cheaper it will be, especially on farms. We await with keen interest the progress to be registered, and meantime repeat our request for the facts of experience with all kinds of farm

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American Bureau of Statistics, it appears that about five per cent. of the enormous corn acreage of the United States was converted into silage this past fall, as compared with 3.5 per cent. of the 1910 plantings so cut. It is probable that many correspondents included in their estimates all corn cut in a green stage. An increase last year over 1910 is shown in nearly every section of the country, due, largely, no doubt, to the shortage of the hay crop.

That "rejected" grades of Western wheat, depreciated in price because containing large quantities of noxious weed seeds, are bought and used by Eastern millers, the screenings being ground and mixed with mill feed, is the confession a prominent miller frankly made in conversation with an editor of this paper. Particles of the dark hulls of such seeds may often be seen in shorts and other mill stuffs. Apart altogether from the danger of some of them retaining their vitality, they are objectionable from a feeding standpoint. In tests with chickens fed on ground weed seeds, Prof. Graham, of Guelph, found some of them very unwholesome. In fact, birds forced to subsist on this diet for a length of time sickened and died. If they affect poultry thus will they not likely be more injurious to other animals? Is the Canadian farmer to pay money for ground weed seeds that are to be actually injurious to his stock? The m quoted contends that these rejected grades eat should never be allowed to leave the W but should be cleaned in terminal Governdevators. What say our readers?

It is interesting to add that some nineteen thousand horse-power is already being taken by the Hydro-Electric Commission, and it is anticipated that by the end of the year this will be augmented to twenty-five thousand.

### **Experience** With All Kinds of Powers.

An excellent communication has been received on the subject of gasoline versus electric power, from J. Morgan, of Huron Co., Ont., who gives figures on the cost of operating his four-horsepower gasoline engine. Running cream separator, churn, bone-cutter, fanning mill, root pulper, grindstone, cutting-box and wood saw, and grinding two thousand bushels of grain, his year's ex-\$25. He wants to hear, as we do, from anyone who has done an equal amount of work more cheaply with electric energy. Indeed, we should like to hear from several dozen careful readers who have used gasoline engines, steam-power, wind, horse-powers (tread or sweep), dog wheels, all other charges, such as repairs, interest, and ing. It was not all done by means of time recdepreciation on equipment.

So far, the subject of hydro-electric energy on

power.

#### Time Records.

When a railroad man figures on a contract, a builder on a tender, a carpenter, a plumber, or a blacksmith on a job, he tries to estimate as closely as possible how much time it will take, the, character of the help required, whether skilled or unskilled, and the cost, in hard cash, allowing for lost time and other vicissitudes. A manufacturer in his plant, or a merchant in his store, wants to know how well each department of his business pays him, and one important factor of the case, is the wages dishursed. It signifies nothing to him that a certain department has a handsome surplus to its credit, if the wage cost of earning that surplus was excessive. It is the net balance that counts.

But time records do more than help to decide penditure for gasoline and oil has been less than which departments pay. They furnish the information necessary to keep tab on the various branches from year to year. In comparison of the annual showing lies the opportunity for economy and the mental stimulus that sets wits working. A wide-awake manufacturer tells us that, by means of such systems he has cut down the electricity, or any other kind of power. Full de- cost of production in his factory fifty per cent., tails should be given, not only of fuel cost, but of although the scale of wages has been steadily risords, but these were an important feature.

There is no getting away from the fact that the farm has scarcely emerged from the realm of in close competition, where margins are narrow, generalities. Facts we must have to arrive at the man to win, other things being equal, will be conclusions. It has seemed pretty clear to us the one who acquires and utilizes the most exact