

New And Views Of For Canadian Farmers

Ditches in Swamps.

How to dig ditches in swamps is a real problem very often. An interesting story of how dynamite was used in one case has been told. A thick tangle of underbrush and stumps defied all economical efforts to put through the ditch—approximately twelve feet wide at the top, five feet deep, and twelve hundred feet long. The soil was a heavy, wet muck, and the men had to quit.

The contractor had no men in his employ that had had experience in ditching with dynamite, he told his troubles by mail to a powder manufacturer, and a demonstrator was dispatched post haste to solve the problem.

The ditch was "shot" in sections by a method technically known as a propagated blast. To explain what that means: A single row of holes was punched in the mud, spaced about twenty inches apart, and three feet deep. Each hole was loaded with two sticks of 40 per cent gelatin and one stick of 60 per cent straight dynamite. That is about 1 1/2 pounds to a hole. A length of fuse and a blasting cap were included in the charge in the middle hole of each section, but no detonators were used in any of the other holes. The charges down the line, extending in both directions from the middle hole were discharged by shock, carrying from hole to hole. That is what is meant by propagated blasting. It is a method that can be employed only when at least part of the charge in each hole is of "straight" dynamite, and only when the soil is dense and saturated.

Under any other conditions ditch blasting requires an electric blasting cap in every hole with the dynamite, and the charges must be fired with a blasting machine. However, when the blasting is done in this way, a cheaper grade of dynamite can be used and the bore holes can be spaced further apart, so that the increased cost of detonators is counterbalanced by decreased cost of dynamite.

This ditch was about twelve feet wide at the top and from five to seven feet deep when it was blasted out. It cost approximately twenty six cents per running yard. It was estimated that to dig a similar ditch by any other method would have cost about fifty cents per yard.

Harvesting the Onion.

The battle is only half fought when the onions are grown. Properly harvesting the onion is just as important and requires just as much skill as the growing, says a contributor to the Farm Progress.

We have raised several kinds of onions, including some raised from the seed, the potato or multiplier onion and the onions grown from cloves. We find that they all require about the same care in harvesting.

We used to make the mistake of topping our onions when the top was green, and consequently a large portion of them rotted. Of late years we do not top them, but leave the top on the onion till it dries up and drops off of its own accord.

We pull our potato onions when the tops are yellow and have begun to dry some. We leave them in small piles till they are pretty well dried, stirring them every day. They are then removed to an old shed and spread thinly over the floor. This is dry, but well ventilated. In a few weeks the top will fall off when the onion is picked up.

When the top is cut off too soon, the onions begin to get soft in the neck and soon spoil. By following the other method they keep extremely well.

We treat our seed onions in like

manner unless we are going to dispose of them at once. We let the tops cure fairly well before pulling, and if intending to store them they are put in a dry, well ventilated place to cure. If not, we let them dry in the patch, then top them not too closely and pack in open crates for shipping.

The clove onions are raised principally for the cloves. The cloves are gathered when ripe and spread in a dry place or tied up in open sacks after they are well cured.

Frost Deeper in Plowed Land.

During the last two years part of the orchard ground in Vineland Experimental Station has been plowed in fall and part in spring. Part of the cover crop turned under in fall plowing was rye and vetch, part buckwheat and part oats and clover. The results show that when the land was fall plowed rye and vetch froze one-quarter deeper than spring plowed; buckwheat, fall plowed, froze two-thirds deeper than spring plowed, and oats and clover considerably over twice the depth. Thus far in the experiment, no appreciable difference has been noted in the growth of the trees under the different systems of cover crops and dates of plowing, but there must be more danger of damage to roots where the frost penetrates twelve inches in the ground than where it goes only from a little over a third to two-thirds that depth.

On the land on which a buckwheat cover crop was left all winter, the frost penetrated to a depth of only 3.5 inches, on oat and clover ground to a depth of 4.5, and on ground where a rye-vetch cover crop was left all winter to a depth of 9 1/2 inches. The reason for this will be found to be due mostly to the amount of snow which the different cover crops are capable of holding. Thus in the rye and clover for the winter of 1915-16, the average amount of snow held by the buckwheat was 7 inches, by the oats and clover 8 inches, and by the rye and vetch 2.2 inches. The amount of snow held will vary in direct proportion to the stand of cover crop. If the vetches and rye had been a better catch, more snow would have been held and the freezing depth would have been shallower.

Use Tested Varieties.

In Peterboro County 40 farmers were visited by a representative of the Conservation Commission, and among the 40 farmers visited there were 17 different varieties of oats being grown. It is quite evident that there are not 17 best varieties, and it would seem that an effort and some study should be made to have a greater uniformity among the lines. Too many farmers have of some new variety, and without knowing anything about the suitability of it to their district, the strength of straw or the percentage of hull, will buy the new variety and sow it. It would be much better for them to sow the varieties that have been tested and proven to be of good all-round quality.—F. C. Nunick.

Feeding Pullets in the Fall.

The scratch grains advised for pullets when beginning to lay are four quarts, cracked or whole corn fed early in the morning, and two quarts each of wheat and oats fed not later than noon. These hard grains are scattered in a deep, dry litter of straw or planer shavings, so that the birds will have to exercise in getting them out. The dry mash is a mixture of dry, ground grains placed in a hopper large enough so that it will not require too frequent fillings. It is always available to the birds. The composition of this dry mash varies to meet the requirements of the pullets as they progress in egg production.

Money in Poultry.

At no time in the history of the Dominion has the necessity for increased production of eggs and poultry been more apparent than at the present time. The demand is unprecedented. This is true whether for export or for home consumption. Consumers generally, and even producers themselves, are eating more and more eggs. The average per capita consumption of eggs in Canada this year will be greater than ever before.

Even at present prices trade is increasingly active all over the country, and the prospects for a continued demand are very bright. The country is facing a shortage, not only of current receipts, but of Canadian storage stocks as well. So great has been the export demand that we shall be obliged to import to meet our own requirements. Increased production has never rested upon a more secure foundation.

Some object to the present price of feed, but when it is considered that the selling price of the product is from forty to sixty per cent higher than it was two years ago, the margin of profit is such as will compare favorably with that obtainable elsewhere on the farm.

Canada has all the requisites for the production of a quantity far in excess of her own requirements, and with her favorable climatic conditions, can, with proper care and attention, produce quality equal to the best in the world. Only the fringe of production possibilities has been touched up to the present.

Snakes, The Farmer's Friends.

Among the best, although least-appreciated friends of the farmer, are the harmless snakes, such as the milk-snake, the chicken-snake, the garter-snake, the bull-snake, the blotched king-snake, the blue-snake, the black-snake, and some others. All of them are the natural enemies of rats, mice, weasels and similar animals that infest farms and village homes, especially where there is poultry or other small live stock.

In an article in the Scientific American, Dr. Robert W. Shufeldt of Washington says that it would well repay every farmer in the country to keep half a dozen harmless, venom-destroying snakes on every acre of his place. Thousands of harmless snakes are killed every year by boys ignorant farm-hands and misinformed women, although it has been proved that rats, mice and other vermin cause enormous losses to cereal crops.

Although most farmers believe that the common chicken-snake haunts their outbuildings in order to feed on their young ducks and chickens, the snake does nothing of the kind; but it does destroy great numbers of young mice and other pests.

Harmless snakes are the easiest animals in the world to tame, and it is high time that the false ideas about them should be corrected. More than that, it should be taught that like birds, they are among the best animal friends that the farmer has; if we destroy them we pave the way for the destruction of our forests, our staple farm products, and a good deal else that now and has been protected by snakes and birds.

Salt Water For Udder Trouble.

I have found the use of salt water an excellent remedy for sore teats. Experiencing some trouble among my cows from this cause I was led some time ago to try the use of salt water with which to bathe the teats. The results proved most satisfactory. I told my brothers about it and they have used it on their cattle with similar satisfactory results.

Salt water is excellent to use on heifers coming into milk and that tender udders, as well as for sore teats. Sometimes it is advisable to use salt and water in the morning and carbolic acid saline in the evenings, alternating the use of the two.—J. J. C. Bull, in Farm and Dairy.

World's Record Wheat Crop.

In view of various claims of world's record wheat crops for large areas, the Crowfoot Farming Company of Crowfoot, Alberta, submit a sworn statement of their results for the year 1915 which probably surpasses all properly authenticated claims from other sources. From 1,356 acres the Crowfoot Farming Company received an average yield of 51 bushels, 56 1-3 pounds per acre of number one spring wheat, by actual selling weight; 400 acres wheat averaged 59 1/2 bushels per acre. These records were established in the Canadian Pacific Railway Irrigation Block in Southern Alberta.

Old Cheese Deals.

According to an item in the Brockville Recorder, which appeared some thirty-seven years ago, "James Alexander, of the firm of McPherson & Alexander, bought from Morristown, N.Y., 700 boxes of cheese weighing 46,000 lbs. They were purchased in the vicinity of Morristown." These cheese were bought at 5¢ to 5 1/2¢ per lb., f.o.b., and made good profits. Compare these prices with 21¢, 21 1/2¢, 21 1/4¢ and 22¢ at country points to-day.

Milk Records Are of Value.

Persistence of milk flow, the one qualification that outranks all others in worthy cows, is very difficult to recognize under the guess system, but it is easily brought to the owner's attention through the test. The test records are very valuable in later years as references, both in feeding and managing the herd. The test develops better feeders, deeper thinkers, better dairymen, and better dairy methods.

CHOPPED STUFF.

Variety is one of the great secrets of feeding.

Supply water and salt regularly to all animals.

Dairy cows are selling at from \$50 to \$150 across the line.

Lambs will begin to nibble at feed when about two weeks old.

The pig which is not gaining rapidly is losing money for the feeder.

Horns cause hundreds of thousands of dollars damage to beef and hides annually.

The underlying reason for the high prices of hides is the enormous demand for leather.

Preparedness on the farm consists in having everything ready before the job starts.

Horns cause greater stabling space and are likely at any time to cause harm to attendants.

The stock must be kept thrifty, else they are not extracting the most value from the feeds consumed.

Implement that have been used for some time should be inspected and the worn parts adjusted or replaced.

Begin right by starting to keep accurate account of your receipts and expenditures from the poultry branch.

Horns on cattle cause them to be more restless when together, hence they do not thrive so well as dehorned ones.

In the absence of sufficient succulent ration, a good substitute such as molasses, beet pulp or an extra supply of grain must be provided.

The calf should be housed a considerable distance from its dam when weaned, in order to reduce the worry of both to the minimum.

Cheese and butter are condensed products, and the cost of carriage, in comparison with their value, is less than that of any other farm product.

Horses over-fed during the winter are subject to digestive troubles, become over-fat and soft, and are not in good shape for hard work in the spring.

Change seed only when you are sure of getting something superior to the old stock, and use only that seed which has proved its adaptability to your locality.

A little more thought and preparation when nights are long needs less lost time and more effective work when days are bright and warm and every minute counts.

Alfalfa has a particularly beneficial effect on the soil. Like other legumes it has the power of utilizing in its growth the free nitrogen of the soil by fixing it up in its extensive root system of adding fertility to the soil. The roots too have the effect of opening up the soil and by their decay rendering it friable and easily worked. No other crop when plowed up leaves the land in such good condition for grain, roots or potatoes.

Buffalo, N.Y., Nov. 17.—Cattle—Receipts, 5,200; active; shipping steers, \$7.50 to \$10.50; butchers, \$6 to \$9; heifers, \$5 to \$7.50; cows, \$4.75 to \$7.25; bulls, \$5 to \$7; stockers and feeders, \$5 to \$7.25; fresh cows and springers active and steady, \$50 to \$115.

Veals—Receipts, 800; slow; active to \$13.50.

Butcher Receipts, 16,000; active: sheep, \$10.40 to \$10.50; mixed, \$10.25 to \$10.40; yorkers, \$10.20 to \$10.25; light yorkers, \$9.50 to \$9.75; pigs, \$9.25 to \$9.25; roughs, \$9.25 to \$9.40; stags, \$7.50 to \$8.50.

Sheep and lambs—Receipts, 6,000; active; lambs, \$7 to \$12; yearlings, \$5.50 to \$9.50; wethers, \$8 to \$8.50; ewes, \$3 to \$7.75; mixed sheep, \$7.75 to \$8.

GRAIN QUOTATIONS.

Toronto, Nov. 17.—Manitoba wheat, track, bay port—No. 1 northern, \$2.10; No. 2, \$2.05 1/2; No. 3, \$2.01 No. 4, \$1.85 1/2; old crop 3c above new.

Manitoba oats—No. 2 C.W., 74 1/2¢; No. 3, 73 1/2¢; No. 1 extra feed, 73 1/2¢; No. 1 feed, 70 1/2¢.

American corn—No. 2, nominal; No. 3, new, \$1.14; immediate shipment track, Toronto.

Ontario wheat—No. 2 winter, per car lot, \$1.88 to \$1.90; No. 3, \$1.86 to \$1.88; No. 1 commercial, \$1.82 to \$1.84; No. 2 commercial, \$1.72 to \$1.75; No. 3, \$1.63 to \$1.67.

Peas—No. 2, nominal, car lots, \$1.18; feed barley, \$1.07 to \$1.10.

Buckwheat—\$1.50.

Rye—No. 1 commercial, nominal, No. 2, new, \$1.20 to \$1.28.

Manitoba flour—First patents, in lute bags, \$10.40; second patents, in lute, \$9.90; strong bakers, in lute, \$9.70, Toronto.

Ontario flour—New winter, \$8.50 in bags, track, Toronto, prompt shipment.

Millfeed—Car lots, delivered Montreal, shorts, \$32; bran, \$21; good feed flour, per bag, \$2.50; middlings, \$34.

Special Prize for Bacon Hog.

The Wm. Davies Co. will give four special prizes at winter fair, Guelph, for bacon hogs. They will give two of \$50 and \$25 for the best four export bacon hogs, and the same for the best four dressed carcasses suitable for export trade. The animals are to be of one breed, grade or cross; to be bred and fed by the exhibitor; and to weigh between 180 and 230 pounds.

Pays to Test Seed Corn.

The yields of corn for the years 1911-15, inclusive, at the Ohio experiment station averaged 54.5 bushels per acre from untested seed and 58.6 bushels from tested seed. This increase of 4.1 bushels per acre, at 50 cents per bushel, is a return of \$2.05 per acre for the time spent in testing.

Wagner Apple Worth While.

One of the lesser known, yet really desirable apples is the Wagner. It bears early, bears freely and the fruit combines the juiciness of the Snow with a touch of Spry flavor. The apple is fairly large, and of attractive color. The tree is not a large grower, and serves admirably as a filler with longer-lived varieties.

The Market Reports

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

Montreal, Nov. 17.—Prices were practically unchanged on the live stock market this morning. The demand for best steers was small and sheep were plentiful and a brisk trade resulted. Trade in hogs was slow at a 25-cent increase.

Quotations: Steers, best, \$8; good, \$7.60 to \$7.85; medium, \$6.75 to \$7.50; common, \$6; butchers' cows, best, \$5.50 to \$6; good, \$5 to \$5.75; canners, \$4.50 to \$5; butchers' bulls, best, \$4.75 to \$5.25; good, \$4.50 to \$5; canners, \$4.

Sheep, \$7.50; lambs, Ontario, \$11; Quebec, \$10.25 to \$10.75.

Calves, \$10.50.

Hogs, selected, \$11.75; lights and heavies, \$11 to \$11.25.

Receipts at West End Market today were 1,000 steers, 1,900 sheep, 900 hogs, and 700 calves. Last week: Cattle, 2,600; sheep, 2,000; hogs, 2,500; calves, 1,000.

Receipts at the East End Market last week were: Cattle 2,200; sheep, 1,800; hogs, 800; calves, 600.

Toronto, Nov. 17.—Receipts at the Union stock yards to-day were: 3,522 cattle, 186 calves, 891 hogs, 2,256 sheep.

Prices for cattle were steady; hogs 25 cents lower.

Butcher cattle—Choice, \$7.20 to \$7.45; medium, \$6.35 to \$6.75; common, \$5 to \$5.50.

Butcher cows—Choice, \$6.25 to \$6.75; medium, \$5.50 to \$6; canners, \$3.75 to \$4.25.

Butcher bulls, \$5 to \$7; feeding steers, \$6 to \$7.75; stockers, choice, \$5.25 to \$5.75; light, \$4.75 to \$5; choice milkers, \$50 to \$110 each; springers, \$50 to \$110.

Sheep—Ewes, \$8.25 to \$8.75; bucks and culls, \$6 to \$8; lambs, \$10.25 to \$11.25.

Hogs, fed and watered, \$10.40.

Calves, \$5 to \$9.15.

Chicago, Nov. 17.—Cattle receipts, 28,000; market steady; native beef cattle, \$6.90 to \$11.90; western steers, \$6.50 to \$9.90; stockers and feeders, \$4.75 to \$7.90; cows and heifers, \$3.65 to \$9.60; calves, \$8.75 to \$11.75.

Hogs, receipts, 57,000; market steady, 5c lower; light, \$8.50 to \$9.90; mixed, \$9.40 to \$10.15; heavy, \$9.50 to \$10.20; rough, \$9.50 to \$9.75; pigs, \$6.75 to \$8.50; bulk of sales, \$9.35 to \$10.

Sheep, receipts, 40,000; market weak; wethers, \$7.80 to \$8.85; lambs, native, \$8.75 to \$11.75.

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patents, choice, \$10; straight rollers, \$9.50 to \$9.80; do. bags, \$4.55 to \$4.70. Rolled oats—Bbls. \$7.45; do. bags, 90 lbs., \$3.60. Bran, \$30. Shorts, \$33. Middlings, \$35 to \$37. Moullie, \$40 to \$45.

Winnipeg, Nov. 17.—Cash prices: Wheat—No. 1 Northern, \$2.01 1/2; No. 2, do., \$1.98 1/2; No. 3, do., \$1.91 1/2; No. 4, \$1.75 1/2; No. 5, \$1.63 1/2. Oats—No. 2 C.W., 67 1/2¢; No. 3, do., 66 1/2¢; extra No. 1 feed, 68 1/2¢; No. 1 feed, 65 1/2¢; No. 2, do., 65 1/2¢; Barley—No. 3, \$1.10. Flax—No. 1 N.W.C., \$2.73 1/2; No. 2, do., \$2.70 1/2.

Chicago, Nov. 17.—Wheat—No. 2, red, \$1.88 1/2 to \$1.89 1/2; No. 3, red, \$1.81 to \$1.83; No. 2 hard, \$1.92 to \$1.96; No. 3 hard, \$1.88 to \$1.90 1/2. Corn—No. 2 yellow, \$1.07 to \$1.08 1/2; No. 4 yellow, \$1.00 to \$1.03; No. 4 white, \$1.00 to \$1.03. Oats—No. 3 white, 56 1/2¢ to 58 1/2¢; standard, 57 1/2¢ to 58 1/2¢. Rye—No. 2, \$1.49 to \$1.51. Barley—No. 2, \$1.27. Timothy—\$2.25 to \$2.25. Clover—\$11.00 to \$15.00. Pork—\$28.50. Lard—\$16.92. Ribs—\$14.25 to \$14.62.

Minneapolis, Nov. 17.—Wheat—December, \$1.96 1/2; May, \$1.98 1/2; cash—No. 1 hard, \$2.00 1/2 to \$2.03 1/2; No. 1 Northern, \$1.96 1/2 to \$1.99 1/2; No. 2, do., \$1.84 1/2 to \$1.97 1/2. Corn—No. 3 yellow, 97¢ to 99¢. Oats—No. 2 white, 65 1/2¢ to 65 1/2¢. Flour—Fancy patents, \$10.45; other grades unchanged. Bran—\$26 to \$27.

Duluth, Nov. 17.—Wheat—No. 1 hard, \$2.02; No. 1 Northern, \$1.99 to \$2.01; No. 2, do., \$1.87 1/2 to \$1.92 1/2. December, \$1.98 bid. Linseed—On track, \$2.94; November, \$2.92; December, \$2.91 1/2; May, \$2.98.

Baltimore, Nov. 17.—Wheat market closed irregular; No. 2 red, spot and November, \$1.91 1/2; December, \$1.92 1/2; No. 2 Western, \$1.97 1/2. Corn market closed strong; November, new, \$1.08 1/2.

White—Market closed higher; No. 2 oats, 62 1/2 to 63¢; standard white, 61 1/2 to 62¢; No. 3 white, 60 to 60 1/2¢.

New York, Nov. 17.—Flour—Market firm; spring patents, \$9.65 to \$9.90; winter patents, \$8.90 to \$9.15; winter straits, \$8.55 to \$8.70. Rye Flour—Market firm; fair to good, \$8.80 to \$8.20; choice to fancy, \$8.25 to \$8.50.

Buckwheat Flour—Market quiet; \$4.25 to \$4.35 per 100 lbs.

Buckwheat—Market quiet; good milling, \$2.85.

Cornmeal—Market firm; fine white and yellow \$2.55 to coarse, \$2.35 to \$2.40; kiln dried, \$5.30.

Rye—Market firm; No. 2 Western, \$1.58, c.i.f. New York.

Barley—Market easy; feeding, \$1.05 f.o.b. New York.

Wheat—Spot market irregular; No. 1 durum, \$2.30 1/2; No. 2 hard, \$2.07 1/2; No. 1 Northern Duluth, \$2.14 1/2; No. 1 Northern Manitoba, \$2.16 f.o.b. New York.

Corn—Spot market strong; No. 2 yellow, \$1.10; ten-day shipment if necessary.

Oats—Spot market firm; standard, \$62 1/2 to 63¢.

GENERAL TRADE.

Butter.

Belleville, 46c to 50c per pound; Brantford, 45c; Cobourg, 43c to 45c; Guelph, 43c to 45c; Hamilton, 45c to 47c; Kingston, 40c to 45c; London, 43c to 47c; Peterboro, 42c to 45c; Port Hope, 38c to 39c; St. Thomas, 42c to 45c; Woodstock, 42c to 45c per pound.

Belleville, 45c to 48c per dozen; Brantford, 47c; Cobourg, 43c to 45c; Guelph, 48c to 50c; Hamilton, 53c to 60c; Kingston, 45c to 50c; London, 45c; Peterboro, 42c to 45c; Port Hope, 48c; St. Thomas, 48c to 50c; Woodstock, 45c per dozen.

Poultry.

Belleville, 16c to 20c per pound; Brantford, 20c to 22c; Cobourg, 18c to 20c; Guelph, 18c to 20c; Hamilton, 14c to 16c; Kingston, 18c; London, 18c to 20c; Peterboro, 15c; Port Hope, 17c to 18c; St. Thomas, 18c to 22c; Woodstock, 25c per pound.

Potatoes.

Belleville, \$1.50 to \$1.75 per bushel; Brantford, \$1.40; Cobourg, \$1.40; Guelph, \$1.50; Hamilton, \$1.40 to \$1.60; Kingston, \$1.50; London, \$1.80 to \$2; Peterboro, \$1.80; Port Hope, \$1.50; St. Thomas, \$1.25 to \$1.40; and Woodstock, \$1.40 per bushel.

Wheat.

Belleville, \$1.75 to \$1.80 per bushel; Brantford, \$1.85; Cobourg, \$1.95 to \$1.75; Guelph, \$1.75; Hamilton, \$1.50 to \$1.70; Kingston, \$1.70 to \$1.80; Port Hope, \$1.60 to \$1.65; St. Thomas, \$1.85; Woodstock, \$1.75.

Oats.

Belleville, 70c; Brantford, 55c to 65c; Cobourg, 85c to 70c; Guelph, 60c; Hamilton, 60c to 62c; Kingston, 67c; London, 60c to 70c; Peterboro, 55c; Port Hope,