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BUILDING AN ICEHOUSE

Good Type for Use on the Average Farm.

Every Milk Producer Should Have One—The Work and Cost of Erection Light Compared With the Benefits.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

EVERY Ontario farmer who produces Milk,—and most of the farmers do,—should store a quantity of ice each winter in order to make it easier for him to cool the milk down after the evening milking, and to keep it sweet for such short periods,—week-ends for example,—as he may be required to keep it before delivering it at the cheese factory or other point of disposal. In order to preserve the ice satisfactorily some form of ice-house or shelter is necessary. The purpose of this article is to describe in a few words a type of ice-house which will give good satisfaction.

The ice-house does not necessarily have to be expensive, but certain conditions in regard to it must obtain if the ice is to keep well. These I shall emphasie first and they are,—protection of ice from sun's rays, this is the wall, good drainage from the bottom of the house, either natural or artificial, free circulation of air through the top, air-tight foundation, plenty of good quality of dry sawdust on all sides of the mass of ice, and close packing of the ice. If these conditions can be secured in a rough bin built under a shed, or a lean-to on the shady side of a building, all well and good unless one has other good reasons for building a more expensive structure elsewhere. The matter of convenience is often a deciding factor in this case, and the type of ice-house I am about to describe is a good illustration of this fact. Only once have I seen it in use, but there is no reason why it could not be used quite generally.

This particular type consists of a lean-to structure of wood at one end of the barn which has the stable underneath. The size would vary with the amount of ice required, but probably a building 15 feet square and 12 feet high would be large enough for most farmers' needs. In this structure and at the side adjacent to the barn, or rather the basement wall, is built a concrete enclosure about 6 feet square and 6 or 6½ feet high. A door in the basement wall admits one to it. In the side opposite to the doorway there is a row of 3 or 4-inch tile near the bottom for letting in the cold air from the ice which is packed closely to the concrete storage on all three sides and over the top as well. Between the top of the storage and the barn there is a narrow passage-way or flue for allowing the foul or used air to get out, hence good circulation in the storage is provided for. In this particular case the farmer has his milk-room containing cream separator, etc., adjoining this storage and whenever he wishes to cool milk or cream or store it he puts it in this storage. Other articles, such as butter and meat, are also stored at times but of course only for a few days at a time. Hence much handling of ice is saved as well as considerable time. The building is made of wood, the studding being boarded on both sides. It would be advisable to fill the space between the two boardings with planer shavings or good quality sawdust. The roof is covered with shingles. The gables are left somewhat open for ventilation. Plenty of sawdust is used around the ice next to the walls, and also a good depth over the top, none however is used between the cakes of ice. If a few cakes of ice are required for household use they may be easily taken out of the sawdust in the top of ice-house or at one side if more convenient.

It will be seen, therefore, that this type of ice-house does double duty in a degree, namely, providing a small ice-cold storage room, cooled by the ice mass directly, in addition to housing ice for various incidental uses in the summer-time. In a case of this kind there would not be much need for taking out ice except for supplying the household refrigerator as the storage-room would take care of the ordinary cooling and preserving of products.

Believing this arrangement to be valuable, and in many cases practicable on Ontario farms, I have much pleasure in recommending it to farmers in general.—R. R. Graham, O. A. College, Guelph.

Still a Place for the Good Horse:

Horses have not been meeting a keen demand in Canada since the war broke out and have increased about 650,000 since 1914. However, a real good heavy draft horse is hard to find, and if Old Country markets are any criterion of the trend of affairs an awakening in the Canadian Draft Horse market should soon follow. Draft geldings are selling in England for from $300 to $500 and even up to $1,000 each. A returned officer told me recently of seeing a number of Canadian geldings (artillery and transport horses) sold in Old London for £100 ($500) each. About one-fifth of Great Britain's ordinary supply of work horses went to the war and a number of useful brood mares were also taken. France, Belgium, Russia and Germany, four of the great horse-producing countries, have lost a heavy percentage of their horse stock during the war. Already a shipment of Percherons has gone from Western Canada to France, and it would seem that during the period of reconstruction our horse market will be East and not West. If it will pay to breed any horse on the Canadian farm the heavy draft of good quality should turn in most money to his owner.

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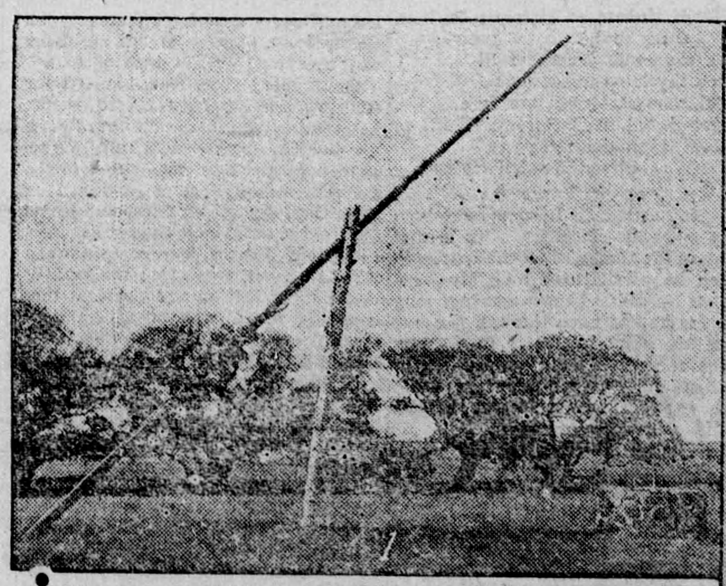
Evangeline Returns to Grand Pré



(1) Evangeline's Well.
(2) Philippe Hebert's Statue of Evangeline.

WHAT lover of poetry has not dreamed of visiting the places made immortal in song? And what song has roused this longing more intensely than the story of the gentle Acadians and their Great Banishment? Many have realized this ambition for Nova Scotia is easy to reach and each succeeding summer sees more hundreds making the pilgrimage to

"The Acadian land, on the shores of the Basin of Minas,
Distant, secluded, still, the little village of Grand Pre."

There they find the meadows, dikes and orchards of which Longfellow sang, and they try to retrace the action of the poem by using as a guide the still remaining well which the poet described as

"Farther down, on the slope of the hill, was the well with its moss-grown
Bucket, fastened with iron, and near it a trough for the horses."

The piece of ground at Grand Pre on which is the well of Evangeline, together with the old willows, has been bought by the Canadian Pacific for the purpose of preserving it for posterity.

Before he died last year, Philippe Hebert, the greatest of French-Canadian sculptors, was engaged on a statue representing Evangeline leaving the land of her childhood and looking back in sorrow.

Philippe Hebert was himself an Acadian and, although a perfectly happy exile in Montreal, entered into the spirit of the poem as no other sculptor could. The model of his statue has been purchased by the Canadian Pacific who have commissioned Philippe's son, Henri Hebert, also a distinguished sculptor, to complete it, life size in bronze to be erected beside the famous well.

Thus will be added one more attraction to a land full of attractions for artists, devotees of romance and matter-of-fact sportsmen. The artists find an inexhaustible supply of subjects ranging from many-mile long vistas of apple blossoms to uncouth but picturesque fisherfolk; the romantically inclined find a land of legends and sleepy beauty; the sportsmen find fishing and hunting such as is seldom equalled and never excelled.