

Many Advantages.

I have often sighed for the convenience of a telephone system, and have racked my brains for a feasible plan of establishing it. Its social and commercial advantage to the farmer cannot be doubted. Orders of all sorts, repairs, cars, etc., could be given from home. In cases of sudden illness to man or beast, the professional man could be summoned at once. Cattle buyers and butchers could communicate with you from the village, and save time and expenses, and therefore give more for good stuff. These are a few of the visible commercial advantages, while socially still greater things might be said.

With respect to their establishment, the idea is new to the majority here, and I think would take some working-up, and before I, for one, undertook to discuss it seriously, I would require to have the probable expense to be incurred by individuals at my finger ends. The best way of not introducing any reform is to agitate for it before you are master of all the expenses it would entail.

ARTHUR C. HAWKINS.

Lisgar Elect. Dist., Man.

Struck a Telephone Snag.

Down in the Province of Ontario, what is called the Markham and Pickering farmers' telephone system was established in York County not long ago. Its wires extend about thirty miles. To complete its efficiency, the promoters sought access to the C.P.R. station at Locust Hill, where many of them do business. To their amazement, they were refused permission by President Shaughnessy, on the ground that the exclusive privilege of using their stations had been granted to the Bell Telephone Company, on condition of its giving a free service to the C.P.R. The farmers propose attacking the monopoly in the courts, in order that public rights may be maintained. It is contended that it is actionable under the code, as an interference with the course of public business.

If you will send us on a post card the name and P. O. address of some friend or neighbor not receiving a first-class agricultural paper, and who would appreciate such, we will forward, free, a sample copy of the "Farmer's Advocate."

Mr. Dooley on Oats as a Food.

Mr. Dooley's latest is a satire on the numerous "breakfast foods" so widely advertised. Invited to breakfast with his friend Joyce, Mr. Dooley is served with something he likens to "Mush, be hovens!" "Says Joyce, 'It's a kind iv scientific oatmeal,' says he. 'Science,' says I. 'has extracted th' meal'.....Somewan discovered that



SCHOOL OF ANATOMY.
Preparing the pork for summer.

th' more ye did to oats th' less they tasted, an' that th' less anything tastes th' better food it is for th' race. So all over th' country countless machines is at wurruk removin' th' flavor fr'm oats an' thurnin' thim into breakfast food. Breakfast food is all ye see in th' cars an' th' billboards.....Hogan tol' me he was out in Decatur th' other day an' they was eighty-seven kinds iv oats on th' bill of fare.....People don't have anny throuble with their digestions fr'm atin'. Tis thinkin' makes dyspepsy! worryin' about th' rint is twenty times worse fr' a man's stomach thin plum puddin'. What's worse still is worryin' about dygestion."

"Joyce tells me his breakfast food has made him as sthrong as a horse," said Mr. Hennessy. "It ought to," said Mr. Dooley. "Him an' a horse have th' same food."

Preparation for Seeding.

BY S. A. REDFORD, EXP. FARM, BRANDON, MAN.

The adage that "a battle well planned is half won" holds good in agriculture, as in many other lines of activity, and it is an excellent idea to plan out the year's work on the farm some time in advance, and there is no better season for this work than during the slack time of winter. It not only permits of more thought being given to the work, but also affords an opportunity to select and carefully prepare the different kinds of seed, grain and grasses required.

In my own work I have found a rough sketch of the farm very useful, thus showing the shape and size of each field, the character of the soil, and the kind of grain grown on it for the past eight or ten years.

Most farmers acknowledge the advantage of a proper rotation of crops, but claim that they have not sufficient time at their disposal to plan a suitable rotation; this is no doubt true if the work is put off until the rush of seeding takes place, but the work should be done by the end of February by the latest.

Among the many advantages of a well-arranged rotation, we have only time to notice the following: It assists in keeping down weeds; it distributes the farm work over the year, and thus helps to solve one of the most difficult problems met with in the West. As the different farm crops do not all require plant food in the same proportion, a rotation of crops, therefore, economizes plant food. Then plants vary in the depth of their root system, and the deep-rooted ones bring up plant food that the shallow ones cannot reach.

Some crops suffer from disease and insect enemies, while others escape. For instance, the Hessian fly was somewhat injurious to wheat in certain parts of the Province last year; if wheat is again sown on the land this year we may expect that the eggs deposited in the stubble last fall will hatch out, and the injury will be repeated; but let the land be sown with oats, which are not subject to injury from the Hessian fly, and there will be no loss from this cause. For the same reason, rotation of crops lessens the risk of injury from the attacks of parasitic fungi.

The choice of a rotation will depend largely on the market demand, the character of soil, the freedom of the land from weeds, and on the system of farming followed; for instance, where cattle are largely kept, the plan of rotation will differ somewhat from that of a grain farm.

Wheat being the principal crop of this country, we will deal with it first. This grain succeeds best on a strong clay loam, rich in humus, but at the same time this soil must be well pulverized and compact, so as to make a fine and solid seed-bed. More failures in wheat-growing in the West originate from an unsuitable preparation of the soil than from any lack of plant food; a loose, open condition of the soil permits of rapid evaporation, and although the wheat plant may make a quick growth early in the season, the supply of moisture is soon exhausted, and growth is checked at the most critical period of the plant's growth, and the yield of grain greatly reduced. From the above it will be seen that wheat has the first claim on the summer-fallow, and also on well prepared backsetting, but if the latter has been broken late, or only roughly backset, it may be wise to use it for the oat crop. This will give additional time to prepare the land, and, besides, oats do not demand such a finely pulverized soil as wheat.

In the Western portions of the Province, it is sometimes found profitable to sow two crops of wheat in succession after summer-fallow, the second one being sown on the burnt but unplowed stubble. Where the conditions are favorable, this plan often gives a large return for very little labor, and the grain usually stands up well, but it seldom succeeds in the Red River valley or on similar strong soils. Such soils require plowing before every crop; neither can it be recommended anywhere unless the summer-fallow has been well done, and the land quite free of weeds and couch grass.

Gasoline Engines for Threshing.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

I am pleased to see in your issue of 20th January, the articles of Messrs. John Renton and J. D. Miller, on the use of gasoline engines on the farm. There is no subject you can discuss that can be of greater interest to the farmers of the Northwest than that of threshing. Both your correspondents indicate that, in their opinion, gasoline is the coming power for this purpose, and it is to be regretted that they did not enter into greater detail as to their experience in its use. Farmers want all the information they can get on this subject, and if you can place before them the experience of farmers who have used these engines for threshing, and give makers' prices for the different powers, etc., you will be doing a service to many who in the last two seasons have suffered great inconvenience and loss from want of adequate threshing facilities.

WM. WALLACE.



WOODROFFE PLOWBOY [2296].

First-prize Canadian-bred Clydesdale stallion, Canadian Spring Stallion Show, Toronto, 1903.
OWNED BY J. G. CLARK, OTTAWA.