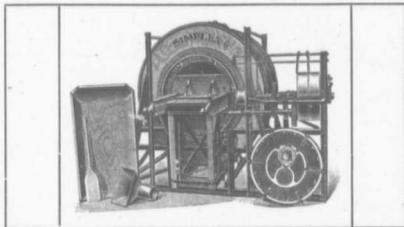


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Crop Prospects

As far as we are able to judge from observation, new seeding seems to have come through the winter in poor shape, generally speaking. Especially is this true among the eastern counties of Ontario, not one acre in ten of the newly seeded meadows shows prospect for a good return. Farmers will, we think, make no mistake in holding their hay over rather than to sell on a down grade market, as we think it is very unlikely that the crop will be an average one. The same also may be said of winter wheat, which looks rather weak and spotted.—R. H. Harding.



His Salary Should be Raised

Ed. The Dairyman and Farming World.—It would be a national calamity should Prof. James, our Deputy Minister of Agriculture, be induced to resign his position. The good sense of the people of Ontario will heartily endorse such a substantial increase in his salary as will at least bring it up to the figure at which others value his services.

The Ontario Department of Agriculture has in time past lost a number of good men on account of its ill-timed economy in line of remuneration for tried services. Such economy can be characterized only as penny wise and pound foolish.—Andrew Elliott, Waterloo Co., Ont.



Trees for Fence Row Planting

Now, since our forests are becoming depleted, there is in many sections a scarcity of suitable timber that can be used for fence post purposes. During the last few years, the price of posts has continued to soar upward until now they have reached almost prohibitive prices in some localities. The farmer, however, who will go to the small expense and trouble of setting out a few trees each year in a position where the fence of the future will be placed, can bring this fence post problem well within a solution upon his own farm.

It is a simple matter to plant out trees and have them grow if one will observe ordinary care in handling them, before and after they are set out. The common hard or sugar maple is the most satisfactory to use for this purpose. Where it cannot be obtained, basswoods, soft maples, elms or other such varieties will answer very well and in fact are preferred by some. These can be easily obtained from the farmer's own wood lot. Should such trees not be available, they can be obtained from nurserymen at a comparatively small cost. Failing this, a farmer can grow his own trees. It is a small task to plant the seeds of the variety you choose to propagate. As soon as they have reached the size of a few inches in height, they may be set out in nursery rows and there cultivated until they have obtained the desirable size for setting into the permanent fence row. Some of the rapid growing trees, such as the Manitoba maple or the cottonwood, can readily be handled in this way.

When the tree has attained sufficient size, and one wishes to attach a fence thereto, a picket or strip of wood should be nailed to the tree and the fence attached to this picket. When this practice is followed the fence will not grow into the tree and it can be removed at any time should it be desired. The mistake is often made of wiring the pickets to the trees and in some cases, even of attaching the fence directly to the tree. This should never be done as

it is very injurious to the tree, be sides causing an unsightly appearance of the tree.

Trees for fence row planting should be at least ten feet in height and from one to two inches in diameter. When taken from the wood-lot, if possible, remove a lump of soil with the tree, leaving as much of the root system upon the tree as one can conveniently handle. Cut off all the top of the tree, leaving a bare pole about eight feet in length. This tree, if properly set, will grow and make a uniformly shaped head and invariably will come to maturity more rapidly than where the whole top is left upon the tree. It is not necessary to practise any particular cultivation, but if it is possible, a mulch of straw manure, chip dirt, or other such material, will tend to insure the successful growth of the tree.



Notes for Farmers for May

By John Fister, Farm Superintendent, Madoc, Ontario Co., Ont.

1. Do not be in a hurry to let the animals on the pastures.

2. Corn land. If it was not plowed last autumn, plow shallow, just before planting, especially if there be couch or quack grass in the land. Work the surface thoroughly before planting.

3. Sowing Corn. Watch for a warm condition of soil. Quick germination is desirable. Sow fairly thick, then thin out in June.

4. Harrow the corn land lightly, and thoroughly, just before the corn comes up, and after it is well up, and thus save hoeing, and hasten the growth. Use a slanting tooth harrow.

5. Plant some pumpkins in the corn, or clover, after they are up.

6. If clover has not been sown with wheat, oats, barley or peas, harrow all with a slanting tooth harrow, when the crops are 6 to 8 inches high.

7. If any part of the meadow has been winter-killed, plow up and re-sow with spring ryegrass or barley.

8. Bees. Examine all colonies. See that they have a good laying queen, and plenty of stores.

9. Between fruit and clover bloom, uncup one side of a frame of honey cells alternate evening; keep up brood rearing. Strong colonies in May give best results.

10. Open all windows of the cellar and root house. If in use, put on screens.

11. A coating of whitewash will do the cellar good.



The Dairy Test, in connection with the next Winter Fair at Guelph, will last for three days, instead of two, as in previous years. The test will begin at 5 a.m., on Saturday, Dec. 5th, and will be finished at 5 a.m., on Tuesday, Dec. 9th.



An outbreak of glanders, at Rock-buck, near Brockville, resulted in the destruction of three horses, belonging to Mr. Jos. Whitley, of that place. One of the animals was sick for several days. The owner, thinking it was a disease of the teeth, called in Dr. Stephens, who diagnosed the case to be glanders. Dr. Higginson, the Government inspector, confirmed Dr. Stephens' diagnosis. Several other horses in the neighborhood, are being held in quarantine for 35 days. The owner of these animals will receive two-thirds of their value, in accordance with the Government's provision for horses destroyed for glanders.

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