

Pathmasters and Weeds

"Working on the Roads" has been the order of the day for June. No many of the municipalities, comparatively speaking, have commuted their statute labor to paying for it by a tax of so much a day. Consequently we have the good, bad and indifferent road overseers everywhere improving, undoing or destroying the roads which otherwise would be fairly passable at this season of the year almost anywhere. It is passing strange that municipalities in districts where clay roads exist more especially, do not make use of the split-log drag, which has done so much in the interval of good roads whenever used. Here and there, in travelling over Ontario, one sees where they have been used intelligently. The roads in such instances speak for themselves. I saw one such road at Scarboro Jet., where Mr. A. J. Reynolds, the energetic Farmers' Institute secretary of East York, had operated one since early spring. In the vicinity of Mr. W. B. Rittenhouse's, Beamsville, that apostle of split-log-drags, may

road overseer to see that weeds do not go to seed along the public highways, and if he does not do it voluntarily, ratepayers concerned should see that he does it in some way.

Many of the roadside weeds, if properly looked after on their first appearance, could be easily dealt with. When allowed to have their own way awhile, they soon get beyond control. Chicory, for instance, which has a perennial root, if cut out below the ground and a handful of salt put on it, would soon disappear. Blue weed, cut below the ground, or burdock, cut below the crown, means sure death. Give noxious weeds no quarter wherever found.—"Weed Fighter."

Hints for the Amateur Bee-Keeper

Chas. Blake, Frontenac Co., Ont.

Be sure that your swarms are not crowded for room to store honey or they may swarm again. Practically all the white honey is in the hive by July 15. The best time to extract it is on or before that date, as later on the bees, unless they get buck-

wheat honey, will start to rob each other. About July 15 is the time for the man with a few bees to see that all have honey and a good queen. If old queens are found send to a breeder of queens and buy a tested queen. An old queen can be distinguished by the way the brood is in the hive. A young queen will lay in every cell as soon as it is empty, if she is a good one. At this time of the year if she is about done she will leave some cells empty. In this way the brood is not evenly placed. An old queen in a hive now will in all probability mean a dead hive next spring. The bees will crowd out the old queen with honey as she cannot lay fast enough. In such a case, a hive will have a lot of stores for winter and a few old bees that will die off early. Remember that the first swarm always has the old queen with it and the old hive that cast the swarm will have the young one. Therefore, if the old hive has enough stores it will likely come out O.K. next spring. At least 25 lbs. of honey should be in each hive to winter it.

To the beginner and to one that has nothing to sell but honey, I would not advise them to take a bee journal for the first year, but rather get a good text book and study it through the winter. Then if you are getting the bee fever, don't start with more than two good hives. Buy your hives at the outset as very few can make them right at first. Procure them from some manufacturer of bee supplies. They also can supply queens. The welfare of bees depends on them having a good queen and good stores. A man should be fitted for keeping bees in box hives, some say, because they cannot be forced for and it is true, as honey can not be taken off from such hives without killing the bees. The honey obtained in this way is scarcely fit to eat, as it often is mixed with old comb, etc.

If more of the boys and girls of this country would take up bee keeping and other such light work on their farms, they would not go to the town for work. I have tried both town and country life. I am now running two yards of bees. One of them is six miles from home, and is being worked for comb honey. Very often

there is a boy or girl who is not strong enough to do work on the farm who goes to town to work. They get enough to board them. They can do much better keeping bees or when employed at other light work at home. Comb honey can be had without much hard work by any one who understands bees. Very little cash is needed for two hives of bees. They cost about \$6 each. A good text book can be had for \$1.50. Two empty hives with foundation comb and sections is about all the equipment necessary. The spring is the best time to start bee keeping, but the present will do if you mean to have them.

Feeding the Calf

H. Johnson, Middlesex Co., Ont.

As soon as the calf has been licked dry by its mother we remove it before it sucks, to dry, warm quarters free from draughts. Do not attempt to feed it for six hours afterwards. Then, give it a small quantity of its mother's milk. If the calf is hungry it is seldom necessary to do anything but put the calf's head into the pail and it will start to drink at once. We try to avoid giving the calf the fingers to suck if possible. Having the calf hungry is the secret of getting it to drink from the start.

Next feed whole milk for the first ten days. It is then gradually mixed with warm separator milk so that at the end of three weeks the calf is fed entirely on separator milk. A little ground flax seed is added. We feed regularly and never overfeed with separator milk. Thus we avoid bloat and scours. In the course of a few days the calves start to nibble at alfalfa or clover hay.

BOT MILK.

If the milk requires warming do not heat it on the stove, as there is danger that it will get too hot. Sometimes this hot milk will be given to the calf, and the calf in his innocence will take a gulp of it down which will scald his throat and stomach and spoil the calf. This can be shown in a few days by the hair being rough and turned the wrong way. It will be weeks or perhaps months before the calf recovers from that one swallow of milk. The better way to heat milk is to add hot gruel or water to it.

CAUSES OF SCOURS.

Never give milk to a calf in a dirty pail. Dirty pails, over-feeding with skimmed and scour milk, are the principal causes of scours in calves. A good remedy for scours is to quit giving skim milk, but give a pint of new milk, in which is stirred a small handful of powdered charcoal. Continue this treatment until the calf recovers.

A fruitful source of trouble with calves are draughts of cold air from open windows, doors or feed chutes, these causing troubles in the head and stomach. See that all such places are so arranged that no draught will occur. In this case an ounce of prevention is worth more than a pound of cure.

As soon as the weather is warm and the grass good, we allow our calves the free run of a pasture where they are fed milk until five months old. Those calves are intended to make dairy cows when about 30 months old.

Co-operation has been applied to the dairy industry to a greater extent than to any other line of agriculture. What it has done for dairying it can do for other lines of industry. We lack greatly in the co-operative selling of farm produce. In Great Britain railways publish free a list of what farmers along their routes have to sell. They carry parcels up to 24 lbs. in weight for eight cents, whereas our express companies would charge us 35 cents on 24 lbs. of butter from Guelph to Toronto. This will go on till farmers co-operate.—Prof. H. H. Dean, O.A.C., Guelph, Ont.



[Bees Given a Prominent Place on the Backwoods Farm

The apiary shown is owned by Mr. Chas. Blake, Frontenac Co., Ont. Some practical and helpful advice gleaned from Mr. Blake's own experience, is given in the adjoining article.

be seen other roads improved by the same method. While we are paying some attention to the shape and condition of the roadbed itself, we should not forget the roadsides, which are frequently an eyesore to the passerby and often a menace to the farms adjoining the highway, because of the different forms of weed life which are too frequently allowed to go to seed there. Farmers in Perth Co., Ont., at least in some parts of it, are to be commended in that they have fixed their roadsides so that the mower may be used to make the grass and any weed life growing there into hay at very low cost. Very much more could be done in this way than is being done with very little expense and trouble if road overseers could only be made to see it in that light. There is no doubt, too, about the efficiency of sheep, in pasturing on the road sides, to keep down most forms of weed life. Sheep may be a trouble themselves on some roadsides, but as a rule where lawful fences are kept in repair, sheep will not give trouble. Among some of the large and very unsightly roads one sees on the public highway which sheep do not keep in check, are elecampane, teasel and hound's tongue. Others, which, if they get a good start are bad, such as blue weed, chicory, dock and mullen. All the rest are, while tender, palatable for sheep and sheep are almost a sure guarantee that they will be kept down.

Where, however, the herd law is enforced, the road overseer should see that the various weeds are kept from seeding on the highways. Rib grass or buckhorn spreads rapidly on some highways as does chicory, oxeye, daisy, blue-weed, toad flax and ragweed. It is now the duty of the