

FARM AND DAIRY

AND RURAL HOME

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FARM AND DAIRY

PETERBORO, ONT.

OF VITAL INTEREST TO DAIRYMEN

Cattle infected with tuberculosis are more common than is imagined. Some infected animals show marked symptoms of the disease. But, as frequently, if not to a greater extent, tuberculosis lurks in the constitution of well fed, sleek looking animals. In this form it is difficult to detect. No one would think of buying a cow that gave evidence of being affected with tuberculosis. In buying the best looking animal in a herd, however, we are not insured against it being tuberculous. The percentage of rejected cattle that are tanked at large packing plants under Government inspection, not to mention the common occurrence of having to do away with emaciated cows in dairy herds, is evidence enough that we are well seeded down with tuberculous stock. In view of the common occurrence of this disease, its dread nature and the loss that annually results from its ravages, dairymen may well give careful consideration to the article by Prof. Geo. E. Day, on the Bang system of handling tuberculous herds, appearing

on page three of Farm and Dairy this week.

Whether or not it is advisable to adopt this system, is a matter that each dairyman must decide for himself. The method outlined is both expensive and inconvenient in its practice. Those having tuberculosis well marked in their herds can possibly find no more advantageous way of securing a healthy herd than by adopting the Bang system. It has proved successful in Denmark and in other countries and is being applied to a number of herds in Canada and in the United States.

Any who have reason to suspect the prevalence of tuberculosis in their herds and are so situated as to make the Bang system, or a modification of this system, applicable, will be gaining much time in applying it at their earliest opportunity. In view of the fact that bovine tuberculosis is generally conceded to be communicable to man and the general agitation that is under way seeking to have all herds providing milk or dairy products for human consumption, inspected, it would seem to be only a question of time when compulsory inspection will be law. Those taking time by the forelock and eradicating tuberculosis from their herds will be in good shape to withstand any inspection that may be asked, and save themselves from annual loss which is inseparable from this dreaded disease. As the system cannot be generally carried out without some encouragement from the State, the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Sydney Fisher should give this system careful investigation and if found advisable encourage it with public money.

EDUCATION FOR THE FARMER'S BOY

The Ontario Agricultural College has been rapidly growing in public esteem. Besides the 40,000 farmers who annually visit the College and Experimental Farm, town and city people are being attracted to the place in large numbers from year to year. The course at the Guelph College is of great benefit to any one engaged in farming. It is broad and practical. The professors are unassuming and patient with boys who have not had good early training at school. Any boy with a love for farming and who wishes to improve his methods will receive much that will prove of value throughout life. The cost is reasonable. One can attend the Guelph College for a year for just half what it would cost to attend a university. As everything one learns can be put into practice on the farm when he returns home his outlay is soon recovered in increased earnings from the old farm.

How can the College help a young man? Suppose that he is going in for dairymaking or that his father already keeps a number of cows. The average cow produces something over 3,000 pounds of milk a year. In the college herd is one cow that produced 20,778 pounds in twelve months. Association with this cow and those who are feeding her would surely prove of benefit to any dairyman. By seeing

just how she is handled, fed, watered, and milked, such should be a good education for any dairyman. Aside from this, there is the whole dairy department at the command of the student. He is taught to test milk, to score butter and cheese, to make butter and cheese if he chooses, and to study the relationship between the dairy business and other kinds of farming. While the College has been well attended, still only a small percentage of those who might take advantage of the course offered avail themselves of it. There is no reason why a thousand young men in the Province of Ontario should not take advantage of the splendid course offered at the Agricultural College, Guelph. It is hoped that many will send in their applications to the President before the course opens on September 14, 1909.

AFTER-HARVEST CULTIVATION

Land is cultivated in order that we may grow a crop and destroy weeds. This is the one thought that many of us have when we are at work in fall and spring. These objects are important. There are others that are equally important. By cultivation we conserve moisture. We make the soil in condition for the development of bacterial life that has the power of converting inert matter into available plant food. Striking proof of this is in evidence in the summer when we cultivate the corn crop. If a piece of ground that is free from weeds and in good condition is planted with corn, one half of which is cultivated every week until it is four feet high and the other half receives no cultivation except planting, the cultivated portion will yield two or three times as much per acre as that which received no cultivation. The cultivation conserves the moisture and allows the air to circulate through the soil, which makes conditions favorable for the development of bacterial life and enables them to convert the unavailable plant food into available food for plants.

Many crops, such as grain crops, cannot be cultivated while growing. It is the more important that the soil for such should receive good cultivation during the summer or fall previous. The earlier that land can be cultivated, after the crop has been removed, the better. Land that is intended for spring grains should be cultivated during the fall and left in the best possible shape to receive all the pulverizing influences of the frost.

CONCRETE ON THE FARM

Portland cement concrete, although recognized as an ideal building material for heavy work, has not been given the attention that it merits in the smaller constructions about the home and on the farm. More active interest, however, is being taken in this subject and year by year we find concrete coming into more general favor for farm construction work. The ever increasing price of lumber has had much to do with bringing concrete into more general favor. The cost

of masonry work and the difficulty of getting it done has also led many to take advantage of cement.

The moderate cost, durability and beauty of cement work should bring it more rapidly into favor. Its uses on the farm are varied. Few realize the great diversity of its use. Mention might be made of it as a flooring material. There it is par excellence. It should be the only material for stable floors. For fence posts, hitching posts, water troughs, hog troughs, tanks, walls, walks, steps and stairs, cisterns, well curbs, culverts, bridges and other innumerable uses, concrete may well be taken into consideration. Many farms can be much improved by installing cement work. Prices being low, needed improvements should be installed at the earliest opportunity.

Good Roads at the Farm Gate

(The Toronto World)

Close up the country roads and the great carrying systems, railroads and steamships would suffer in consequence. Great civilizations have prospered without railroads, but never without good country roads. The national exchange of commodities is curtailed just to the extent that the free movement of internal traffic is curtailed by bad roads. The counties where good roads are the rule are those where farmers live in large homes, where windmills tower above big bank barns, and where modern machinery sows or reaps the harvest. The advanced farmer to-day is the one who asks the candidate for the council: "What is your policy with respect to good roads in this county?"

Three thousand miles of modern leading highways are being built in Ontario or projected under the Good Roads Act by which one-third the cost is borne by the provincial government. This is only a start in the general plan of road improvement, but it is a happy augury for the future. The farmer who drives over fine macadam roadbeds becomes a missionary in spreading the good roads gospel. Ontario seems to be ready for another step in advance. The whole system of leading roads within the province should be taken over by the central administration and made permanent under expert direction.

From these leading highways the counties should co-operate under instruction from the central administration in building the principal feeders to the main roads along scientific lines. No blessing that civilization may bring to the farmer can compare with good roads. He can help by voice and vote in bringing that blessing to his own farm gate.

A Menace to Agriculture

(The Toronto Globe.)

On Friday last before Magistrate Denison an old-established seed house in Toronto pleaded guilty on three charges of selling foul seeds to local dealers in Ontario towns. One sample of alsike clover offered for sale on being analyzed was found to contain nine noxious weeds per one thousand good seeds. Alsike seed of

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