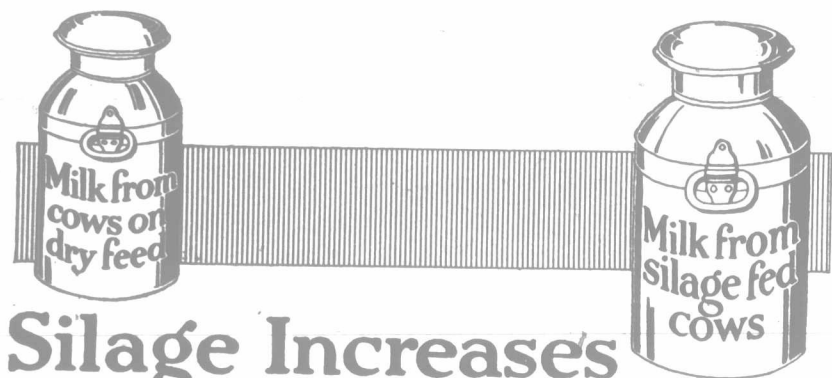




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Do you want proof of the extra value of the Ideal? Do you want to know just why it will give you the best silage and last longest? Then ask us to send you our large illustrated catalogue that shows every detail of this silo; how the parts are made and put together and the quality of material used. You can then judge for yourself. The crop you put in a silo is worth a lot of money. Don't take any chances on having it spoiled. You will save money by putting it in the best silo you can get. Ask for the catalogue. It will be gladly mailed you upon request.

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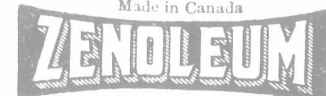
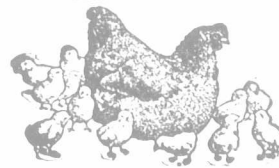
A Peerless Water System is a wonderful convenience—and so economical to install. The hand pump, or engine, pumps the water from your source of supply into the air-tight tank, where it is held under pressure ready for use in any room—simply turn on the tap and the water flows. Think of what comfort it means to have all conveniences in your home. The booklet tells all about it. Write to-day for it.

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Questions and Answers. Miscellaneous.

Ants Bother the Bees.

1. Ants are troublesome in my apiary this spring; which is the best way to get rid of them?
2. Is it a mistake to set hives on wood blocks 8 inches thick cut from a tree two feet in diameter?
3. What makes the best roof? I have all kinds and find trouble with all except the flat, galvanized iron.
4. Is there any harm if grass is allowed to grow around hives?
5. At what price can I get the A B C of Bee Culture through your office?

Ans.—1. Where ants are troublesome it is advisable to destroy them in their nests. This can be done by making two or three holes in the nest with a stick or crowbar, then pour coal-oil, about three tablespoonfuls, in each hole. Hot water has had the desired effect, or bisulphide of carbon can be used. One tablespoonful to each hole would be sufficient.

2. There is a tendency for the bottom of the hive to be kept damp when sitting on a single block. A stand supported at the four corners is preferred.

3. A cover made of two or three boards tongued and grooved and set so as to give a slight pitch each way from the centre is found to give satisfaction.

4. It is advisable to keep the grass cut in an apiary, and especially so near the entrance to the hive. Bees laden with honey get down in long grass and have difficulty in making the entrance to the hive. Many place a board in front of the hive to assist bees in finding the entrance.

5. A B C of Bee Culture can be secured through this office for \$2.25 post-paid.

Bee Queries.

I have three colonies of bees. Can you give me plan to keep them from swarming? How can I get the mother bee and make the swarm come back to the box? What is the cause when bees fill up in the bottom box and don't swarm and don't store in the top box? They don't seem to want to work in the top box. Should there be a new queen put in the box after the colony is two or three years old?

I. E.

Ans.—It would not be possible to explain in an answer to a question the method of swarm prevention. This is treated with in Bulletin 233, of the Ontario Department of Agriculture. The best way to get the "mother bee," as he expresses it, is to have the queen clipped in the early part of the season. Then when the swarm issues she is unable to fly, but will be found on the ground in front of the hive. She can then be placed in a queen cage on the entrance of the new hive prepared for the swarm. This new hive is placed on the old stand after the parent hive has been moved to one side. The change should be made as quickly as possible, as the swarm will be going back to look for the queen after a few moments, and if it finds the new hive in place with the queen cage on the entrance, it will enter the hive and become established there. As soon as the swarm has returned the queen is liberated and allowed to go into the hive with the other bees.

It is very difficult for anyone and practically impossible for a beginner to prevent swarming in putting on section supers. The bees refuse to go into the sections, because they do not like them, and it requires skilled management to induce them to store honey under conditions which are not agreeable to them. This, in a word, is the cause of the high cost of section honey. Beginners should produce extracted honey exclusively, using combs the same size as those used in the brood-chamber. When they become skilled they may take up the production of section honey if they choose.

It is customary to requeen colonies from time to time if they need it, but if this is not done by the beekeeper it is looked after fairly well by the bees themselves, as they have a habit of superseding a queen that fails from age or any other cause. I would strongly recommend every beginner to purchase some elementary text-book on beekeeping

and study it carefully; also if possible, take a beekeeping course at some college.

M. P.

Stiff-tooth Cultivator.

I have some fields badly infested with couch grass, and I intend to purchase a stiff-tooth cultivator. I was thinking of buying a 13-tooth cultivator, but was told that it would be too heavy.

1. Will two teams handle it all right? Can 5 horses be hitched to it? Or could 2 teeth be taken off at each end to make a 9-tooth cultivator out of it, in case it was too heavy in couch grass?

2. Are you using one on Weldwood farm? If so what size is it? W. S.

Ans.—1. We have used a stiff 13-tooth cultivator with 4 horses on heavy soil, and 3 horses handles it quite easily on loose soil. Five horses could be used by hitching one team ahead of the others. In a soil infested with couch grass it would, no doubt, draw rather heavy the first time or two. It is possible to take off a couple of teeth, but unless the soil was particularly heavy it would not be necessary.

2. Yes, a 13-tooth cultivator.

Variety is Profitable and Essential.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I read with pleasure in your issue of April 27 the article entitled "Variety in Farm Life," by Morley Louis Swart, and I heartily endorse Mr. Swart's statements. So many on the farm seem to lose sight of the fact that "variety is the spice of life." (This is especially true of some of the naturally most isolated communities), and to get the most out of this world and to make the best of our lives we must have recreation of whatever kind best suited to the individual. We owe this to ourselves, our body needs it, our brains crave it. We need recreation, mentally as well as physically. How true is the old school rhyme, "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy."

If everyone attended strictly to this branch of our welfare there would be fewer nervous breakdowns and fewer inmates of hospitals for the feeble minded. Farming is an ideal occupation if we run the farm, not let it run us. I was pleased, in Mr. Swart's letter, to notice that he speaks of farming as a profession. I like that word; for surely the successful agriculturist is a "professor." He has a vast wealth of education in the necessary line, else he would never have overcome the many difficult problems with which he has been confronted. The fountains of knowledge have certainly been opened to him. We must not alone worship college education. Knowledge is power in whatever line of business in whatever walk of life, and the farmer is the most independent man on earth if he lives his life as he should, in fact lives up to the rules laid down by our Middlesex friend.

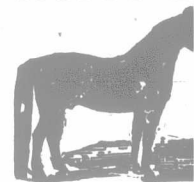
It is said that the Chinese consider the scholar as socially the highest of rank, while the farmer takes second place. It is not for me to judge as to which is highest, but I know farming is an ideal, a noble calling, and one by which the world is fed. There always have been and always will be agriculturists. From the beginning to the end there must be seed time and harvest.

We read that Xenophon, who lived from 434 to 355 B. C., said "agriculture is an art that renders those who understand it rich; but leaves those who do not understand it, however much they may labor in it, to live in poverty." Then Cato, who also lived before Christ, said, "keep the dry provender which you have laid up for winter, and think how long a winter it may be." A Flemish proverb has it, "without forage no cattle, without cattle no manure, without manure no crops."

In all the different vocations of life there are failures, all cannot be successful. Still it should be the aim of every farmer worthy of the name to make the most of his opportunities (which are many and golden) to inspire to the highest rung of the ladder of success. We may not attain the highest, but I believe we shall be rewarded according to our deserts.

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