

PREACHER AND FARMER

The Two Are Getting Closer Together Once More.

Many Prophets of Old Were Farmers.—Preachers Have Done Much for Ontario Agriculture.—O. A. C. at Guelph Was Planned by a Clergyman.—Pastors Who Have Been in Pastoral Work Indeed.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

The preacher and the farmer are drawing closer together. This is not surprising, for the former is usually a product of the soil. It is estimated that about 85 of our professional men, including clergymen, were raised on farms, and practically all of them have had to "do the chores" in their time.

Prophets of Old Were Farmers.

The Old Testament worthies were largely men of the soil. Abraham, Jacob, Moses and David were authorities in handling flocks. And was not Elieha famous for his record of following the plough "with twelve yoke of oxen before him." Amos went in for mixed farming—herds and fruits. Abraham Cowley quaintly remarks that the first man was a gardener, and it was only after the second tiller of the soil became a murderer that he began to build cities.

Clergymen Have Done Much for Ontario Agriculture.

Rev. John McCaul, an early President of the University of Toronto, was a great champion of farming, and read a paper before the Agriculture and Arts Association in 1858 on "Agriculture Among the Romans." Rev. Egerton Ryerson, a celebrated Methodist leader, when Superintendent of Education for the Province, had several text books on agriculture prepared for our schools. If he were here to-day to behold the "see and do" work of our modern junior agriculturists, both boys and girls, he would be very much astonished, and would perhaps recite a "Nunc Dimittis."

A Preacher Devised the Plan of the Agricultural College.

Rev. W. F. Clarke, a Congregational minister, if not the father, may be termed the godfather of the Ontario Agricultural College. In 1869 he was appointed by Hon. John Carling, Commissioner of Agriculture, to visit the leading agricultural colleges of the United States—then very few—and report as to the possibility of such an institution succeeding in Ontario. His investigation was carefully made, and the scheme he recommended was so comprehensive and practical that it was adopted practically in its entirety, and was the foundation of the excellent college now in operation in Guelph. He edited the Canadian Farmer for many years, and was looked upon as almost omniscient in things agricultural.

Rev. Dr. Burnet, for over a quarter of a century a Presbyterian minister in Hamilton, was President of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association (1869-1879), was a specialist in pear growing, and had a grape named after him.

A Clergyman Who Has Been a Public Benefactor.

Rev. Dr. C. J. S. Bethune, for years Principal of the Boys' College, Port Hope, (Episcopalian), and for some years a professor in the Ontario Agricultural College, has long been regarded as one of the leading economic entomologists of his time. The researches and observations of the able scientist have saved annually thousands of dollars to the fruit and vegetable growers of the Province. For many years he was Secretary of the Ontario Entomological Society and editor of the Canadian Entomologist.

The late Rev. Thomas Fyles of Ottawa was also a noted entomologist, with a delightful literary style. Rev. E. B. Stevenson, of Guelph, a retired Methodist minister, has long been reckoned, both in Canada and the United States, as a leading authority on strawberry growing.

A Preacher Who Managed an Experimental Farm.

Rev. Newton Woolverton, formerly Principal of Woodstock College (Baptist), was for some time in charge of the Dominion Experimental Farm at Brandon, Man.

Father E. A. Burke, a former editor of the Catholic Register, has also been well known, particularly when residing in Prince Edward Island, as an instructive speaker at gatherings of farmers, especially on such topics as fruit and vegetable growing.

A Trio of Active Men of the Manse.

Rev. A. H. Scott, of Perth, has been president of the Horticultural Society, and has given many helpful addresses on gardening, both home and landscape.

Rev. James Anthony has made a reputation in rural leadership, and is a well-known writer and speaker on agronomics.

Rev. W. M. McKay, while pastor in Weston, made the record of having procured more members for his local Horticultural Society, proportionately, than any other man in the Province.

The New Agriculture and the Rural Clergyman.

Agriculture to-day has a new outlook, and it cannot afford to neglect the rural clergyman; and most assuredly the minister who has a country congregation, or even a suburban one, cannot afford to neglect the new agriculture, lest the very ground, yearning for fruitfulness and beauty, should cry out in protest against him.

A later article will show what the Ontario Department of Agriculture is doing to assist rural pastors in the solving of some of the problems of country life now confronting them.

"FEELING" FOR LAYERS

This Method Is About as Certain as the Trap Nest.

Experiments With Capons—Feeding Costs—Excellent Flesh Produced Without Confinement—Handling Baby Chicks.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

The writer carried on a series of experiments with poultry when connected with the Agricultural Experiment Station for Vancouver Island, Sidney, B.C., and presents the following notes as among those worthy of consideration:

DETERMINATION OF EGG-LAYING

A test was made of the feeling method, to determine its accuracy. Thirty hens that were under trapnest record were subjected to the feeling process for eight days: January 17 to 24.

The results of "feeling" were checked up and tallied perfectly with the "trapnesting," indicating that it is quite possible for any careful person to determine which hens are laying by feeling the bird for the presence of the egg in the oviduct, in the early morning before she leaves the perch. The method also has an advantage in that it eliminates the necessary confinement of the birds in a "trapnest" for a period which is frequently longer than is actually required to produce an egg. The great disadvantage of the feeling method is that it is impracticable for pedigree breeding, inasmuch that the eggs from individual birds cannot be recorded.

CAPONS.

Thirty cockerels were operated on when twelve weeks old. These birds were a thrifty and well-grown lot, averaging 2½ pounds in weight. After caponing, they were kept under the same conditions as the cockerels. The feed cost for a pound increase in weight was slightly less for the cockerels up to six months of age. At this time the cockerels and capons weighed the same. These birds were killed for Christmas trade when 264 days old, and weighed, plucked, 3 pounds 2 ounces. The percentage of offal was low, being but 18 per cent. of the total weight. The birds were not crate fed, but were finished on a liberal milk ration. The quality of the flesh was excellent, and the wholesale price received was 20 cents per pound. The advantages of caponing are that an excellent quality of flesh can be produced without confining the birds in small feeding crates and the tender flesh can be retained to a greater age and weight. The cockerels made just as good gains, and when milk fed in crates for two weeks, produced the same high grade of flesh. Following is the feed cost of an eight-pound two-ounce capon:

Feed cost to rear to end of third month	21.54c.
Feed cost to rear during fourth month	18.2
Feed cost to rear during fifth month	13.17
Feed cost to rear during sixth month	21.3
Feed cost to rear during seventh month	21.3
Feed cost to rear during eighth month	22.4
Feed cost to rear during December, 20 days	14.4
Total feed cost	\$1.51c.

These birds were sold for \$2.43 each wholesale, leaving \$1.11c. per bird. From this we can deduct 20 cents, the price paid for the bird as a day-old chick, and have 91c. cents per bird for labor and shelter.

HANDLING BABY CHICKS.

In another experiment a thousand one-day-old chicks were procured from two reliable local breeders. The first day they remained in the incubator, and on the second day they were transferred to the brooder, but were not fed until forty-eight hours old. The following hints on general treatment are given:

Do not chill or overheat the chicks, or disastrous results will follow. If they pant they are too hot, and if they huddle together they are not warm enough.

Do not overfeed during the first week.

Change the water daily and see that it is perfectly clean.

Give plenty of green food.

Feed sour skim milk whenever possible.

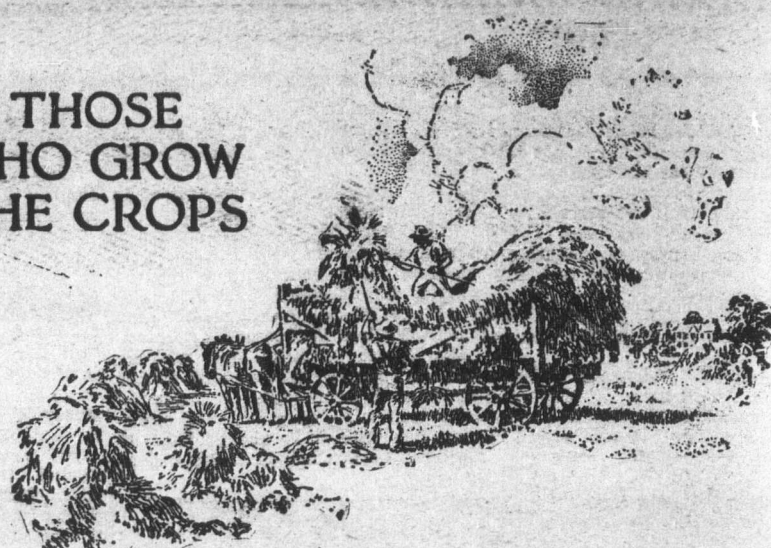
Do not forget to supply charcoal, grit, and shell.

Make all change of food and feeding gradually.

Clean and disinfect brooder often.

Do not use damp, mouldy feed or straw.

THOSE WHO GROW THE CROPS



It has been one of the privileges of this institution to become intimately acquainted with the business problems and banking needs of those who grow and move the great crops of this country.

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Accommodation, 111.....8.42

Chicago Express, 17.....12.40

Detroit Express, 83.....6.51

(a) Chicago Express.....9.11

GOING EAST

Ontario Limited, 80.....7.43

Chicago Express, 6.....11.22

Express.....2.50

Accommodation, 112.....5.38

(a) Stops to let off passengers

Hamilton and east thereof

take on passengers for Chicago

G. W. VAIL, Agent, Wat