Soils and Crops

Address communications to Agronomist, 73 Adelaide St. West, Toronto

Buying and Feeding Feeder Sheep.

Success in buying and feeding lambs depends upon the man who buys and feeds them. A year ago I was talking with a feeder who was in the yards looking for some lambs. He told me that he bought a car-load the year before just before they started down. He waited until they struck the bottom and then purchased another load [illegible]. He didn't like the idea of [illegible] breaking even [illegible] and [illegible]. The [illegible] would have been three times [illegible].

[illegible] select his [illegible]

[illegible] For carrying [illegible] for every fifty ewes. [illegible]

With a large flock it is advisable to [illegible]. This consists in giving an extra allowance of nutritious, palatable food for two weeks [illegible] the desired date of breeding [illegible] be rapidly [illegible] the ewe [illegible] more likely to drop twins. [illegible]

[illegible] all the time, but at night only. To determine whether a ewe has been bred and at what time the ram should be painted on the brisket so that he will leave his mark on the wool of the ewe.

Suitable feeding racks should be provided for hay and grain. Light portable racks prove most satisfactory.

Pure drinking water should be supplied in abundance [illegible] part of the rail [illegible] Each sheep should have from four to six pounds of water daily. Sheep will not [illegible] unless it is available at all times.

Salt should be kept before them constantly [illegible] the first two or three days they should not be allowed all the salt they want [illegible] should be dissolved in water and the brine sprinkled [illegible]

[illegible]

If the sheep [illegible] they [illegible] have been shipped [illegible] Feed them hay and allow them to rest in the yards overnight. Give them plenty of fresh water. They will then be in better condition [illegible].

When driving sheep from the local yards to the farm let them take their time and graze along the roadside. They will not overheat if they are driven slowly. They will be very thirsty and should not be allowed to drink all they want until the second day. The first night they should be kept in a yard and fed clover or alfalfa hay. The next morning after they have had another feed of hay, turn them out to graze for three or four hours. If they are to be fed in a dry lot, start the grain the second day and increase it gradually. Feed twenty pounds of corn, thirty pounds of silage and 1.5 pounds of clover or alfalfa hay a head a day. Gradually increase their feed and in two or three weeks have them on full feed. If the feeding period is to be short, get them on full feed in about two weeks. Sheep have a better appetite on a bright clear day so it is best to make increases in feed on such a day.

Keep the feed troughs and the lots clean and fresh. When sheep are fed in dry lot they should be fed at the same hour each day. Feed twice each day, once in the early morning and again in the cool of the evening. If you have the range for the sheep it is more economical to let them gather a part of their roughage. If they get off feed, reduce the grain part of the ration.

Do not allow dogs nor strangers to enter the pens or frighten the sheep, for they will lose weight if frightened.

Poultry

Of all domesticated poultry, turkeys are probably the most difficult to rear. From the time they are hatched, up to that period of their life when the red shows into the head, they are more or less delicate, and must receive special attention. After that they are probably the most rugged of all fowls.

The turkey chick has a very small crop and should be fed every two hours for the first week. For the first three or four days hard-boiled eggs mixed with bread crumbs or coarse oatmeal can be given; but after that period the egg part may be dropped from the diet, although it generally is advisable to continue feeding it for a week, at least. Onions are highly relished and they are very good for the poults. The onions should be chopped up fine and kept constantly before the poults. Meat is another essential, as well as green food, of which tender lettuce is best.

A gobbler may be mated to ten hens. Pullets in their first year should be mated to a male in its second year, while hens over a year old are best mated to a vigorous cockerel. The turkey cock reaches maturity after the molt in its third year, and from then on is not reliable as a stock bird.

The hen prefers choosing her own nesting place, and usually where she lays her first egg she will drop all succeeding ones. After laying from fifteen to twenty eggs she generally becomes broody.

Interbreeding must be avoided. Nothing will claim more weak and ill-conditioned stock than close relationship, and the offspring naturally become prey to disease.

There must be strict cleanliness—clean roosting places, clean feed, and pure, clean drinking water. The young must be kept out of the rain; a sudden shower is generally fatal to them.

Pack the silage well in the silo. Poorly packed silage spoils. Distribute well, and tramp, tramp, tramp!

Harness waste power in some of your small streams, and hitch it to a dynamo to light your homes, run your washing machines, grind your feed, etc. Now is a good time.

Hogs

My neighbor asked me once to look at his pigs. I was about to step into the pen when he cautioned me: "Better take a stick with you, the sow is pretty cross."

This I found to be exactly true. The mother sow was in no humor to tolerate visitors. I soon saw that I would enter her pen at the risk of my life. As a natural consequence I kept out.

I have often contrasted the wildness of my neighbor's sows with the gentleness of my own. I am fully convinced that it pays to have gentle sows. At farrowing time I have no difficulty in caring for my sows; they do not mind in the least if I handle their pigs. As a result, I do not have to fight with the sows to get them to do as I wish. I do not need to go armed with a club; my sows have no fear of me and I have no fear of them.

A tame sow will look after her pigs much better than one that is wild. Because of her fear, the wild animal imagines danger to her young ones. As a result she frets and worries and uses up vital energy. Her pigs acquire the same fear and are hard to manage. Naturally they are harder to confine and invariably strive to break through the fences. The pigs from tame sows grow up tame, as a rule, and give a great deal less annoyance with respect to fences. In addition to all this, a tame hog fattens more easily than a wild one.

Fairs are in season now. One of the best ways to advertise your farm is to send a good exhibit of stock or farm crops.

Perhaps the most vital reason for using agriculture in the education of the country child is that it is in strict accordance with that recognized principle of educational psychology which demands that education should be built upon past experience. If this be accepted the daily experience of the farmyard and the farm home will furnish the groundwork of the teaching in the rural school; it will be the common stock from which other subjects grow, and the extent to which they grow will be limited only by the age and capacity of the pupil and the interest and the enthusiasm of the teacher.

Every Fire Hazard about the place should be eliminated. Fire Prevention simply means the saving of millions in property and more in life.

The Welfare of the Home—Child Labor

By RUTH S. AMBERG.

All through our country, indeed, throughout the world, interest in the welfare of children has increased tremendously during the last few years. Nearly a century ago humane people were beginning to bestir themselves against the evil called child labor, an evil which had naturally increased with the development of great industries. By the middle of the last century Charles Dickens, Elizabeth Barrett Browning and other lovers of children were systematically fighting this corruption through their writings and public interest has gradually increased so that now thinking people, through concerted action, are beginning to demand that child labor shall cease.

The hope of the future lies in our children for they are to be the builders of the new world. The state, therefore, should give them every opportunity for betterment and parents should see to it that their children take advantage of all their privileges. By thus co-operating we should be able to abolish this hateful thing—child labor—and give our children schools, teachers, and equipment—all that makes for a full and happy childhood so that they may become strong, efficient men and women well fitted for a definite work which demands a living wage.

Through provincial and federal laws a wall of protection has been built up in our country for the little toilers in factories, mines and quarries, but these children form only a small percentage of the child laborers, the vast majority of whom are still employed in city street trades, home industries, on farms and in canneries all over Canada. This does not mean that, where it is necessary, older children should not help by earning money outside of school hours, but to develop strong bodies and trained minds is the most important work of all children.

It is because child labor is costly not only to the child and his family but to the nation as well, that it must be blotted out.

Wise parents are beginning to see the extravagance of child labor and are willing to make personal sacrifices to educate their children for congenial work which demands a living wage; are beginning to see that the few dollars which the child earns when he should be in school are only pennies compared with the dollars that he could earn later on if only he were permitted properly to equip himself for some trade or profession.

What then is our problem? We should give children in agricultural communities equal educational opportunities with the children of cities, and parents throughout the country should do their utmost to give their children opportunities for education and development so that they will receive proper training for a maximum earning capacity and so that our nation can conserve the very finest of our manhood and our womanhood.

Financial Notes

Tenders are being called up to Sept. 25th on a $3,000,000 bond issue of the Province of Saskatchewan. The announcement presents two alternatives; the first request is on the $3,000,000 6 per cent. 10-year bonds, dated Sept. 1st, or Oct. 1st, 1920 at the option of the purchaser, the principal and interest payable in Regina, Toronto, Montreal and New York. At the same time alternative bids are asked on $3,000,000 6 per cent. 20-year debentures dated optionally as in the previous instance, and the principal and interest payable in Regina, Toronto and Montreal.

The success of certain Ontario municipalities in the marketing of their debentures "over the counter" to their own people, is attracting a good deal of attention throughout Canada. The latest city to come into this category is Brantford, reported to have sold over a half a million debentures to its citizens, since the first of the year. Others of the smaller Ontario towns and cities have also been trying out this method of interim financing and have found it to work out well.

While this method of financing will not likely do for the big issues, which can best be placed through firms with wide organization, it has been found satisfactory for odd lots and small blocks placed in between the bigger issues.

The Shawinigan Water and Power Company have now under construction at Shawinigan Falls, extension to plant that will cost over $3,000,000 and take some two years to complete. It is the purpose of the company to considerably augment the 333,700 h.p. electrical and hydraulic development now being generated at Shawinigan Falls and the Laurentide Company. Present plans take into consideration the eventual adding of 310,000 h.p., with 100,000 h.p. at Shawinigan as the first step; 60,000 h.p. at Laurentide as the second unit; and later, 150,000 h.p. at Gres Falls. Present demand for power is expected to readily absorb projected increases in plant.

Boys and girls play together in Persia.

Arguing politics over a cracker barrel never increased farm production.

Soybeans can be threshed with an ordinary threshing machine.

Baled hay is easier to handle and brings a better price than loose hay. But baling won't make good hay out of poor hay. Bale only the best.

Requirements of a good farmer are the ability to make a full and comfortable living from the land, to rear a family carefully and well, to be of good service to the community, to leave the farm more productive than when he took it.

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HE WAS A NEIGHBOR

Mr. Dictionary, that big book that contains so many words that I can't spell, says that a neighbor is "one who lives near another." I guess it is right.

For many years Bob —— and Harry —— owned adjoining farms. They merely passed the time of day when they met. You see, about twenty years ago Bob's Holstein bull decided he would pay Harry's farm a visit. He did. He also ruined the fences, damaged a grain field and did a few other well-known bully tricks. Harry was mad, and he never got over it. He failed to see that it was the bull and not Bob that failed to act as [illegible] man.

Then Bob moved out West [illegible] man, Jim —— moved [illegible] known as a book farmer [illegible] jority of the farm [illegible] Harry [illegible] mentioned [illegible]

[illegible]

Last spring Jim passed [illegible] he was [illegible] among [illegible] road, as far as you could see [illegible] blocked with autos, buggies [illegible] and every [illegible]. All came [illegible] last good-bye to Jim. The [illegible] with tears streaming [illegible] address [illegible] saying, "[illegible] bor."

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these [illegible] ye have done it unto me."

Plant Bulbs for Winter Flowers.

[illegible]

Found Wanting.

Sister's new admirer had [illegible] seated on the sofa when little [illegible] brought him a glass of water and tendered it to him very politely. The young man drank it and returned the glass to the small boy, who looked disgusted.

"He doesn't," he said to his sister.

"Doesn't what, dear?"

"Why, he doesn't drink any different from anyone else, and dad said he drank like a fish."

Queen Victoria visited Ireland on four occasions. In 1849 she landed at the "Cove of Cork" which was renamed "Queenstown" in honor of her visit.

LAUGHTER IS [illegible] NOTE TO CHAR[illegible]

A MAN'S MIRTH [illegible] STUDY [illegible]

Person's Laugh [illegible] able and a [illegible] of C[illegible]

[illegible]

"That's [illegible] Peter. "Why [illegible] on me?"

"To buy some [illegible] pork you were [illegible] said Biggers [illegible]

Buy Thrift Stamps [illegible]