

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY



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CIRCULATION STATEMENT.

The paid subscriptions to Farm and Dairy exceed \$1,000. The actual circulation of each issue, including copies of the paper sent subscribers who are but slightly in arrears and sample copies, varies from 21,000 to 23,000 copies. No subscriptions are accepted at less than the full subscription rate. Detailed statements of circulation of the paper, showing its distribution by counties and provinces, will be mailed free on request.

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The Rural Publishing Company, Ltd.
PETERBORO, ONT.

"Read not to contradict and to confute, nor to believe and take for granted, but to weigh and consider."—Bacon.

Another Domestic War Loan

FINANCE Minister White is soon to launch another domestic war loan. The amount of this loan is still conjectural, but those who specialise in forecasting government activities say that it will be \$100,000,000. There is no doubt about the ability of the people to take up a loan of this size. Savings deposits in the Canadian banks now total \$700,000,000. Since the war began they have increased by an amount equal to that for which it is expected that some months ago, when \$50,000,000 was asked for, about twice that amount was subscribed. There is every reason to expect, therefore, that the new loan will be fully subscribed for when placed upon the market.

Three years ago it was estimated by the Ontario Department of Agriculture that the farmers of the province had \$100,000,000 on deposit in the banks at three per cent. The interest allowed by the banks on its war loans amounts to about five per cent. Why should farmers who have money to place out not take advantage of this higher rate? If they do not invest some of the money in their savings accounts in the government securities, when the opportunity offers, the banks will likely do it for them and reap the advantage of the increased rate of interest. They will simply turn the farmers' money over to the government and realise two per cent. profit on the transaction. The offerings of the small investor are accepted before those of financial institutions. These domestic loans afford a safe and profitable investment at a rate more in accord with the annual value of money than that now paid by the banks through their savings departments.

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O.P.V. Silage

THEY have been having great success with a mixture of oats, peas and vetch as a silage crop at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. In 1914 sixty-five tons of this mixture was secured from less than six acres. Last year twenty-nine tons was raised on three acres, although part of the land was low and wet and did not yield a full crop. This field was sown on May 15, and cut with a mowing machine and run through the ensilage cutter on August 25th and 26th. It was found that the silage was much relished by the cows. The college authorities are very favorably impressed with the possibilities of O. P. V. silage, and find that under their conditions it is more easily secured than corn.

One of the characteristics of this mixture as a silage crop is the small amount of labor that is entailed in raising it. With the present condition of the farm labor market this is no small consideration. Another thing in its favor is that in some districts it is a surer crop than corn. This has been the experience in Nova Scotia, where in the two years it has been grown it has given more dry matter per acre than the corn crop. In order to make a success of it, however, it must be sown on good land, where, with proper care, it will yield from ten to fifteen tons of green matter per acre. Corn is the king of silage crops where it can be grown with uninterrupted success. Where difficulty is met in securing a good crop every year the O. P. V. mixture appears to be worthy of a fair trial as a substitute.

The Local Fair

"EXPOSITIONS are the timekeepers of progress," said the opening of the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo in 1901, a speech that proved to be his last public utterance. This has been true of his larger exhibitions. There the improvements that have been made in agriculture, the industries and almost every other line of human activity have been faithfully registered from year to year. It should also be true of the local fairs. If the quality of the live stock, field crops and dairy and other products of the community is improving, the improvement should be shown in the quality of the exhibits at each succeeding township or county fair of the district.

It is maintained that many of our local fairs are not improving, but that with them a high water mark has been reached that it is difficult and impossible to maintain. There is a danger, however, of judging a fair by its attendance rather than by the quality or number of its exhibits. In many districts the rural population is decreasing. This, with the introduction of other attractions throughout the year, may account for a decrease in the attendance even if the fair were improved. It is necessary, of course, for the attendance to be kept up to a certain point in order to secure the financial success of the fair. If there is a falling off in the quality of the exhibits the fault may lie in the farming methods of the district. Where agriculture is progressing the local fair should be found to be closely connected with the work of improving the farming methods of the district in which it is held. Progressive farmers are usually keen exhibitors.

The Scarcity of Teachers

TIME was when, if the trustee board of a rural school wished to hire a teacher they had not far to look. They could generally find one in their own or adjoining school section. In fact, it was frequently a mere case of selecting a name from a list of unsolicited applications. Teaching was about the only profession that was crowded. Times have changed, however, until now it is the least crowded of the professions.

A glance at the "Teachers Wanted" columns of any city daily shows that hundreds of vacancies will have to be filled in the next few weeks if our educational system is to be in full running order after the midsummer holidays. The teachers who scan the long lists of advertisements are sure to have their attention arrested by a statement of the advantages that a community has to offer. Modern equipment in the school, convenient accommodation, telephone or radial service, such considerations as these have much to do with securing good teachers. Progressive communities have the first choice of the teachers who desire positions.

Where Will He Go?

WITH a view to preventing the further settlement of districts that are unsuitable for agriculture the Conservation Commission is making a classification of government lands. Only those that are capable of a certain amount of agricultural development will be thrown open to the settler. By pursuing this policy it is hoped to prevent a repetition of such unfortunate situations as that which has arisen in some parts of the Trent watershed where the difficulties of making a decent living from the soil have proved to be so great as to result in the intellectual and moral deterioration of whole settlements.

Under existing institutions it has proved to be unwise to leave the taking up of inferior lands to the judgment of the settler. While speculators are allowed to gobble up millions of acres of the choicest land and to hold it at such prohibitive prices that the poor man is denied access to it he can only satisfy his land hunger by settling on land that is so poor as to offer no inducement to the speculator. At first he may be able to eke out an existence by securing employment at certain times of the year in the lumbering industry. When that source of income fails, he may find that his holding will not support him, even with the low standard of living to which he has become accustomed. He may be reduced to such a state of poverty that even with the advantages of open country life he becomes degenerate. It is found to expedient therefore to withhold such inferior land from him. But nothing is done to bring better land within his reach. His most probable course is to drift to the city where he can find a market for all he has to sell—the labor of his hands. The taxation of land values, which would make it unprofitable to hold land for speculative purposes, and therefore bring it into the hands of those who wish to use it for productive purposes would give him an opportunity to settle on land that would respond to his work and give him a decent living.

No man should allow himself to believe that he has passed the time when he can learn from others engaged in the same line of work. Education may be acquired in more ways than one. Experience is the best teacher, but life is too short to learn much without some assistance from others. Some of the best men never miss an opportunity to ask questions, and their success depends upon cutting out that which is good and discarding the poor. The sifting process is necessary, but there is little hope for the man who tries to place himself above all others.

Dry sows not bred for fall litters may be pastured through the summer on alfalfa or rape roughs. Sows carrying a litter should receive some grain to keep them up, but not enough to cause them to become fat. Good condition is desired, but excessive fattest often results in small litters and weak pigs.

Rotation of crops is essential to right farming; but rotation of farmers and teachers and ministers is no good.

July 27, 1916.

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Wayside Gleanings

By W. G. Orvis, Field
Sensative, Farm and Dairy

The Mechanical Milk

ONE of the farmers who made good in Victoria was telling me the other day that he visited a neighbor morning and found that the neighbor was a mechanic. He claimed that this man had cows and delivered the milk to the railway station some distance in one and one-half hours. He stated that when the milk was taken, the cows were not chewing their cud, but that the milk was finished, the milking was done. The kindness was the cows of his neighbor. He admitted to the mechanical milk, but convinced his Victoria country that it is not injuring their own way.

Neglected Weeds.

While travelling on the Port Hope to Peterboro a very early noticed a number of weeds. Bladder Campion, just growing on the property of way. Bladder Campion is said to be a very bad weed on farms. The neglect of raising weeds to cut these weeds is said to be so to not giving the adjoining land a square deal in battling them. The weeds should be strictly enforced. It is better able to look after the weeds than the railway company should be made to do so.

A Community Lesson

While eating luncheon at the Lindsay a short time ago I noticed a conversation with one of the different schools with which I was acquainted in his inspection mentioned a certain school distance from Lindsay, stating that in his opinion, the school of that district. A few ago, he said, this school was not neglected. At one of the school meetings the school board was changed, new pointed, and since then there has been a continued improvement in the surroundings, until it is one of the best in the county. The secretary of this school said, "I am a good farmer, and the same business principles that I use in my farming are used in my school. They put in a school in the school a few days and shortly after, this school is in a store in the town where a hardwood floor was laid. He made use of the kind of oil, cut, etc., going home purchased a enough to give the school two coats. "Since then," he said, "that school has kept in A1 condition, and visit it, it is always clean and striking contrast to most other schools in my district. This instance shows that a shrewd business man can manage a school, and how much conditions may become a school work."

A Valuable Wind

On a certain farm in Michigan, Victoria county, is a large tree along the road. These trees are about 100 years old. The owner of this farm is a representative of Farm and Dairy that a year ago a severe wind passed over that district, most of his neighbors' ground. It looked almost