

STRAW FOR FEEDING

A Great Factor for Carrying Over Live Stock.

Of Most Value When Cut Early—Old Straw Heat of the Cereals—Old and Musty Straw Not Desirable for Live Stock Feedings.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.) The quantity of straw consumed by the live stock of Ontario amounts to many thousand tons each year. It is important as a feed, but unfortunately its value is frequently over-rated. Straws, the by-products of different grains, have different values. The line of demarcation between hays, straws and fodders is not clear, but generally speaking straw is the by-product of ripened grain or forage plants, being made up of the dry leaves and stems. The nearer the plant is to the mature condition at time of harvest the lower the feeding value, because of the concentration of the nitrogenous and fat properties in the developing and ripening straw.

Straw Best When Cut Early. The straw from over-ripe grain is generally hard in character, unpalatable and indigestible; while the straw from grain cut on the green side is softer, more palatable, and generally contains a higher percentage of digestible matter. The hard condition of some varieties of straw can be such to be almost useless as a feed. Even if such fodder has a feed value, that value cannot be satisfied as indicated by the digestion processes of our domestic animals.

Variables of Straw Feed. The straws generally used for stock feeding are oat, barley, wheat, pea and clover. Others such as timothy hay, bean and rye straws are sometimes used, but with indifferent results. Oat straw, the best of the various straws for feeding, carries considerable feed value as indicated by chemical analysis, but unfortunately a large percentage of the nourishing properties cannot be extracted by the digestion processes of our domestic animals. What is true of oat straw is more pronounced with the other varieties of straw, the harder and drier such are the less the animals can extract from them.

Oat Straw is a Good Bulky Feed. Oat straw can be used as a feed for cattle, horses and sheep during the autumn and winter period to supply bulk and some nourishment to the ration. Dry cattle can use large amounts of oat straw as a maintenance feed. Horses that are at work can use oat straw as a large part of their ration. Straw is bulky for horses at rest, or heavy work.

Barley Straw, if free from beards, makes a good oat straw, as a feed and may be used as a roughage, but a good part of the animal maintenance must come from some other source. Wheat Straw Feeds—Also Dry. Wheat straw has a lower value than oat straw, and serves to give bulk and a small part of the required nourishment to the animals. Wheat straw is a valuable feed for sheep, but in winter feeding plays an important part in the maintenance of flocks. Dry sheep should be given generally so hard and indigestible as to be of little use as a stock feed. Clover and other legume straws which contain compounds of considerable feed value are frequently so hard and unpalatable that the animal can make only partial use of them. Pea and vetch straws are generally the most valuable of the legume straws. They are soft and tender, straw or alfalfa stems carry a feed value that is generally out of reach of the average farm animal. However, unless these materials are cleaned or finely ground.

Old and Musty Straws are Not Feeds. Old, dry and musty straws have little or no feed value, fresh soft and clean straws are superior. Musty straws can generally be used to good advantage by all live stock if care is taken to supply them in a manner that will aid the animal organism to extract the nourishing elements. "Cutting, steaming" or mixing with other feeds, to increase palatability and digestibility, is always advised.—L. Stevenson, Sec., Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.

Vegetable Matter. The advantage of matter in the soil may be summed up as follows: It aids aeration, retains moisture, prevents baking, provides conditions suitable for bacteria, aids decomposition of soil particles, supplies plant food, keeps soil layer, prevents leaching, warms and dries. Every component of the soil, the soil vegetable matter of any sort, should be taken advantage of by all farmers wherever it occurs in the soil.

Save Shelling Peas. Save shelling peas by using the following method: Wash, and put the unshelled peas in a strainer. Soak for fifteen minutes; stir thoroughly with a fork, then drain. Add a pinch of soda, and boil for ten minutes. Pour out the empty peas; put the peas in a strainer, and wash. All the shelling is done. You will have saved the sweetest from the pods and such valuable time.

In The Public Eye. WHAT YOU DON'T SEE WILL HURT YOU. The eyes are the windows of the soul. When the eyes are diseased, the soul is in danger. The eyes are the windows of the soul. When the eyes are diseased, the soul is in danger. The eyes are the windows of the soul. When the eyes are diseased, the soul is in danger.

O. T. WALKER, R. O. 101 R. 33

Help burned Ontario over winter

MEN and women of Ontario—it is time that we should all realize the terrible completeness of the fire calamity that devastated Northern Ontario in the early days of October. Fires and calamities we have had before—but never such complete destruction as this. Over 1,200 square miles laid desolate, town after town, nothing but a bleak expanse of ruins, hundreds of farms swept bare, thousands of your fellow citizens "cleaned out" and thrown abruptly back into man's primeval struggle against nature and her grim forces—fire, hunger, ice and the stark northern cold.

Give 1,800 families a fighting chance to get on their feet. Temporary relief must go on. We must not fail the North.

Winter—the relentless foe

Coming as this terrible fire did, in the autumn, with the harvest in, with the townships already preparing for the rigors of winter, the complete destruction wrought is the hardest to overcome.

Thousands of people at first had literally no place to lay their head, little to wear and nothing to eat. They had to be taken care of at first, somehow, and then, despatched on the day's journey by, and the cold grew more intolerable, though but a servicable standard of 16° and 20° have been replacing their old street cars, packing boxes and sheet iron—a regular food supply has been established, and rough clothing is being distributed.

What can a man do with his hands? A man who has been burned, his hands charred, his work done, his twisted pile of rubbish—and a northern blizzard raging over all!

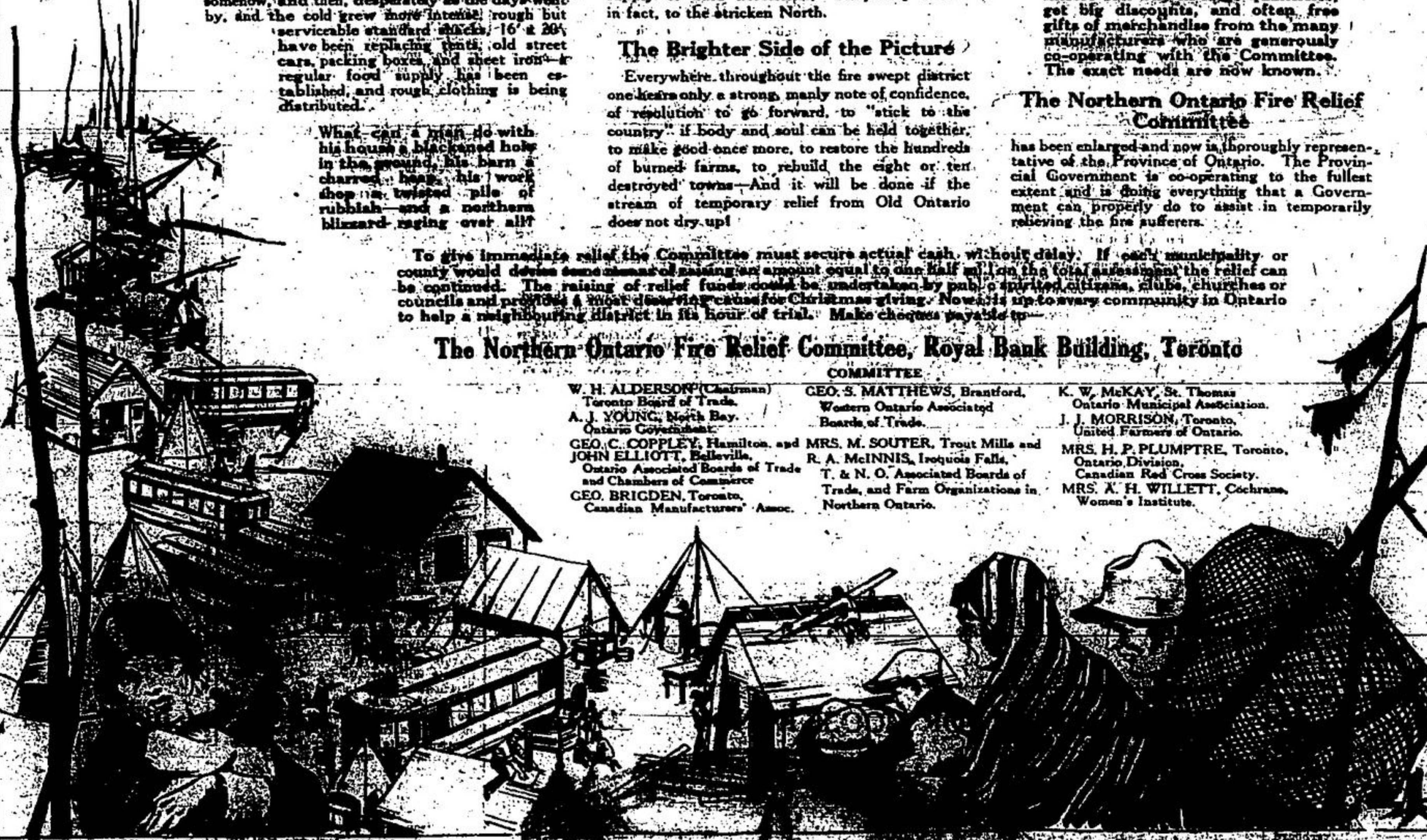
To give immediate relief the Committee must secure actual cash, without delay. If each municipality or county would devote some amount of money, not equal to one half million, the total assistance the relief can be continued. The raising of relief funds could be undertaken by public spirited citizens, clubs, churches or councils and provided a more direct means for Christmas giving. Now is the time to every community in Ontario to help a neighboring district in its hour of trial. Make cheques payable to

The Northern Ontario Fire Relief Committee, Royal Bank Building, Toronto

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- K. W. McKAY, St. Thomas, Ontario Municipal Association. J. J. MORRISON, Toronto, United Farmers of Ontario. MRS. H. P. PLUMPTRE, Toronto, Ontario Division, Canadian Red Cross Society. MRS. A. H. WILLET, Cochrane, Women's Institute.



SKINNING AN ANIMAL

How to Get the Best Out of a Hide.

Skin While the Carcass is Warm—Have the Knife Sharp—Avoid Wrecking—Cut Carefully About the Legs.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.) During the autumn season, considerable farm butchering is done, and in the operation many good hides are spoiled in the skinning. To do a good job, easily select a clean, hard spot in the shelter of a tree or in a building if the floor is good. A block and tackle or other hoist arrangement should be rigged in a convenient position.

Skin While Carcass is Warm.

The animal should be clean; if not it will be difficult to keep the hide and carcass in proper condition. The skinning should start immediately the animal is dead, and the more quickly it is done while the animal is warm the more easily the hide will come off. Make sure that the knife is sharp. After stunning and sticking the animal it should be suspended to facilitate bleeding. When in the suspended position the operator should begin skinning the head, cheeks and throat. When skinning over the face leave the flesh on the head. The presence of meat on the hide is an objection. The head is removed from the neck at the atlas joint or end of the spinal column. The horns should not be removed from the skull. With the head cut off the way the animal should be completely lowered and placed breast up, being held in this position by a spiked stick between the neck and floor. The legs should then be skinned out and the feet removed.

Avoid Wrecking of Workable.

After removing the feet the hide should be rigged down the belly from the shoulders to the tail. The hide should be obtained by working forward to the hocks and then back to the heads of the hind legs, close to the tail. The legs should be used to pull away, pulling outward and upward toward the hocks. Care should be taken to avoid the formation of wrinkles under the hide as it is being removed; the hide should be slipped off, rather than pulled over the other side of the neck and the other side in the same manner. Cut Carefully About the Legs.

For the rest of the front legs start in the middle of the chest and work forward to the hocks and then back to the union of the neck and body and on down the middle of the leg to the tail and split the skin in straight line to the hock. Split over the hump and hock. At this stage it is best to insert a gambrel above the hock joints and raise the carcass so that the shoulders will fall over the floor. Split the skin on the under side of the tail and skin out the tail bone to the tip.

Skin the Hide Carefully Away from the Jaw of the Skull and Strip from the Legs and Hoof, using the flat or a blunt instrument such as a knife handle, tapping across the back of a cleaver, the careful and do not cut into the bone. Each cut redoes the raising. When skinned down to the hocks the carcass is hoisted clear of the floor and the skinning completed over the neck. Split the carcass by getting underneath and fold the hide over the side in the proper alignment. Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.

Save the Skin for the Farmer.

Farmer who have not already done so should require to lay by a store of ice for cooling milk and for household use next summer. The cost of harvesting and storing ice is low when compared with the saving effected. Ordinarily, it is safe to harvest two tons of ice for each cow in the herd. This will allow for melting and leave enough for family needs. Where cream only is sold, about one-third of that quantity of ice will be needed.

Did you ever try co-operation in ice harvesting?

It works like a charm. Get one or two of your neighbors to go into such a scheme. One pond or stream and one set of tools will answer for all. The equipment necessary for harvesting and storing ice consists simply of saws, tongs, and iron bars for pushing the blocks of ice around. A rough board enclosure ten feet square and eight feet high will hold sufficient ice to provide fifty pounds per day for 150 days after allowing for a reasonable amount of wastage. An important fact to be remembered is that the smaller the quantity of ice stored the larger is the proportion of waste. The bottom of the enclosure should be covered with a foot of sawdust, and a foot of space left between the boards and the ice, which should also be filled with sawdust. The ice should be similarly covered. The water under the enclosure is imperious clear, a layer of gravel under the sawdust is desirable. If sawdust is not obtainable, planer mill shavings will serve. If neither is to be had, two feet of marsh hay or any wild hay will answer. The roughest kind of a shed that will resist the weather is all that is required. If you are not making money on the farm, scratch your head and do some hard thinking. Keep feeding the hens or they'll stop laying. Keep feeding the piglets or they'll stop growing.

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