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The Farm Repair Shop

Charles Malcolm, Colchester Co., N. S. Exposure is the greatest cause of depreciation in farm implements. A great deal of time and money is also lost, usually in the busiest season, from breakages of machinery during work hours. Very often work has to cease completely and the hands remain idle while the machine goes to the shop for repairs, and the expense of such breakage is a serious matter. Farmers as a rule have a practical knowledge of mechanics from their experience with the many machines they use, and the great majority of all repairs on the farm could be made quickly and efficiently at home if the proper tools were on hand with which to do the work.

To equip a tool shop with the necessary material for farm repairs is not as big an investment as one might think, and the time and money saved by such conveniences will amply repay the initial cost, to say nothing of the added satisfaction of having the work run along smoothly and continuously without the usual stops for repairs at distant shops. The life of farm implements is also considerably lengthened when the parts are kept tight and in good working order, as the operation of machines in poor repair sends them to the junk pile.

SELECTING AN EQUIPMENT.

In selecting an equipment of tools, the first essential is to decide on the ones that will be useful for the particular business conducted on the farm. Purchasing an indiscriminate lot of tools is poor policy. Give preference at first to the ones most frequently and urgently needed, and pass over those that will be rarely used. Another important point is to purchase tools of good quality, not necessarily those with a fine finish, but good standard tools bearing the name of the manufacturers. Cheap grades are bought, but they never prove satisfactory, and any hardware dealer can now supply all kinds of workshop appliances of convenient size for the farm at a reasonable price.

Each farmer will be selected to his own list, but it should be remembered that a small, well selected outfit, used to the best advantage and well cared for, will prove more satisfactory than a large miscellaneous assortment improperly kept and used. Among the more important wood-working tools that every farmer should have are an ax, claw hammer, hand saw, rip saw, Jack plane, steel square, brace and bits, chisels, screw driver, augers and spirit level. There are a great many others, but the ones mentioned will be found sufficient for ordinary wood work on the farm. These range in price from 25 cents to \$2.00 each, except the brace and set of bits, which cost about \$3.00.

IRON WORKING TOOLS.

The main outfit in equipping a tool shop comes in the iron working tools, but on the other hand this is the outfit that saves the most money in repair expenses. With such appliances, a tool shop becomes a real workhouse; without them, it is little more than a playhouse. Among the larger and higher priced items in this list that are necessary for a reasonably complete equipment may be mentioned a forge, costing about \$5.00; an anvil, \$7.00; vise, \$4.00; drill, \$10.00; taps and dies, \$5.00. The prices given are the average cost of such machines suitable for farm use. A great deal more money may be expended, but the amounts indicated should secure small sized tools of good standard quality. Added to this list will be blacksmith hammer, tongs, files, wrenches, cold chisels and pieces, any one of which should not exceed a dollar in cost.

It is hardly necessary to mention the grindstone and oilstone, as these are fixtures on every farm. A small supply of timber, bar iron, bolts, rivets,

screws and nails should be always in stock, as a repair equipment will be of little use if there is no material handy with which to replace the broken parts. The habit should be formed of saving every little piece of good material that can be used for repair work.

Scales, Their Use to a Farmer

S. A. Northcott, Ontario Co., Ont.

Like many another thing about a farm, a set of weigh scales can be had profitably; but not so readily, however, nor to the satisfaction of the farmer. There are thousands of one things that a farmer often would like to know the weight of. Such information might or might not put direct dollars into his pocket; at a rate, it would give him a great deal of satisfaction.

A farmer has something to sell nearly every day of the year. It is necessary for him to know the weight of many things that he is selling. Grain, potatoes or roots may be measured. But how much easier and better it is to weigh these things! By weighing, the work is done in half the time and both the buyer and seller are satisfied with the amount bought and sold.

THE BEST OF THE BARGAIN.

When stock is for sale, a set of scales will greatly aid the owner to sell to advantage. A buyer comes along and offers a certain price for the beast, or for a number of them, and if the farmer does not know the weight of what he has for sale and has no convenient way of finding out, the other fellow more likely than not will get the best of the bargain.

Even if stock is sold by weight, a farmer should have his scales and weigh the stock at home. He is then in a position to check the weights given by the dealer and thus make sure that he is getting a square deal.

There are many makes of scales on the market. All are not convenient, however, for weighing stock. I noticed in a recent issue of Farm and Dairy an advertisement of the Manson-Campbell scales, a set of which we have used for some time for weighing stock and for general use, and they have given entire satisfaction. Any farmer who has not already a good set of scales will never regret having made the investment of a set.

Fifth Place in Wheat Production

A statement prepared by the Census and Statistics branch of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, shows that among wheat producing countries of the world Canada now ranks fifth. In 1908 Canada ranked tenth. The total production of wheat in Canada last year is given as 166,744,000 bushels, compared with 112,434,000 bushels in 1907.

Last year the wheat production by countries was as follows: Russia, 786,472,363 bushels; United States, 713,286,923 bushels; France, 361,050,300 bushels; British India, 253,592,377 bushels; Canada, 166,744,000 bushels; Italy, 155,711,230 bushels; Spain, 144,511,581 bushels; Germany, 138,500 bushels; Argentina, 133,581,000 bushels; Hungary, 125,365,287 bushels; Great Britain and Ireland, 64,525,212 bushels. In 1908 the order of precedence in respect to production was as follows: United States, Russia, France, British India, Hungary, Argentina, Italy, Germany, Canada and Australia.

The Manitoba Elevator Commission was sworn in and opened offices at Winnipeg last week. Communications are invited from anyone having anything in the way of information to offer, and the Commission will proceed at once on an investigation of the shipping conditions and requirements throughout the Province preparatory to formulating a scheme for the establishment of a Government-owned system of grain elevators.