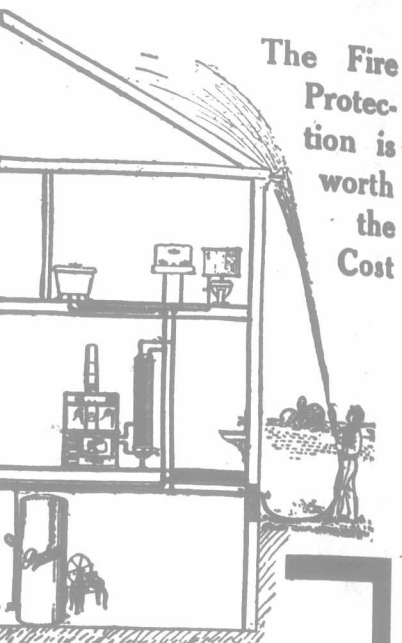


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The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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Vol. L.

LONDON, ONTARIO, NOVEMBER 25, 1915.

No. 1209

EDITORIAL.

Regularity in feeding will save feed.

Many farm stables dismally groan for more light.

Round up the last of the farm implements and put them away.

Who is responsible when the plow is frozen in the ground in the fall?

Keep busy during the winter and utilize any leisure time and the long winter evenings in reading.

Have any precautions been taken to prevent mice and rabbits from girdling the young trees in the orchard?

The cobwebs in the stables have caught about all the flies they will this season and might well be swept down.

Rains hindered, but it has been a good or bad season largely according to the work and management of the farmer himself.

The "down" timber in the average farm woodlot may be used to cut the coal bill in half if not to cancel it altogether.

If you would have the stock winter well start them carefully on their winter rations and feed to maintain the grass fat on them.

Fresh, cool air in the stable does not mean discomfort if it is properly admitted and the foul air is carried off in the right channels.

The man who plans to feed his grain is not so tempted by high prices to sell as he was a year ago. One year with another it pays to feed.

Pigs cannot be successfully fattened in the barnyard in the cold weather, but the brood sows will be better outside until just before farrowing.

It's time to do some glazing around the buildings. A little putty and a few panes of glass mean comfort to the stock in place of drafts.

We have seen some good cattle in poor stables and some very inferior cattle in a regular stock palace. Breed and feed have something to do with it.

When a pig reaches the age and size for finishing he should get plenty of feed and that of a "strong" nature. There is no use attempting to "feed him along."

Judging from the note-writing proclivities of the United States, that country must be on the affirmative side of the old debate: "The pen is mightier than the sword."

We are all inclined to grumble a little from time to time that there is no war news, and yet we all know that the boys at the front are doing big things and making history every day that the war drags on.

Brevity and Common Sense.

Winter is naturally the season for conventions. It is a time when a day or two can best be spared to keep in touch with the new things that are constantly coming forward and to exchange ideas with others of the same fraternity. Farmers, fruit growers or horticulturists are not, however, so absolutely free of duties and labors in the winter months that they can afford to listen to personal reminiscences or lengthy addresses which sometimes, owing to their length, dissipate the interest that is at first taken in them. Conventions nowadays call for condensed papers worded in such a way that they can be interpreted by the listeners. Brevity and practicability should be the aim of every speaker. A subject may be intensely interesting to a few of a certain fraternity or profession, but the matter should be translated into common language in order that laymen may understand. It is all very well to work out details and make investigations in the world of science but if the discoveries have no practical bearing on farming it would be far better to record them to use for future reference. The farmer makes his living on the land and when he attends a convention he looks for information that can be taken back with him and put to use. Furthermore, it must be such that will directly or indirectly make him more dollars. Every speaker should first consider himself in the listener's position and censor his own remarks so they will all be of some value. While it is well to take time to make each point clear yet it is tiresome, aggravating, and poor policy indeed to speak too long or read a long paper. The creation of the world with its inhabitants both on land and in the sea, also its vegetation was described in less than 800 small words; at conventions we have often heard less important subjects discussed at five times that length.

A Discussion of Institute Work.

It seems that the re-organization of Farmers' Institutes in Ontario, as outlined in the notices sent out by the Superintendent early last June is not thoroughly understood by all those who are interested in the welfare of this work, or otherwise is not agreed with by some. Recently we received two letters from men in the same county asking that our columns be thrown open for a discussion of the change, and we are pleased to invite all those interested, including the men responsible for the re-organization scheme, to discuss the subject in all its phases through these columns. Readers will remember that last June, at the time the re-organization was first announced "The Farmer's Advocate" discussed it editorially at some length. Those who save their copies of this paper should turn back to the Editorial page in the issue of June 10.

Those who have followed Farmers' Institute meetings from year to year are agreed that interest has been gradually waning until during recent years the attendance dropped off very noticeably and newer organizations seemed to be gaining in favor. The reason for the proposed change is very well set forth in the following paragraph from our former Editorial:

"The object of the new organization is to secure the co-operation of all agricultural organizations, especially Farmers' Clubs, and representative men in each locality. This is necessary to stimulate interest in meetings. Fewer meetings than formerly will likely be held by the Institute or Board, but it is hoped that a large

attendance will be the rule and greater interest result."

The new organization is to be called a County Board of Agriculture, and it is hoped to develop local interest and bring the rank and file of farmers into closer touch with the most successful local men. This seems a good move, and if the new organization succeeds in accomplishing this it should prove a stronger factor than the old Institute. Outside men, not always familiar with conditions in the locality where they were sent to speak, and speaking to a set line of subjects did not always have subject matter which satisfied their hearers. And besides this the best men cannot always be induced to leave their farm business to undertake a series of meetings, and furthermore, it has sometimes been hinted that politics worked into the selection of speakers not always to the best interests of the Institute. This latter statement refers to conditions when either political party was in power.

We should be pleased to publish the views of some of those who have been connected with Institute work and are responsible for the change, and also of farmers who have attended Institute meetings in the past and have suggestions for the future of the new organization.

Is Lack of Lime the Reason?

The most common complaint heard among farmers regarding crops and cropping is the failure to get good catches of red clover. Smith, Jones, Brown and all the others have the same tale to tell: "If I could only get clover to catch regularly I would have little trouble in growing plenty of feed, in maintaining soil fertility, and following a set and suitable rotation of crops." But the clover fails, the feed supply falls, soil fertility diminishes and the rotation is upset.

Few of us really realize what the clover crop means to our agriculture. Failures are sometimes laid at the door of too little seed and most farmers sow too little seed. Ten or twelve pounds per acre, even though it is dear, is a safer seeding than five or six pounds per acre. Then too often it is sown on run-out land. After the farmer has taken all the fertility out of the field in cereal after cereal he says, "I'll seed that field down and make it up." But the seed does not catch and another cereal crop goes in.

But many fail to get a catch of clover even where plenty of good seed is sown on recently-manured land in first-class tilth and put in under a short rotation system, the best conditions possible. What is the reason? Are we safe in answering: lack of lime? Prof. Harcourt, of the O. A. C., from soil-survey work carried on during the past summer in several counties in this Province, tells us that it would appear that nearly all our soil might be improved by the addition of lime. We know that a sour soil will not grow clover. Is it possible that liming the soil would ensure uniform catches of clover even on soil not considered sour but deficient in lime? It would seem so. During the next few years lime seems to be destined to take an important place in the agricultural development of our Province, and nowhere is it more important than in the growing of clover. Try it out and if the soil answers that it needs lime apply it.

It will soon be out. What? "The Farmer's Advocate" Christmas Number, the anniversary issue of Canada's leading farm paper, fifty years old. Watch for it; read it; save it.