FARMING

In this department each week will be given general information to farmers and stockmen. No attempt will be made to criticize the work already being done by Canadian farmers; but an effort will be made to present to the farmers of the country summarized information contained in government reports, and the actual experiences of men and women who have achieved success in farming by following modern methods. Farmers who have found new "wrinkles" or have made a success in any special line of agriculture are invited to send short letters to this paper giving their experiences, or criticizing any of the information contained in these columns.

Vegetable Growing

CUCUMBERS.

Cucumbers are grown in Ontario to a great extent for pickling factories. Several acres are often grown profitably by one man when he is in a position to secure competent pickers throughout the season. Market gardeners as a general rule grow a limited quantity of cucumbers, usually considering them as a crop of secondary importance as a money-maker. They are easily grown and on good soils large yields are received. This crop is handled in two ways: first for early market and second for main crop purposes. For the very early market the seeds are sown in the greenhouse or hotbed some five or six weeks before it is time for transplanting in the field. The seeds are usually sown in pots or quart berry boxes which are filled with good loamy soil or pieces of sods. Seven or eight seeds are usually sown in each pot or basket, and a pane of glass placed over to induce germination. The two healthiest looking plants are left in the box, the weaker ones being destroyed. This leaves but two plants to a box. These are kept in a warm atmosphere, given plenty of light and forced along in order to secure strong, healthy plants by May 24th to June 5th.

Transplanting.

These plants may be carefully transplanted into rich garden soil in a spot where they will receive plenty of warm sunlight, or into new hotbeds allowing two plants to one sash. These should be planted about two feet apart in the row, in rows four or five feet apart, and as much as possible of the soil from the pot or berry box should be left on the roots so that there will be plenty of good soil to keep the plant growing until the roots spread out.

Soil.

The cucumber will grow in any rich garden soil. Best results are usually secured in a good sandy loam.

Manure.

This crop is one which responds readily to heavy applications of manure. Large quantities of well rotted manure can be applied broadcast or directly in the furrow during the ploughing operations. It is advisable to use well rotted manure when possible.

Planting Seed.

The main crop if cucumbers is always grown from seed planted in hills or drills. It is not generally supposed that best results are obtained from planting the seed in hills or mounds, though this seems to be the most general practice in this Province. Successful growers plant seven to eight seeds at a depth of one and a half inches, making the hole with the hoe usually. These drills are five feet apart each way. Planting seeds as soon after all danger of frosts in the spring will give best results. In growing for the pickle factory an easy method of planting is to use an ordinary seed drill. Sow in rows six feet apart and thin plants to eight and twelve inches apart with a hoe.

Cultivation.

These plants should be cultivated carefully so as not to disturb vines, and often during the earlier stage with a horse scuffler. On patches where space will permit they are cultivated both ways. They should also be hand-hoed to keep down the weeds. It is a good plan to draw some of the soil up around the stems when young to induce heavy root growth and to keep away the insects. When vines become too large for horse cultivation the weeds should be pulled out by hand or hoed out to keep the patch entirely free from weeds.

Picknng.

Cucumbers should oe cut off from the vine leaving about one-quarter inch of stem on the fruit. They should be picked just as often as the market demands so as not to have a large number of over-ripe cucumbers. For pickling purposes it will be found necessary to go over the patch at least every other day.

Shipping.

Cucumbers are usually shipped in 11-quart baskets or small crates.

HORSE-RADISH.

Horse-radish is a crop which is not grown to any great extent in Ontario. Very few vegetable growers produce any, and only a few kitchen gardens have a root or two of this crop. The vegetable growers claim they cannot secure a market which will be worth while, and the kitchen gardener classes horse-radish more as a weed than a vegetable. As a consequence, practically 80 per cent. of horse-radish used in Ontario is imported.

Soil.

Horse-radish thrives best on a clean, well-drained loamy soil of some depth. Good results are never received on shallow soils or wet ones.

Planting.

This crop is grown from cuttings from old roots. These should be straight; not gnarled and rough. They should be five to six inches long and end. These are planted in early spring the size of a lead pencil at the top by means of a dibber, 10 to 12 inches apart in rows 3 feet apart. The sets should be flat on top and pointed on the bottom, and should be set straight up in the row and covered with three-quarter inch of soil, or in a shallow plow furrow being covered to the same extent. Cucumbers can be grown in between alternate rows during the first year of growth. Cultivate the same as for carrots or parsnips.

Harvesting.

In the fall of the second year the roots should be plowed or dug out, all side roots trimmed off for the next crop, the leaves trimmed off, and long straight roots washed preparatory to selling. These can be stored in cool cellars if desired, and should be covered with moist sand when possible. The roots can also be left in the soil over winter and dug the following spring. The side roots which have been trimmed off should be stored in moist sand over winter or until used.

Horse-radish should be taken out of the ground every two years, not allowed to grow year after year, or considerable trouble in subsequent crops will come from small roots left in the ground. as they will spread and become troublesome as a weed. Some growers do not replant every two years, however, simply depending on the small roots left in the soil in the fall for the next crop. All shoots in between the rows are destroyed.

Horse-radish roots should be long, fairly thick, and with but few side roots. Such quality can be secured only in rich, well-manured soils which have been cultivated to considerable depth.

Storing.

Horse-radish may be kept satisfactorily in bulk in a cool, darkened cellar. It must not become dried out.

PIGEONS AS MONEY MAKERS.

Opportunities for Young Folk to Earn a Tidy Sum.

The backyard poultry keeper can hardly hope for success with turkeys, geese, ducks or guineas, but for those who have lofts over a garage, stable or coal shed, the opportunity for squab raising is well worth considering.

A space six feet square and high enough for a person to stand erect will accomodate eight to ten pairs of pigeons for squab breeding, the poultry specialists say. The birds mate and begin breeding when six or seven months old. The male shares with the hen the duty of incubation. The young hatch in about seventeen days. At four weeks old the average squabs will weigh about three-quarters of a pound.

A good pair of breeders will produce six or seven more pairs of squabs a year. As many as eleven pairs of squabs have been produce by one pair in a year. When production is high the female lays and begins incubation while she has young still in the nest, leaving the care of them to her mate.

To stiffen the running board of the Ford car bolt the ends of an old iron bed rail just behind the front fender. Long hooks are next connected to the center of the rail and to the frame of the car.

A narrow apron fastened to the front bow of the top with upholstery tacks, arranged to hang down slightly below the edge of the windshield, will prevent the cold drafts that strike the back of the neck.

"The Way to the Heart Is Thru the Stomach"

EUROPEAN CORN BORER AND OTHER BORING CATERPILLARS WHICH MAY BE MISTAKEN FOR IT.

In certain sections of the eastern United States the notorious European Corn Borer has become established, and in view of the grave danger of this serious foreign pest being brought into Canada, the Entomological Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture have issued a special circular dealing with this insect and others which bore in corn and which may be mistaken for it. This has been prepared by Mr. Arthur Gibson, Chief of the Division of Field Crop and Garden Insects. It comprises 14 pages and has seven illustrations. A limited edition only of this circular has been printed. Agricultural workers and others specially interested may obtain copies free of charge on application to the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

POISONOUS WEEDS.

The old saying that "One man's meat is another man's poison" appears to be true in the case of different kinds of live stock. It is a fact that some plants which poison horses are not injurious to cattle or sheep, and some which cause loss among cattle and sheep are not eaten by swine and horses. In Bulletin No. 39, Second Series of the Experimental Farms, "Prinpcipal Poisonous Plants of Canada," by Miss Faith Fyles, B.A., obtainable free upon application to the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, a list of plants which do injury to the various classes of animals is given. The bulletin, which is prepared for live stock owners, gives information regarding poisonous plants and enables the farmer to distinuish the most harmful species in his neighborhood so that he may be able to avoid pasturing animals on infested areas until the danger is past. The yearly loss due to plant poisoning is known to be on the increase, but the amount of the loss is not ascertainable because many fatalities are attributed to other causes through lack of knowledge of poisonous plants.

APPLE TREES TO AN ACRE.

To determine the number of trees per acre for any given distance multiply the distance between the trees in the row by the width of the row. Take that number and divide 43,560 by it. The resulting figures will give the number of trees per acre.

The number of trees to set per acre: 16x16 feet, 170 trees; 18x18 feet, 134 trees; 20x20 feet, 108 trees; 20x30 feet, 72 trees; 24x24 feet, 75 trees; 25x25 feet, 69 trees; 30x30 feet, 49 trees; 32x32 feet, 42 trees; 36x36 feet, 33 trees; 40x40 feet, 27 trees.

You may make your land feed your cows, but you can't keep it up unless your cows feed your land.

EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

Almost every farmer in Canada is interested in some phase of the agricultural work carried on by the Dominion Experimental Farms System both at Ottawa and on the twenty branch farms distributed between the Atlantic and the Pacific. The work covered on these farms includes investigations with live stock, field crops, fruit growing, tobacco, bees, poultry and, in fact, all branches of agriculture adapted to Canadian conditions. The report of the Dominion Experimental Farms for the Fiscal Year, 1919, is obtainable from the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. This report records many valuable and interesting experiments that are under way. Among these are experiments in feeding live stock for market, and summer and winter experiments in fattening swine; the Bee Division gives a preliminary report of its experiments with two queens in one hive, and in the Division of Economic Fibre Production the variety test and the prairie flax straw experiments are outlined. Throughout this publication there are many valuable conclusions stated which are based on the experimental work conducted at these farms.

RULES FOR CALF FEEDING.

1. Do not overfeed.
2. Give feed in a clean, wholesome condition.
3. Have all utensile scrupulously clean.
4. Feed regularly and in small quantities.
5. Always feed at a temperature of 95 to 100 degrees F. Use a thermometer—do not use your finger.
6. Give the calf water to drink.
7. Be regular in everything.
8. Give the calves exercise in the open air during good weather, but do not expose them during cold, rainy weather.
9. Provide clean, well lighted pens with plenty of bedding.
10. Gruel feeding may be continued after the fourth month if desirable or it may be discontinued at three months of age and the calf be put on a hay and grain ration.

They were rehearsing for the opera, when the conductor was nearly frightened out of his boots by a terrific blast from the trombone player.

"What are you doing?" roared the conductor.

"I'm sorry, sir," came the reply, "it was a fly on my music, but," he added, with just a touch of prefessional pride, "I played him!"

The largest pin factory is in Birmingham, England, where something like fifty million pins are manufactured every working day.

France has some five thousand miles of canals, which are broad and deep enough to carry barges of six feet draught and of three hundred tons burden.

Why Should a Newspaper Give Free Publicity In Its Columns?

Philadelphia Paper Tells of the Dozens of Requests Which Every Newspaper Receives Daily to Print Free Something Which Will Help Somebody Else, But Not the Paper.

Were Philadelphia to pay at commercial rates for all the free advertising which the newspapers now contribute gratis, the annual outlay for that item would exceed the whole cost of the police department.

There is never a single copy of those papers printed on any day of the year which does not contain from one to twenty items, either so-called news or editorial, that is a gratuity handed out for the common welfare and from which the paper directly or indirectly received a penny of profit.

The people of this city never expect a shipyard to do anything but build ships. A locomotive plant has done its duty when it constructs railway engines. A hat factory, flour mill, clothing factory, bank, store, trolley road and telephone is not reckoned upon to give its time, service or capital for boosting any enterprise excepting its own.

But a newspaper has dozens of requests every day to print or to urge, to condemn or damn, to beg or promote something of which the owner of the paper, derives no financial benefit. He is expected to employ his capital in that way for the common welfare.

A newspaper has but two common sources of income. One is from the sale of the paper and the other from the sale of the advertising space.

Whatever in a paper does not attract readers to buy is not a profitable thing for the owner financially.

Whatever in a paper takes up space where an advertisement might be printed is a direct and immediate loss. Very little of what is called "civic boosting" ever brings to a newspaper a single reader. Certainly no begging proposition does.

Somebody always requires 'relief,'' so it seems, and the papers are expected to print columns of appeals, but no persons would ever think of buying a newspaper just to read an article asking him to contribute money to someone 6,000 miles away.

An account of a prize fight, baseball game, murder, election, elopement in high social circles, a horse race, a battle or a hot debate in Congress, would sell papers. Readers would buy to see that sort of thing.

Yet the Philadelphia papers give daily many columns of space on white paper that costs them dearly to the boosting or begging or promoting propositions. And let Philadelphans remember that such is not the case everywhere.

The journal which for a century and a quarter has been regarded in all parts of the world as the greatest newspaper published is the London Times. But so far as booming anything in London goes, the Times might as well be printed in Tokio. It devotes but little of its resources and capital to that sort of thing.

It may be contended that it is a newspaper's legitimate business to urge and beg and boost. But it is no more the function of a newspaper than of a magazine, and magazines thrive by publishing only such articles as their editors believe the public wishes to read.

The magazine tries and does secure circulation by intersting its readers and so gets advertisements. It publishes no appeals, neveru rges better street paving and cleaning, does not coax people to contribute for the support of hospitals and colleges, makes no demonstration for saving babies, swatting the fly or any of those public things which daily newspapers are constantly asked to help.

Every newspaper publsher knows that there is neither circulation nor financial gain in such a policy, yet they all do it.

So the newspaper gives more of its service free than almost any other institution that is not an endowed charity while at the same time it voluntarily, for what seems the public good, refuses to accept profitable advertsing. Who can estimate, therefore, the sum total of such a policy, day in and day out, adhered to by our newspapers?—Corn Exchange, Philadelphia.

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW IN CHINA.

When a Chinese girl is married she must wait four months before etiquette allows her to pay her first visit to her mother; but after this initiatory call it is within the bounds of social custom and propriety for her to visit the home of her parents at any time.

READS BIBLE EVERY YEAR.

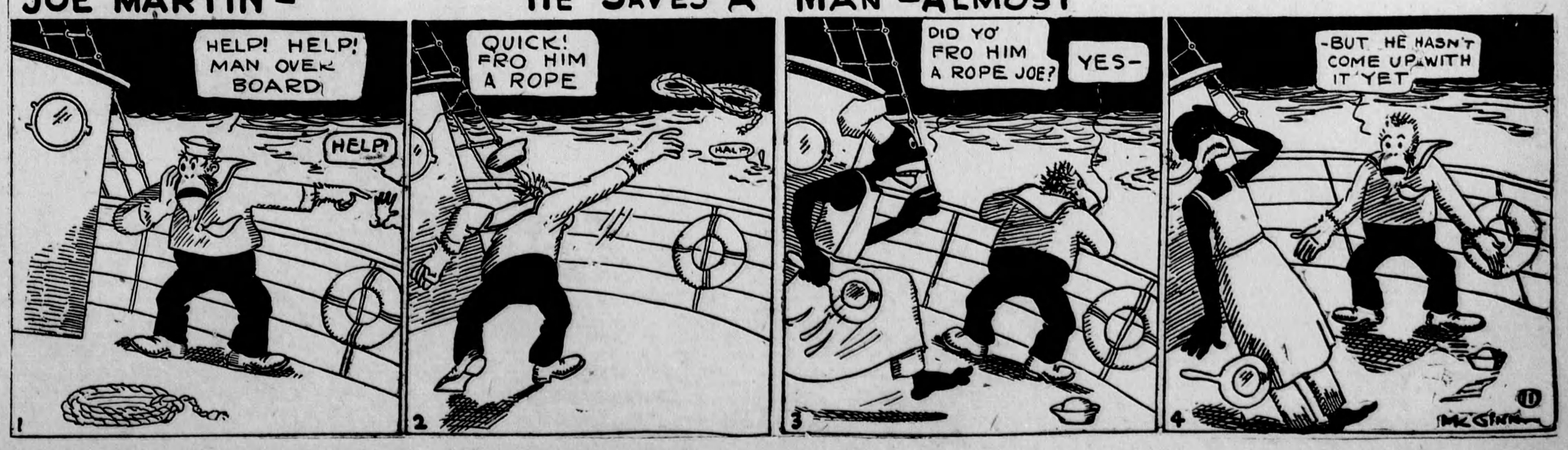
George Messick, 75 years of age, a retired railroad man, has made a practice of reading the Bible through, once a year, for the last twenty-five years. Usually he starts on the first of the year, and has so divided the chapters as to finish at the end of the year.

The Classified Advertisement Is the Natural Community Centre

The straight-line method is a "made in Canada" idea. We know it is correct because of its remarkable growth.

The classified advertisement is the straight-line method.

Your needs are peculiar. You want something, and someone has just what you want.

If you are an employer or an employee, a seller or a buyer, or if you want to make a trade, the logical, economical, straight-line way is through the classified advertisements.

A small ad. does everything possible, and often it accomplishes the impossible.