

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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1. FARM AND DAIRY is published every Thursday. It is the official organ of the British Columbia, Manitoba, Eastern and Western Ontario, and a Boreal, District, Quebec, Dairyman's Associations, and of the Canadian Farmers' Association, and Jersey Cattle Breeders' Association.

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FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

PEAT BOGS HAVE VALUE

Since there are vast areas of bog land in Ontario that heretofore have been of little or no value and have been a source of expense in the matter of maintaining roads and ditches through them, the experimental work, conducted by the Mines Department, at Alfred, a few miles east of Ottawa, and which has proved a great success is of far reaching significance. Many attempts have been made before in this country to find a way of treating peat that would enable it to compete with coal as fuel but without success. Now a method has been demonstrated by means of which peat fuel can be placed on the market at a profit and an immense field has been opened up for commercial exploitation in developing the large peat deposits of Canada.

Peat fuel is no new thing. About 10,000,000 tons of it are yearly produced in Europe. Russia has been

the largest producer of peat fuel. Her output in 1902 was 4,000,000 tons and this has increased 200,000 tons a year since then. Machine peat is now made in 1,300 plants in Russia.

That peat can be manufactured and placed on the market so as to successfully compete with coal as fuel is most welcome news. Now that the timber of this country, especially in the older settled districts, is becoming scarcer as the years go by and constantly increasing in price, and in view of the fact that coal in recent years is becoming higher and higher in price, it is most interesting to learn of an industry being developed that will provide a new fuel and which will make valuable vast areas of bog land heretofore practically useless.

PROBLEMS IN PLOWING

When it comes to plowing in these days of scarce and high priced labor, we need to adopt practice in plowing that is justified by results rather than by prejudice or blind clinging to practice of by-gone days. The day of the single-furrowed plow, save for special work, is rapidly becoming a thing of the past on the larger and also on the average Ontario farm. Narrow ridges, once so popular and always the pride of the good plowman, are becoming less and less common as land is more thoroughly underdrained and the relative merits of wider ridges are becoming understood and appreciated. Every farmer who plows an acre of land will find the article on page three of this issue especially interesting. Farm and Dairy readers are advised to ponder well its teaching.

Farm and Dairy holds no brief for slipshod plowing of any kind. Good plowing is to be commended, and it is an asset to any farm in more ways than one. But with quality in plowing we must needs have quantity, and the single-furrowed plow can turn its acre and a half or two acres daily most rapidly give way before the two-furrowed plows turning three acres, four acres and even more per day, with the same expense for manual labor and very little additional for horse power.

Wider ridges than are commonly plowed in some sections are a necessity with the two-furrowed plows and the larger outfits. It is a satisfaction to note in this connection that the wider ridges, excepting special cases, have the advantage even to the amount of bank interest—three per cent. on the investment, valuing land at \$100 an acre, in favor of 18 foot ridges as against ridges plowed nine feet wide. A still greater difference is in favor of even wider ridges as may be learned from studying the table on page three.

WOULD MAKE IT CRIMINAL

The resolution recently sent by the Produce Section of the Toronto Board of Trade to Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, asking that the selling of rotten eggs be made a criminal offence, brings that important problem of marketing eggs prominently to the front again. That 15 per cent. of the eggs shipped into our

cities are so bad as to be unfit for use means a great inconvenience to wholesale dealers. The financial loss however, is eventually divided up between producer and consumer. The dealer knows what percentage of bad eggs to expect and sets accordingly the price that he will pay. The solution of this problem therefore would be of great value to producers and consumers.

It is unfair to attribute the whole blame for the large number of rotten eggs to the farmer and poultry-man. The system of marketing eggs is at fault. To make the selling of bad eggs a criminal offence might help to lessen the number of eggs that leave the farm in a stale condition but it will have no effect whatever in decreasing the number that spoil in the hands of the middlemen.

Eggs frequently pass through the hands of four or five middle-men and in some cases it is several weeks before they reach consumers. In the hands of middlemen eggs are not always kept under ideal conditions and many spoil in consequence. The bad egg problem can be solved only by completely changing our present system of marketing eggs. The encouragement of a rapid formation of poultry circles similar to those that have been formed in several counties of Ontario during the last few months would do much to solve this problem. Money can be spent to great advantage in encouraging the rapid formation of these poultry circles.

EMPLOY HIRED MEN STEADILY

The ideas brought out in the article "The Farm Help Problem" elsewhere in this issue should be noted by every employer of farm labor in this country. Mr. Barnes, of the Extension Service of the Minnesota State College, puts his finger on a vital side of the question concerning the farmer's help. Farm and Dairy readers will be well advised to read his article and to treat hired help accordingly if they would solve to a greater extent their farm labor problem.

Are long thousands of men throughout the country who have been employed on farms for seven or eight months will be set adrift without a job. Many of these men will seek employment in cities, towns and villages where they will find work, and a large percentage of these will be lost ever more to the farm. Good hired help is worthy of any reasonable consideration, and a good hired man is worth retaining.

Rather than allow a hired man of value who has worked well for seven or eight months to drift away, it would be much better to provide work and retain his services for 12 months of the year upon the farm. A comfortable cottage that is a real home for the hired man solves many of the domestic problems as well as the hired help problem on the average farm. A home and steady employment with fair wages appeals to the average man; far-sighted progressive farmers of to-day recognize this fact and provide these things for their help.

A TAX ON INDUSTRY

It is absurd to heap taxes upon a man because his property is increasing in value when the increased value results from improvements that are the result of his own industry and business ability. Such a system tends to discourage all enterprise. The evil effects of our present system of taxation are demonstrated in the case of a Peterboro County farmer whose shabby and broken down piggy is a disgrace to himself and takes much from the attractiveness of the pleasant country road on which he lives. "Oh, yes, I know my piggy does not look very well," he said to one of his neighbors who was speaking to him about the disgraceful structure, "but then you see, if I built a new one, my taxes will go right up. The old piggy is just as satisfactory as a new one would be so far as housing the pigs is concerned and there is no danger of them raising the taxes on me when the old building is still there".

The sentiment expressed by this Peterboro farmer is felt quite commonly by farmers generally. If they are progressive and improve their properties, their taxes go up and they are really forced to pay part of the taxes of their less progressive neighbors who are allowing their farms to become run down and are of no use to the communities in which they live.

When the proposal that land only be taxed was brought before Premier Whitney by the Single Tax Association of Ontario, the members of the delegation were told that they did not know what they were talking about. But they did know what they were talking about. A system of taxation which is a hindrance to all industry is out of date and must go. The single tax should have the support of every progressive farmer in Canada.

POORLY BOXED CHEESE

There is a great tendency to reduce expenses in the packing of cheese by using poor boxes, which do not afford the cheese sufficient protection. J. E. Itae, Canadian Trade Commissioner at St. John's, Newfoundland, has called the attention of the Dominion Department of Trade and Commerce to a very disreputable shipment of cheese which arrived in Newfoundland recently from Canada. Some of the boxes had been partly broken open and some of the cheese had been eaten by rats on board ship. The packing he stated was for the most part responsible. The wood, instead of being of the regulation thickness was so thin that it could be penetrated with a pen knife.

This is not the first complaint that has been made on the poor quality of boxes used in packing Canadian cheese. Reports quite frequently have come from the Old Country of boxes arriving in very poor condition, many being broken completely open. Canadian cheese now has to meet much stronger competition than ever before. The imports of cheese from New Zealand into Great Britain have increased to such an extent that in eight months ending August 1910, that country shipped to the British market almost one-half as much as Can-

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