

Problems of the Farm

Contributed by Grey County Department of Agriculture

Sheep Work in 1922.

Quite recently the Department of Agriculture, Markdale, received a letter from Mr. James A. Telfer, Sheep Promoter of Western Ontario, re Sheep Extension Work for 1922. It says in part: "Beginning with the week of April 17, we are prepared to furnish you with two field men, Mr. Howard and Mr. McConnell. These field men are to work under your direction and to carry on demonstrations in docking, castrating and shearing until the end of May. During the month of May we will also have a third man whom I should be glad to have assist the sheep raisers in certain communities in the placing of a permanent Community Dipping Plant in three or four districts. This plant is to be made of concrete with the assistance of the producers of that community in which it is placed. You will notice that by such action we will be making permanent our former work in this district. During June it is proposed that we assist the sheep breeders in the districts in which these permanent tanks have been placed with the dipping of their sheep. All of this work will be conducted as preliminary work leading up to a special sheep and fair sale day or days, feeling as I do that such an effort will cover at least two days."

We are doing our utmost to get farmers interested. If any desire help, it will be given free of charge. We want to make this year a bumper year in sheep work in Grey County. Farmers, we ask your cooperation.

Nitro Culture for Clovers.

Quite a large number of orders for Nitro Culture have been received. We regret there have not been more but it is not too late to order yet.

Nitro Culture is a preparation made by a gelatinous substance called Agar, in which are myriads of bacteria taken from the little nodules or lumps which grow on the roots of clovers, alfalfa, beans or peas.

The Nitro Culture when mixed with milk and poured on the clover seed leaves the bacteria sticking to the seed. These bacteria help the plant to get nitrogen from the air thereby assisting it to grow and at the same time storing more in the roots of the plant.

Nitrogen is the most expensive part of any fertilizer. The farmers who grow the largest crops have a large amount in the soil. That is the benefit of growing clovers. They collect it from the air and deposit it in the soil. No other crop except clovers, alfalfa, peas and beans do this.

Nitro Culture will assist the clovers to get nitrogen easier. They will grow better. The danger of heaving is lessened and therefore greater crops are assured. It only costs 50 cents per bottle, which is sufficient to do a bushel. T. Stewart Cooper, Agricultural Representative, Markdale, will be pleased to show any farmer how to use it if they let him know when they are ready to sow the clover. He will come right to the farm and do this work for the farmers free of charge.

School Fairs.

We have up to date 150 rural schools engaged in the School Fair work. There are 224 rural schools

in Grey. A large number are therefore not interested, but that number is decreasing quickly.

We are receiving new applications yet. It is not too late for teachers to send in orders. We are expecting at least 170.

We have sent out some material. The rest will go as soon as more seeds arrive. Join now and we will do our best to make the Fairs in Grey County the best yet. If in doubt as to the success of the School Fair movement, compare the number engaged with those not engaged. The Department of Agriculture welcomes you.

SILOS AND SILAGE FOR DAIRY USE (Experimental Farms Note.)

The time has long since passed when a silo ceased to be an experiment. No matter in what section of this broad country of ours a dairy farmer may be located, he can use a silo and some form of silage to advantage. Briefly, the advantage of having a silo lies in the fact that it provides cheap, succulent, nutritious and palatable feed throughout the winter months and even during the dry spells in summer if necessary. This in turn makes for healthy, thrifty cattle and economical production of milk.

Silos may be made of wood in various forms, of solid cement, of cement or tile blocks, or even in holes in the ground lined with cement, the latter being known as pit silos. The prospective builder must choose the type best suited to his conditions and capital. Properly built, any of them will keep the silage. The four fundamental factors in a silo are strength to resist the pressure the silage exerts; close construction so as to exclude all air; smooth, straight walls so as not to impede the settling of the silage in the silo; and a handy means of getting out the silage. As regards design, the larger diameter silo costs less per ton capacity than the smaller, both being the same height; of two silos of the same diameter, the higher gives a greater capacity per foot height than the lower. The silo which provides proper storage for silage at the least cost per ton is the silo to build.

Silage may be made from quite a large variety of farm crops, including corn, sunflowers, peas, oat and vetch mixture, sweet clover, red clover and some of the grasses. Of the above mentioned crops, corn, where it can be grown, is the ideal crop as it gives good yields and makes an excellent quality of silage. If unable to grow corn, sunflowers are about the best substitute in most localities but they do not make as palatable a form of silage. These two crops are to be specially recommended as they are sown in drills and intertilled, consequently help to keep the land free of weeds. The other crops mentioned all make good silage if ensiled in proper condition, but do not yield as heavily per acre. Mixtures of these latter crops would make as good and in some cases better silage than one single crop, particularly if corn forms a fairly large part of the mixture.

To make good silage the crop must be cut in the field and put into the silo while still fairly green and juicy. It must be cut in short enough lengths to pack well, and it must be packed well. As a rule, crops with solid stems make better silage than those with hollow stems

as the latter carry too much air in the hollow places which cannot be entirely pressed out. Too much air means too much fermentation and mouldy spots in the silage. This may be overcome by thorough tramping in the silo and by moistening the material with water when filling the silo, if it is too dry. Better silage results in a silo filled to the top and refilled after settling than one only partly filled owing to the extra pressure. Frost does not injure the silage in a silo provided it is used as soon as it thaws out, which it should always be allowed to do before being given to the cattle.—Geo. W. Muir, Animal Husbandman, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

LOCAL TELEPHONE MANAGER TO BE DISPENSED WITH

(Walkerton Herald and Times.)

Following out a rigid system of economy which they are inaugurating, the Bell Telephone Company have dispensed with the position of local manager of the Telephone Central here and have made the Walkerton Central a traffic office with the chief operator, Miss Hazel McNeill, in charge. This innovation will, it seems, effect quite a saving of money in that accounting and other such work that was done in the local office for this section, will henceforth be carried on at the district office at Owen Sound. The change, which went into effect yesterday, entailed the retirement of Miss Etta Schnurr from the local managership, a position she has capably filled for the past three years. Miss Schnurr, who has been at the Walkerton central for nine years in one capacity or another, has been offered by the company the control of an office in several other places, but will take a few months' well-earned rest before deciding what future station she will take with the company. The new scheme of abolishing the local managers, and which has already been inaugurated in Walkerton, Newmarket and many other towns of similar size, will necessitate in this instance the more frequent visit of District Area Manager A. A. Smith of Owen Sound, to the Walkerton central, which he will now have more directly under his wing.

The meanest man has been found in Chicago. Fined \$200 for peeping at the windows of an institution for young women, he told the court it wasn't worth it.—Buffalo Express.

WALKERTON MAN REFUSED \$50,000 FOR INVENTION

(Walkerton Herald and Times.)

Mr. Joe Ernest's invention of movable front lights for cars, which turn with the front wheels and thus always throw a gleam forward in the direction these wheels are pointed and which overcomes one of the big dangers to autoists in turning about at night, was tried out by the inventor on the street here on Tuesday night and apparently worked to the utmost satisfaction. While Joe originated the contrivance, Mr. Joseph Newhouse, a local expert pattern maker, who has been working assiduously on the scheme for the past three months, is responsible for bringing it up to its present state of perfection. As Ernest claims to have been offered \$50,000 in the States for his invention, but turned it down in the belief that he could pull more than that out of it by either manufacturing it himself or letting it out on a royalty basis, the future outcome will prove whether he guessed rightly in the matter. At all events something along this line would seem to be a valuable aid to motorists.

ROAD WAGES TAKE DROP

Rural township councils are following the example of the provincial highway department in reducing the amount which they will pay for labor this year. Two years ago it was difficult to get men and teams even at a big wage. Last year it was easier and this year the surplus of labor is greater. Artemesia Township will pay \$5.00 for man and team and \$2.50 for man. Osprey Township have fixed a still lower rate and will pay man and team only \$4.00 and man \$2.00. The first figures are about the average that will be paid in rural Ontario and if we are any judge of mutton we will say teamsters will not become fabulously rich at \$5.00 per day.

Agnes Proud of Scottish Descent.

Miss Agnes MacPhail, when asked in Toronto why she spelled her name MacPhail and not as formerly, McPhail, explained that she did so to emphasize her Scottish ancestry. "Originally, I spelt my name McPhail," she said, "but that is Irish, and I do not want to be thought Irish. I am Scotch. About ten years ago I commenced to write my name MacPhail and have done so ever since."

VETERINARIANS MAY QUALIFY FOR ACCREDITED HERD TESTING

Arrangements have recently been made by the Dominion Minister of Agriculture whereby practising veterinarians will be enabled to take part in the accredited herd work now being carried on by the Health of Animals Branch of that Department. By thus augmenting its regular staff, the Department hopes to proceed more rapidly with the testing of herds for tuberculosis than has been possible hitherto, and thus keep pace with the increasing demand. Veterinarians who desire to take part in this work will be enrolled on the approved list after passing the examination prescribed by the Civil Service Commission, and becoming familiar with the technique under the supervision of a regular inspector.

The examination, of which full particulars may be had at any post office, will be held locally on April 27. Veterinarians who have already passed the examination will be eligible on taking the prescribed training. Veterinarians on the approved list will not only be available for herd testing, but also for emergency work, as well as for permanent ap-

pointment when vacancies occur, provided they are under the age of 41 years.

TEA PRICES RISING

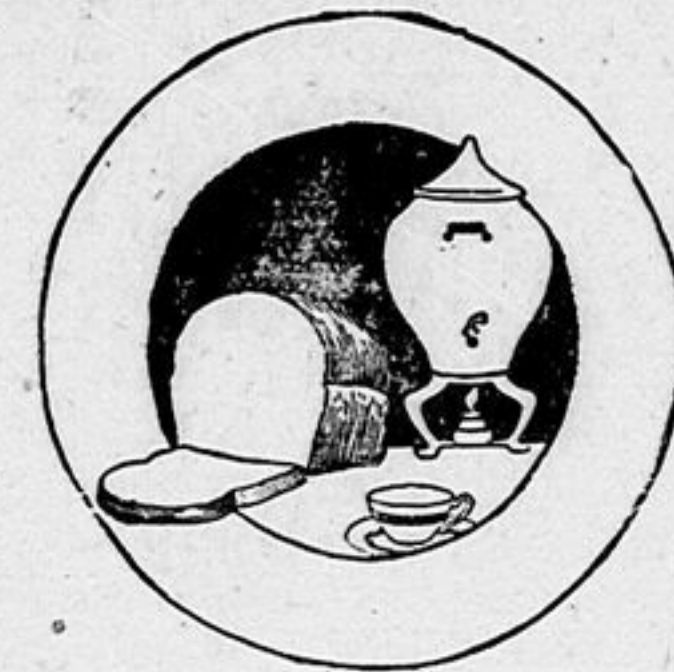
Rumour has it that the labor unrest and general dissatisfaction in India, the largest tea producing country in the world, have made production so expensive and hazardous that a general rise in prices may be expected in the near future. The estimated consumption this year will be much larger than the crop available.

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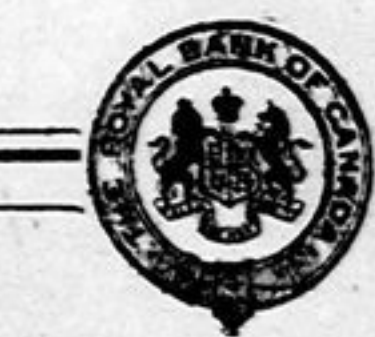
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