

**Cows that Bear Testimony to the Efficacy of the Well Bred, Pure Bred Sire in Improving a Grade Herd--Not a Pure Bred in the Bunch**

Geo. B. Ryan, Norfolk Co., Ont., has followed a sane, economical and systematic course of herd improvement. He has not purchased pure bred females but has always used a pure bred sire. One of his grade cows, Cherry, was a successful winner in the Guelph Dairy Test. All are profit-makers. The beauty of Mr. Ryan's system is that it is open to all of us, even if our capital be limited.

**The Necessity of Cooperation**

Prof. J. B. Reynolds, O.A.C. Guelph, Ont.

It is obvious to anyone who understands the situation that however efficient the individual farmer may be, he is only a unit, and an ineffective unit, in dealing with many of the conditions with which he is confronted. The problem of labor, of securing supplies cheaply, of securing capital cheaply, the problem of marketing, and above all the social problem, all these depend for their solution upon cooperative action.

It is a deplorable fact that the community spirit is so feeble in many rural sections of Canada. Each farmer does his buying and his selling, and manages the work of his farm without giving or receiving much assistance. Moreover, as a result of the rural depopulation, and the centralizing of industries away from country villages, the social life in the country has been impoverished. The country village near which the writer was born, boasted 35 years ago, a carpenter, a blacksmith, two shoemakers, a general merchant and a number of day laborers. At the present moment none of the occupations are represented in that village. This change has resulted not only in the lessening of local conveniences, but also in a depleting of variety in social types.

It is useless to expect a return to former conditions in this respect. The industrial arts and their artisans have forever vanished from our villages. These social and economic losses may in part be made up by the cooperative spirit.—Extract from address.

**The Value of Wind Breaks**

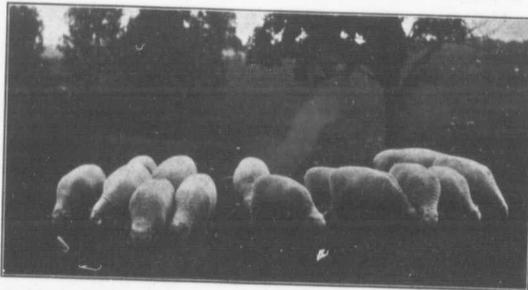
Mrs. R. C. Olson, Oxford Co., Ont.

Several times during the past winter I have had neighbors call me on the 'phone and complain about the wind that seemed to "sweep right through the house." And I hardly knew that the wind was blowing. We are now profiting by the fore-sight we exercised years ago when we first moved on to our farm. We were enthusiastic tree planters and our home is now well protected by wind breaks which add decidedly to our comfort in saving nothing of preventing direct damage to the buildings, which is becoming more and more serious as the forests are cut away.

Our windbreak is now 20 years old, but it has been really effective for the past 10 years. We

planted a regular shelter, built such as I have seen advocated for the prairies. On the outside we planted the quick-growing Carolina poplar. This afforded a fairly good protection in six or seven years. Inside of this and for a permanent belt we planted Norway Spruce, hard maple and elm. The Carolina poplar is objectionable in that it is a dirty tree and not long-lived. We are going to cut ours out now that the other trees are a sufficient size to afford a good protection.

I do not believe that any land can be put to better use than for a good shelter built toward the prevailing winds. It will represent quite an outlay for nursery trees and the labor will be considerable, but after an experience of 20 years we can heartily endorse the expenditure.



**They Pay Two Profits and Improve the Farm "to Boot."**

The weed problem is not as serious on a farm where sheep are kept as where the "Golden Hoof" is absent. Colonel McEwen, Middlesex Co., Ont., the owner of the pure bred Southdowns, illustrates, will bear testimony to this. Sheep not only destroy weeds, but they perform the additional service of turning them into two profitable cash crops, wool and mutton; thus sheep have three values. But what are we going to do about the dogs?

The records furnished us by the Bureau of Industries in Toronto for the last 30 years, as well as those of the Agricultural College and of the Experimental Union for a series of years, show that on the whole, six-rowed barley has given a greater number of pounds of grain per acre than oats, when the averages are taken into consideration.—Prof. C. A. Zavitz, O. A. C., Guelph.

When we first took up cow testing we discovered a good sized leak in our dairy herd. Taking them all in all, the cows were a profitable bunch, but when we compared them individually we found at least half a dozen that should have gone to the butcher long before. The closing up of this leak brings in a yearly revenue that would buy a rubber-tired buggy and a horse to draw it.—Jas. K. Smith, Leeds Co., Ont.

**Cheap Paints for Farm Buildings**

W. O. Morse, Halton Co., Ont.

Farm and Dairy has requested me to give my ideas on cheap painting for farm buildings. My own experience along this line is not very extensive, although my observations have added considerably to my personal experience.

The principal item of expense in painting in the regular way is the oil. There are many adulterations of pure linseed oil which tend to cheapen but in the end make a dearer product, and I would not recommend their use. I might say, just here, that if you want a first class paint, it can be obtained by buying the pure linseed oil and whatever dry color desired, and do the mixing yourself. This can be done at nearly half the price of the ready mixed article. But the convenience of the ready mixed has appealed so forcibly to the public that they are satisfied to pay the extra price for an inferior article rather than take the trouble of preparing their paint in the old way.

But I presume you want suggestions for cheap and efficient substitutes for the oil preparations. I have frequently used these with satisfactory results.

Water with Portland cement makes a very nice drab paint for rough buildings and can be applied quickly by the spraying process.

But a more durable application can be made by using milk or buttermilk, instead of water.

The use of Venetian red or any of the oxides of iron, which exist in various colors, make a very durable paint, and any desirable shade can be obtained. I saw a house which had been painted 16 years with milk and red oxide of iron, and there was scarcely any deterioration noticeable.

The cost of this preparation is so slight that it is scarcely worth considering. The above dry colors can be bought for two or three cents a pound, and the sprayer can be used with any of them. If it is desirable to trim the buildings with contrasting shades, and I think it quite desirable for effect, it can be done with a white wash brush very quickly after the body of the building has been done with the sprayer.

If these suggestions are of any use to you I shall be glad. If not, you have a waste paper basket. Don't try to burn this for all the above mentioned ingredients are fire-proof.