

FERGUS DISSATISFIED, TOO

Toronto dailies and those of other favored cities continue to shoot their silly twaddle about the satisfaction and contentment which they say is unanimous in all hydroelectric municipalities. Evidently Fergus is far from delighted with the hydroelectric autocracy, judging from the following which appeared in the News-Record of two weeks ago:

Craig—Muir—That the following statement re Hydroelectric be approved by the Council and forwarded to Hon. W. E. Raney, our representative in the Legislature.—Carried.

"About six years ago the municipality of Fergus was induced to place the management of its electric department in the hands of the Hydroelectric Commission, it being represented that these gentlemen would act as trustees or servants of the village. No sooner did the Hydroelectric Commission take charge than they proceeded to ride rough-shod over the municipal Council. Instead of taking orders from the Council, whose servants they were supposed to be, the Commission issued its orders with all the autocratic insolence of a Kaiser, and from these orders there was no appeal. The said servants became the dictatorial masters of the people who are treated as children, Fergus supplies all the money for its electric department but has not one word to say about what is done with the money. That is really controlled and directed by a Committee in Toronto, which knows nothing about our needs, and which takes so little interest in the ratepayers that since Hydroelectric was turned on, not one of them has been inside the municipality. The Hydroelectric Commission controls everything connected with electric power and light in Fergus, but are not responsible to the people for their acts. This is the Prussian Bureaucratic system set up in Ontario after being discredited in Germany.

We ask to have the control of our local affairs handed back to us. We ask for the establishment here of the great democratic principle that those who pay the money should say what is to be done with it. If the Hydroelectric Commission must be recognized at all by this municipality, they must be placed wholly and entirely under the direction and control of the Fergus Council, which must be recognized as being in supreme control. The Municipal Council, being elected by the people and responsible to them, demand their ancient rights and freedom from dictation by anyone. We ask simply self government and home rule. When Fergus pays for the electric energy, all control over that energy by anyone should instantly cease. If the people here had known the truth they would never have consented to a Toronto Committee managing their affairs. No harm can come to the Commission by giving back to Fergus control of its own affairs, and it will be satisfied with nothing else. If other municipalities wish to have a guardian set over them we are not objecting, but the electors of Fergus are not children and object in the strongest terms to any guardian trustee or servant not of their own choosing and absolutely under their own control. That is the irreducible minimum of our demand and no just Government can refuse it."

The following letter was received by the Fergus Council from Hon. W. E. Raney in reference to the above:—"I have the statement of the 6th inst. respecting the Hydroelectric situation in Fergus, forwarded pursuant to instructions of the Municipal Council of Fergus, and I have made a careful note of the vigorous terms of the protest of the Council. I will look into the matter and write you again when I have had time to get to an understanding of the difficulty. Meantime I wish you would write me, giving a short history of the dealing between the village and the Commission."

investigation of the Hydro Commission's dealings with the smaller municipalities. When all is said and done, however, not much kick can be registered from the electric service handed out by the Hydro; it is their autocratic manner and discrimination against the smaller centres that is under criticism. On the Eugenia circuit especially, the service has been all that could be desired, the only kick here being that there seems to be a screw loose in the rulings of some of the officials higher up. The Hydro head office does not seem to have any set rules for the general guidance of their superintendents, every one of whom seems to have his own little rules and regulations which he has the power to disregard at will. During the war, we heard much of the notorious German "scrap of paper." A contract with the Hydro seems to be about the same thing.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF SEED ELEVATOR PLANS

During recent years inquiry has increased for blue print plans of a small capacity seed elevator suitable for operation by farmers' clubs. Accordingly, a study was made of the subject, and data gathered and supplied the Chief Architect, Public Works Department, who, in turn, has completed a set of plans and specifications. These should prove sufficient for an elevator contractor to build from, including the placement of necessary machinery. The complete set includes five pages of blue prints and a manuscript of specifications and legal forms, the latter having to do with tendering on the construction of the elevator. This set is now available to the public on application to the Seed Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. A nominal fee of \$2.00 is charged for each set, and should accompany the application.

This type of elevator should give efficient as well as economical service in handling seed, cleaning to grade, conditioning, bulking, storing, warehousing, etc. It should be particularly adapted to districts where commercial quantities of registered seed grain are produced in addition to other seed crops. The plans allow for 1,000 square feet of warehouse space on the first floor, and sufficient office accommodation. There is a frost-proof basement which provides about 6,000 cubic feet for storage purposes. It will be seen, therefore, that in addition to handling and storing seed, the elevator may be used satisfactorily for grading, packing and storing apples or potatoes, grinding grain or storing merchandise, pending its distribution.

The specifications call for steel and cement construction. This, while it will insure a practically fireproof building, may prove more costly than some wood care to consider. However, when wood or other materials are used, the plans alone should prove valuable as a guide for building. The elevator is planned so as to be economical in staff to operate it. One first-class mechanic should be sufficient, with temporary help in rush seasons.

The total storage capacity of the bin is estimated at 8,000 bushels. Altogether, 28 bins are provided, 26 of which are comparatively small, each having a capacity of around 200 bushels. The other two bins are much larger, with an estimated capacity of 1,400 bushels each. It will be seen that the number of bins is too many, and the total capacity for storage too small, to provide first-class service in storing and handling large quantities of commercial grain. On a few car load basis, however, commercial grain may be handled to advantage by using the two large bins which have spout outlets and feed directly to a car when on the track outside.

Every bin has a self-cleaning hopper bottom, and empties by gravity either into the cleaning machines or baggers. Placements are provided for two cleaning machines on the second floor, leaving the first floor

totally free for warehousing purposes. These machines may be fed directly from the storage bins above, or by the short elevator leg, which is provided for the purpose.

VANDALS AT WORK IN WEST GARAFRAXA TOWNSHIP (Arthur Enterprise-News.)

A provincial police officer in the employ of the Attorney-General's department is at work in this vicinity in an effort to locate the perpetrator of a despicable outrage committed on the horses of Sylvester Smeltzer of West Garafra. When Mr. Smeltzer went to his barn on the morning of Sunday, 2nd inst., he found his horses in an agonized condition. Dr. Kelleher was sent for and later a veterinary from Mount Forest, and relief was administered. It is believed that in some way the animals were given a dose of Gillett's Lye or some similar preparation. Two of the animals were terribly burned, while two others were not so seriously affected. It is thought now that the lives of all will be saved. How the lye was administered is something of a problem, as it is very doubtful if the animals would eat or drink such a dose in any form. Crown Attorney Kearns was notified of the occurrence and had a police officer put on the job. While the whole affair seems veiled in mystery, it is quite probable that there is some connection between this and the poisoning affair in the same neighborhood, by which two sons of Mr. John Cope found what they thought was poison in their food in the pantry, which effected the death of their dog and sickened them critically. No person has been connected with this attempted crime, although Inspector Miller made an investigation into the affair at the time. Both crimes may yet be found to have been committed by one and the same party.

THE MANAGEMENT OF CLAY SOIL (Experimental Farms Note.)

Of all the various types of soil to be found, none when properly handled are more productive than the heavy clay. The very fineness of these soils gives them a large water-holding capacity, which will adapt them to the production of small grains and grasses.

The management of these soils presents special problems for consideration. Their fineness gives them a tendency to bake and to require more than the usual amount of labor in cultivation. The lack of sufficient surface or underdrainage makes them cold and wet in the spring, and when there is a lack of vegetable or organic matter, they are hard to work and less productive.

The methods of treatment here discussed are based on the results of field demonstrations and observations made on the Dominion Illustration Stations in Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. One of the great drawbacks with this type of soil is the fineness of the soil particles. To offset this condition, the farm practice should be so arranged that the operations will systematically open up and make these soils more porous. Special attention must be given to the time and type of ploughing and cultivation. Heavy clay soils should be fall ploughed when the moisture content is right. If worked when wet, they are apt

to puddle and bake. While it is necessary to plough these soils deeply the depth should be lowered gradually. The early working of these soils in the spring is most important. This cultivation should commence as soon as the proper moisture content is reached, but never when the soil is at all sticky. By passing some wide implement over the land, such as a drag harrow, the surface soil will be loosened and crumbled sufficiently to prevent it from baking into clods. This will check evaporation and maintain the proper moisture condition for a longer period.

Clay soils are generally wet and cold because the water in them is constantly evaporating, and evaporation is a cooling process. It is the coldness of a poorly drained soil as well as the excess water that it contains that is responsible for the unsatisfactory growth of crops from them. Drainage carries off this surplus water, makes the soil warmer, hastens germination, allows air to enter the soil and brings about favorable conditions for bacterial life.

To keep up the fertility of clay soils and to check their tendency to bake, considerable vegetable matter should be added. This can be done by applying straw manure and by plowing under leguminous crops, as clover, peas, vetches, etc. This can best be accomplished by following a definite crop rotation. By so doing each crop while being grown to its own greatest advantage will be at the same time preparing the soil for the reception of the next. A rotation of four years' duration is giving very satisfactory results on the Illustration Stations. Briefly, this rotation is as follows:

1st year, hoed crop—Corn, Turnips.

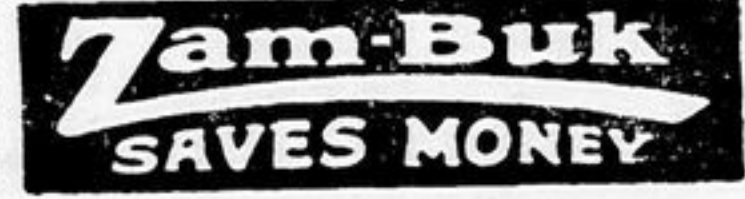
BACK TO WORK AGAIN —

—quite rid of an obstinate wound or other disabling injury. Wouldn't it make any man feel thankful toward Zam-Buk? A 50c. box of this wonderful healer is, to the wage earner, as good as any accident insurance policy. Cuts, wounds, burns and scalds can't fester or become inflamed or poisoned where antiseptic Zam-Buk is promptly applied.

"I was back at work in a week thanks to Zam-Buk, though the doctor was sure I would be laid-off for a month" says Mr. H. Hogben, 358, Beverley St., Winnipeg. "My hand caught in a revolving belt, and three fingers were badly mangled. After one week's use of Zam-Buk the wounds were well healed. It was worth three weeks' wages to me."

Mr. C. Oakley, of Saskatoon, Sask., says:—"Down at the stoneyard, I cut my leg badly. A doctor sewed up the wound and attended me for five weeks. It had cost me \$40 when I determined to try Zam-Buk. In two weeks I dollar's worth healed the limb splendidly."

Zam-Buk is equally valuable in eczema, acne, ringworm, ulcers, piles, abscesses, bad legs, etc. Purely herbal, it's a most wonderful skin remedy.



Mangels or Sunflowers. 2nd year, grain and seeded—\$ lbs. Red Clover, 2 lbs. Alsike and 10 lbs. Timothy. 3rd year, Clover Hay—1st cut, Clover Hay; 2nd cut, Clover Seed, or Hay. 4th year, mixed or pasture —J. C. Moynan, Division of Illustration Stations.

Nothing to be Alarmed About. "I am afraid, doctor," said a woman to the physician she had cornered at a reception, "that my husband has some terrible mental affliction. Sometimes I talk to him for hours, and then discover he literally hasn't heard a word I said." "That isn't an affliction, madam," was the weary reply. "That's a divine gift."

Injured by Gunpowder. (Listowel Banner.) On Thursday of last week, Willie McKay, son of Mr. George McKay of West Monkton, found out that gunpowder was a dangerous thing to play with. He is to-day suffering from a badly burnt face and eye. As far as can be learned, Willie was playing in the yard at his home, where he found some gunpowder and put it into a tin. Then he lit a match and ignited the gunpowder, with the result that there was an explosion. The side of his face and head are severely burnt and one eye was also injured.

Sounds All Right, Anyway. "Man with 11 wives may be insane," says a heading. It sounds reasonable.

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Census figures show that blindness is decreasing. Among men perhaps, but not among pigs.—Chicago News.

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