

TAPPING A DRAIN.

I am troubled to get water for my cattle, and noticed some time ago (say two or three years) a plan of taking water from a large crock drain. Kindly put me on proper track to use the water and not stop the usefulness of the drain?

Essex Co., Ont.

J. D. C.

Ans.—In one case we remember, water was brought from a drain (about 25 rods) to cistern in barn, which can be done if fall is sufficient. Unless drain is fed by spring and runs constantly, it is an uncertain water supply. In the case in question, the usefulness of the drain was not interfered with. It was a four-inch tile drain, and the branch to the cistern was a three-inch tile. The whole stream would not be diverted to the well or cistern unless the tile below the junction were stopped up entirely. In that case the cistern, if cemented, might need an overflow pipe.

CEMENT TANK.

1. How will cement do for a water tank that remains outside, exposed to the weather? Will the frost damage it? 2. I have a wooden tank that leaks. How would it answer to give it a coat of cement inside?

F. W. JACKES.

York Co., Ont.

Ans.—1. We understand that such tanks are in use and give good satisfaction. Properly constructed and not too small, there is no good reason why the frost should injure or burst them. What has been the experience of some of our readers with such tanks?

2. A doubtful remedy. Would not pitch be better?

REGISTRATION OF JERSEYS.

Could you give me the name and address of the secretary of the A. J. C. C.; also cost of registry in said book?

S. J. P.

Huron Co., Ont.

Ans.—J. J. Hemmingsway, 8 W. 17th St., New York. To non-members, \$2 each head, male or female; to members, \$1. All animals over two years old, double fee. For registration of dead animals necessary to complete the registration, \$1. Imported animals, \$10. Transfers are recorded free, if presented within 90 days of date of delivery; after 90 days, \$1 each. Blank forms for registry and transfer are supplied free.

MARKETS.

Every reader is invited to write something for this department that other farmers ought to know. Do it while you think of it. Put it on a post card if you haven't time to put it in a letter.

FARM GOSSIP.

The Western Fair.

Ontario's popular Western Fair, held annually at London, has done much in the past to advance the best interests of agriculture. To its stimulating influence much of the agricultural prosperity of the surrounding country at the present time can be traced. Many of our most progressive farmers gleaned from it that knowledge which has helped them to rise high in their chosen profession, and many more, intensely alive to the needs of improvement along agricultural lines, may, we hope, avail themselves of the grand opportunities which the fair of the present year, Sept. 12th to 20th, will provide.

This year, as customary, new features will be added, worthy of imitation and desirable in every sense, to its already large list of useful attractions, and, perhaps, outstanding among these may be mentioned the home dairy buttermaking competition under the able direction of Miss Bella Miller, formerly lady instructor in dairying at the Strathroy Dairy School. Each competitor in this class will be required to give four demonstrations, the work to cover three days, thus making the test thorough. The trials will be on Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday morning and afternoon, and Thursday afternoon. Arrangements have been made for the seating of the audience so that as large a number as possible may avail themselves of the educational advantages of this competition. The prizes offered are: first, \$30; second, \$20; third, \$15, and fourth, \$8.

In addition to the customary large prize list for horses and other live stock, an extra special for the draft-horse class has been provided, again showing the progressiveness of the managers.

The ladies' work department will be moved upstairs, thereby increasing the space for the large and tasteful collection of the soul-inspiring gems of art. The additional grant of prize money for this department will, no doubt, call forth a greater number of exhibits from the best Canadian artists. In all, \$565.00 is offered in art prizes. In one section the first prize is \$100.00 and the second \$25.00. The judge appointed for this department is Prof. A. H. Griffin, Detroit.

The secretary, Mr. J. C. Nelles, London, Ont., will be pleased to supply all desired information, including prize lists, etc. We might mention that he is now distributing some 10,000 copies of the celebrated Western Fair railway map of Western Ontario, showing

ing the country as far east as Oshawa and as far north as Georgian Bay. It gives a complete list of places, arranged alphabetically, those on a railway being (*) starred.

Ottawa Notes.

GOOD ROADS IN LANARK.

The Lanark County Council has decided to establish a county system of model roads. A by-law to that effect was passed at the June session of the Council. The county will raise the sum of \$65,000 by debentures, which, with the Government grant of \$32,000, it is thought, will be sufficient to buy out all the toll roads in the county, and to construct enough additional model roads to provide for a fairly complete county system. The council refused to vote the grant of \$50 asked for by the Canadian Live Stock Association as the county's share of the \$500 required to ensure the holding of a big fat stock and dairy show at Ottawa next winter for Eastern Ontario. The County of Russell also refused the grant, but Mr. W. C. Edwards, M.P. for the county, has consented to give \$100 as the county's share.

ABOUT POTATO EXHIBITS.

Most agricultural associations provide a set of prizes for potatoes, field roots and grain. In the section for potatoes, prizes are given, in most cases, for separate varieties. This arrangement tends to encourage exhibitors to grow those varieties that the managing committee saw fit to put on the list—a very proper method, provided that the committees look well into the question of varieties and admit only those that are best suited to the district or county where the exhibition is held. But many of the best varieties do not come to stay. Some of them become "run out" within a year after they have become sufficiently well known in a district to deserve a place on the prize list, and on this account it is not always advisable to stipulate the name of varieties. Again, it is quite well known that there are many more names for potatoes than there are varieties. It is much easier for "would-be" seedsmen to invent new names for an old sort than to breed up a new variety. They must have something new to offer each year. To be able to discriminate between varieties of the same type is another problem with which judges are asked to cope when prizes are offered for named varieties. Potato-growers know that there are few judges such "rare birds" as to be able to distinguish Early Rose potatoes from many other varieties of the "Rose type," or the Empire State variety from others of the "Long White type." It might be added, too, that the conscience of potato exhibitors would need to be rather sensitive if they did not take advantage of the judge's inability to "guess right." Potatoes are, practically, all grown for the same purpose. All the varieties can be grouped into several quite distinct and recognized types, which really form the basis of classification for commercial purposes. Why, then, would it not be better to offer a less number but much larger premiums and encourage the introduction and growing of any variety, allowing varieties of the same type to compete one against another? This classification of potatoes has already been adopted by quite a number of agricultural associations, and seems to be meeting with a great deal of approval among potato-growers.

SHEAF AS WELL AS GRAIN.

At the approaching Ottawa Fair, in the section for seed grain, provision has been made so that each half bushel of seed will be accompanied with a small sheaf, showing the full length of straw with heads of grain. It is always difficult to judge the real merits of seed or of a variety from the grain alone. A good sample of grain may often be prepared from a crop which has been taken from a field that would not yield more than five bushels to the acre. The size of the heads of grain and the nature and quality of the straw will be considered in awarding the prizes.

CHICKEN FATTENING.

Mr. F. C. Hare, of the Department of Agriculture, is preparing a bulletin of the rearing, fattening and marketing of chickens. Mr. Hare, after visiting the poultry fattening station at Holmesville, Ont., reports the work progressing favorably. He states that farmers who have reared chickens up to two or three pounds of weight at this time of the year will find it to their advantage to place them in the fattening crates recommended by the Department, for three or four weeks before they are placed on the market. Satisfactory results can be obtained in fattening chickens by taking a packing box about twenty inches high and sixteen inches wide and removing the bottom and one side of the box, and by placing laths lengthwise on the bottom of the box, 1 1/2 inches apart. It should also have laths placed up and down the front of the box, two inches apart. The boards on the top of the box should be loosened so that the chickens can be removed from it. Mr. Hare states that the chickens should be fed a thin mash of principally ground oats and sour skim milk. They do not receive any exercise and they will gain rapidly in the crates. Mr. Hare is of the opinion that there will be a good demand for dead fatted chickens this fall, and that prices will be higher than they were last fall. A large firm in Montreal has written to the Department making enquiries for a large consignment.

P. E. Island.

The weather still keeps cool, and the crops are backward. The month of June was the coldest in many years, and so far in July we have had very little heat. The hay crop will not be more than half of last year's. There is no clover in it and it is thin. Oats are doing pretty well, except on very low lands. Wheat is not doing as well as we could wish, on account of the wet and cold. Potatoes have missed in some few cases, but the bulk of the crop looks well. The root crop is doing fairly well, but a little more heat would help it materially. Grazing is not as good as usual, as the pastures are thin on account of the white clover being all killed out last winter.

The supply of milk at the dairy stations is not nearly so large as at this time last year, and it looks as though our output of dairy produce will fall considerably below last year's figures.

Harvest will be later than usual by, perhaps, ten days or two weeks. June cheese are selling at about 9 1/2c., and creamery butter at 20c. There are very few beef cattle offering, as there is no grass beef yet, and stall-fed cattle are scarce. A good many cattle and sheep of rather poor quality are being shipped from King's County to St. Pierre, Miquelon, and some to Sydney.

Prof. Dear, of the O. A. C., Guelph, and D. Drummond, of the permanent Institute staff, Ottawa, are delivering agricultural addresses on the Island. The former, in the western part, is accompanied by Mr. Vroon, fruit specialist, and the latter, in the eastern section, is accompanied by Walter Simpson, a local man. The meetings are being very well attended, and the addresses are listened to with great interest. The lectures on live stock are illustrated by living specimens before the speaker and audience. Our farmers are gradually waking up to the necessity of better stock and better cultivation.

A company has been incorporated here for the manufacture of starch from wheat. A factory will be built this summer, ready for operation next winter, with a capacity of between two and three thousand bushels of wheat per month.

The apple crop continues very promising, but plums and cherries will be scarce.

W. S.

July 7th, 1902.

Crop Outlook, Drainage, and the Dog Nuisance, in N. B.

Hay on lands well cared for and not fall pastured promises well, on land of the opposite sort the crop will be decidedly short. Island and intervale land very good, although much of such land has been under water later than common and has suffered in consequence.

Grain on lands well drained will be good, but as a large proportion of our land is wet and heavy, less grain than usual was sown, and much of it late, owing to the excessive rainfall from May 24th to July 3rd, and such late seeding can hardly be expected to give satisfactory returns. Mangel seed, beans, corn, parsnips, and many other seeds, with potatoes, on heavy land have rotted badly. Small fruits came through in fairly good condition, blossoming and setting fruit in good average shape. Here, again, thorough drainage makes the difference between a fair crop and a poor one. Apples bloomed full and, apparently, set well, but have dropped more than common. Insect pests are not in such force as usual.

More general purpose stock is needed for the average farmer. The Ayrshires would have many friends but for their extremely short teats. Where time is money this defect of the breed counts heavily against them. The Shorthorn seems to come nearest to what is needed here. An increase of sheep husbandry is much needed; but owing to lack of united effort on the part of those most interested, the dog nuisance still exists. We have good laws to restrain all live stock but the dog, the most utterly useless of all live animals in the Province. They increase and multiply, and in a half-starved state are a menace to more than sheep, owing to the very old and very bad custom of giving the dog more than his fair share of freedom. If any other animal was introduced into the bounds of civilization, given the same freedom, and had done the same harm and as little good, they would be under complete control in every respect in less than two years.

Poultry and egg production both promise well. Fruit-growing, in suitable localities, pays as well as anything. The labor problem makes dairying difficult. The various governments are giving us good help with experimental stations, and the Institute system is also very helpful. If the Provincial Government will only tie up the dog we will do the rest.

York Co., N. B.

J. C. GILMAN.

Burdock Killing and the Moon.

In the "Farmer's Advocate" of June 15th, I notice a few lines from Mr. John B. Stone re killing burdocks. Mr. Stone is quite right in his method of cutting the burdock, but in error as to time. If a burdock's root is hollow in the full moon in June it will not become solid in the dark of the moon intervening between that time and the full moon of the succeeding month and then become hollow again, but will remain hollow after once becoming so. Burdocks cut as he describes will be killed at any time from the time they start to grow in the spring.

W. A. GRANT.