

ter before feeding, then giving no more for several hours. I have never found it necessary to take the chill off the water when offering it to animals in working condition. This view is certainly against popular opinion on the subject, and Dr. Dunlop, for a professional man, has shown that he has the courage of his convictions in putting forth this very reasonable view. I consider it cruel in the extreme to withhold water from a poor brute perspiring and fatigued on coming in from a hard drive or from heavy work in the field.

Watch the man, working hard all day grubbing out stumps in the farm with the glass at 80 degrees to 90 degrees. He will go half a mile to appease his craving thirst and to adjust the equilibrium between the fluids and solids of his body. Does it hurt him? Does it hurt the horse under like conditions? I say it does not. I delight in watching the horse quench his thirst with water taken direct from the well or spring, and to observe the evident relish with which the tired animal partakes of it.

#### THE QUESTION OF WASTED GRAIN.

The opinion of many is that feed is wasted when given to a horse after partaking of a full draught of water. If oats are thus given, it is partly wasted. But oats should not be given before the horse has eaten a few pounds of hay. Grain, given on a stomach empty of solids, is partly wasted. How far that "partly" qualifies I am not prepared to say. I have frequently seen men come in with horses tired and hungry, offering them oats the first thing, and the hay afterward. The horses' stomach being relatively small, the grain is forced out by the hay afterwards eaten by the hungry animal. Were no hay to be eaten after the grain the practice is all right. Grain, to be fed economically, should be fed only when the horse's stomach is already partly filled. The grain, like the shot in the musket, requires the powder back of it.

It is my practice when working horses at plowing or other work all day, to offer water in the morning when they are being hitched up. They will drink very little water anyway in the morning after being watered late in the evening before, and I find they will often drink none, or very little, if it is offered the first thing in the morning before feeding. Did the horses show a disposition, however, to drink heartily after being fed, and on going to work, I should not permit them to do so. I never permit them to drink more than a pailful, and experience shows that less than this amount is all they generally will take. At noon and in the evening the horses are watered the very first thing and are allowed to take all they wish for on coming in. They are then fed some hay first and then grain afterwards. I always take the harness off also, and let the horse roll himself. A roll when the horse is tired and warm, is better than an extra feed.

### Rural Mail Delivery in Prince Edward County

An editorial representative of Farm and Dairy recently had the pleasure of driving for several miles in Prince Edward Co., Ont., and seeing handsome, free-rural delivery boxes on the road in front of every house. Each box bore the name of the farmer who owned it. At cross-roads, we noticed groups of boxes belonging to farmers living down the side roads. Near West Lake, the above photograph of "Uncle" John Hyatt taking a copy of Farm and Dairy from his free rural delivery box, was secured. Before reaching Mr. Hyatt's farm our representative asked a farmer where Mr. Hyatt lived and was instructed to "watch the names on the rural delivery boxes as you drive along."

"The farmers of Prince Edward County cannot do too much for Farm and Dairy," said "Uncle" John Hyatt, "for your efforts in getting rural

mail delivery introduced into Canada. Only a year ago we were reading with great interest the articles that were published in Farm and Dairy on this subject. Farm and Dairy deserves great credit for sending one of its editors to the States to get these articles. Now we are enjoying the benefit of free rural delivery, we know what it means. There would be a rebellion if any one tried to take our rural delivery boxes from us. It is one of the greatest blessings that the farmers of this country can receive. No farmer can imagine how convenient it is to be able to step out in



Rural Mail Delivery in Ontario

front of the door and get his daily paper and mail and to post his letters until he gets a rural delivery box in front of his door as we now have them. Our farmers cannot do too much for Farm and Dairy in return for all that it has done for us."

### Making Alfalfa Hay

By Glendinning, Ontario Co., Ont.

The first cutting of alfalfa should be made when it is about one tenth in bloom. The plants are full of sap at that time. We cut in the forenoon and follow with the tedder as soon as possible after the mower. We ted the second time in the afternoon, rake it into windrows the same day and put it in small coils in the evening. Care should be taken to prevent the leaves from becoming dry as they fall off the stems very readily. The leaves contain the largest amount of nutrients in the plant and every effort should be put forth to save them. Keep the clover shaken up with the tedder to prevent the leaves becoming too dry.

If the weather has been favorable, in the course of three or four days, the coils should be turned out and exposed to the sun in the forenoon and hauled to the barn in the afternoon. If rain comes and continues wet for several days, it is well for a couple of men to go around the field with forks and move the coils by both putting their forks on the safe side and hauling the coil to fresh ground; this is to prevent the plants being killed out under the coil.

#### SECOND AND THIRD CROPS.

When the season is favorable, three crops can be secured in the year. The second and third crops are not so heavy as the first. The weather being usually dry and warm, the ground dry, and the alfalfa plants less sappy, they cure easily. Ted the second cutting a couple of times the same day it is cut; then rake it into windrows and let it lay over night. The next day ted the windrows a couple of times lengthways, load on the wagon in the afternoon with the loader and haul to the barn. This may appear to many as being a great deal of work with the tedder; but we should remember that we are handling a very valuable crop.

#### A VALUABLE HAY

It is frequently stated that a ton of alfalfa hay is nearly equal in feeding value to a ton of wheat bran. If we are to secure hay of that feeding

value, we have to secure it in the best shape possible. It discolors very rapidly when exposed to the weather. It is practically impossible to secure the first crop without the outside of the coils being discolored but the inside hay will be green. Owing to the readiness with which it sheds its leaves, we must never leave the fresh cut hay exposed to the sun and wind too long without moving it.

Our finest hay is secured from the second and third cuttings. Care should be taken that the third cutting is not left too late, as alfalfa is a very poor grower in cold weather. We desire a good growth left on the field in the fall so as to catch the snow in the winter and thus insure a blanket to protect it from exposure. On no account should stock be allowed to pasture on an alfalfa meadow in the fall.

### How Weeds Affect the Dairy Business

T. G. Raynor, B.S.A., Seed Branch, Ottawa.

That some weeds are most objectionable to the production of high class dairy products goes without saying as cows feeding on them thereby have their milk more or less tainted. There is one well known weed or perhaps it would be better to call it a plant as it does not occur in cultivated fields, which taints the milk very badly, viz., the leak. It usually occurs in bush pastures. But there is a weed known as pennycress, French weed or stink weed that is nearly as bad and which is widening its constituency every year throughout Ontario. It should be looked after on its first introduction. It is a winter annual and if it were prevented from going to seed it would soon disappear. It is claimed in Manitoba, where it is so bad that its flavoring affects the beef and mutton of animals pasturing on it. Rag weed is another weed which is making great headway and which more or less influences the milk product.

It is not so much the weeds which directly affect the quality of the milk—and these are bad enough—as it is those which affect the quantity of the milk, of which there are a great many. These are the ones which cut into the profits of the dairymen so seriously every year. He even buys their seeds in the down more or less care with which he is seeding down more or less meadow for hay or grass each year. Too much care cannot be taken in the selection of the small seeds to see that they are comparatively free from weed seeds.

#### WEEDS IN SEEDS

There is a big difference in the percentage of weed seeds existing in seeds that are offered on the market even under the Seed Control Act, which has had the effect of cutting out a number of grades which used to be sold quite freely because they were cheap. Some weeds become so bad in a locality that farmers do not seem to think them bad at all. This was very noticeable last year. For instance in the Lake Huron district where there is a good crop of clover seed to market it is badly infested with rib grass or buckhorn; yet the farmers seem to think very little of it and are not particular about its presence in the seed they buy. Again in the Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair district ragweed is very common and some of the local seed offered in the trade is extremely bad with it, so much so that we get frequent official samples of it. Yet the farmers only laugh at ragweed as a sort of joke with them. However many of them are finding it hard to make sale for such seed at the price they would like to get and are keeping a lot of their seed over for another year or are unloading it on their neighbors. If there are more than five of such weed seeds per thousand they are doing it unlawfully.

#### SOME BAD ONES.

Some of those weeds which are interfering with productive crops and meadows are Couch

or Quack grass, Cup, Toad Flax and Ox-weed are particularly bad because they are pernicious to the dairy farmer. They are not only a nuisance to the dairy farmer but they are also a nuisance to the farmer in general.

These plants and moisture grain or grass. The toll that they take every year is as high as can afford to be paid. A dried acre farm he will but struggle to go to the he will conquer a piece of his for rousing up don't soon, the us at the rate Let 1909 be a

### Eradicating

By Glen

Quack grass farms in Canada grasses. The attack it at the deal with than

How many our public road ed by a lot of vill ed having pastured Few of us have tions. Why is by creeping und ing rootstalks food taken from carbon dioxide. suffers from a s food from the a strong rootstalk treatment and t dies. The lesson sheep.

BRADY The pasturing more applicable very bad and wh many acres in the has not been favo by working the l



Some At Cobourg has exists in the United now worthless land front row, fourth try Association; M tion are members o