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Stations

EFFICIENT FARMING

RINGWORM

The results of ringworm invasion are to be noted in many farmyards during the late winter and early spring. Great colored eruptions about the eyes, lips, ears or any part of the body where the parasite obtains lodgment, are noticed. The parasites have great vitality and will live for a long time after removal from the animal. Enough survive the summer periods to carry increased infection to a serious extent during the period when cattle are being fed in stables or small lots in autumn and winter. Cattle and horses running out on pasture during the summer and exposed to sun and rain are generally pretty free of the parasite. The winter is the ringworm's season. The winter thrifty development due largely to lack of attention or faulty management of the herd.

Treatment—Affected animals should be separated and isolated from the non-affected. It takes a close examination to determine which animals are affected, since the ringworm colonies start from very small centres and may be overlooked. Where the infestation is small the affected animals can be freed of the disease by thoroughly washing the ringworm areas with warm water and soap to remove all crusts. An application of a fifty per cent. solution of tincture of iodine applied once a day over the area will destroy the parasite and permit nature to complete the repair. Where the infestation is widespread in the herd a general clean up of the stable or yard is advised, with liberal use of strong germicidal solutions and whitewash. The disease appears year after year in the same stables, due to the fact that the parasite is a hardy one and can live over the summer season on the walls, posts or mangers of the stable. If there is ringworm in your herd now, get it off your cattle and see that the germ of the parasite is moved out of the stable at the time of spring cleaning. Dollars are lost every spring at public sales simply because animals have ringworm or evidence of recent infection.

POTATO SEED—LARGE, SMALL OR MEDIUM?

Do you fancy your roast beef rare, medium or well done? And how about your potato seed? Is it safe to indulge one of your fancies in potato seed? Among potato growers there are some who prefer small seed, some who prefer it medium, a few whose choice is large seed, and too many who plant potato seed large, medium or small.

There are two arguments which are commonly advanced in favor of small seed. It goes farther and can be cut to better advantage than large seed, and if small enough to be planted whole there is less danger of its rotting in the ground. But if one expects maximum yields of potatoes it is poor policy to economize on seed. The quantity of seed planted, other things being equal, determines the stand.

You may secure a maximum stand in one of two ways. Plant small seed pieces close together, the small pieces tending to produce hills with few stems or plants; or large seed pieces farther apart, these seed pieces throwing more stems to the hill. In other words one-ounce seed pieces planted eight inches apart will give very few more plants to the acre than two-ounce seed pieces planted sixteen inches apart. So one really cannot economize in seed and get a perfect stand. Small seed for extremely early planting is a good point if the seed is planted whole.

If small seed comes from good vigorous plants, the yield will equal that of large or medium-sized potatoes. But the majority of small potatoes do not come from the vigorous high-yielding plants, and here lies the danger in planting small seed. As an example, suppose we select our small seed—and by small seed I mean tubers weighing three ounces or less—from a field in which there is, we will say, 15 per cent. of weak or curly-dwarf plants. This 15 per cent. of the stand in an ordinary field may produce 50 per cent. of those potatoes in the crop which fall below commercial size. One can readily see how the planting of small seed from such a field will tend to increase very rapidly the proportion of weak plants.

ROSE GROWING

A garden without roses lacks something that everyone enjoys. No plant has dethroned the rose as the Queen of Flowers, and yet many of our productive gardeners yield never a rose bloom. I can, however, grow roses and good ones, almost anywhere in Ontario, but to do so certain fundamental requirements have to be observed.

Much depends on a favorable location. It is advisable to keep it away from the walls of the house. The soil next to the building is usually too dry for roses. The radiation from the building itself is sometimes very trying. This action, together with the confinement and lack of free circulation of air, are favorable to mildew and red spider.

The aspect of the garden should be such as to provide an abundance of light and free circulation of air, and at the same time shield from exposure to cutting northerly winds. A southwest or southern exposure is usually good.

It is a mistake to mix up roses with other plants for the reason that roses need all the plant food usually available and the soil needs frequent cultivation. Beds should not be wider than will accommodate two rows of plants, so laid out as to be easily reached from either side. Indeed a single row might be preferable because the gardener should be able to prune the plants and cut the blooms without the discomfort of crowding between the more lusty members of his thorny family. Better air circulation is also thus provided.

Roses need good soil. Ground that will produce fine crops of tomatoes, corn or even potatoes, with a little special preparation can be depended upon to yield fine roses. The best soil is a heavy loam. Roses require manure and bone-meat are probably the best fertilizers.

To make a rose bed excavate to a depth of two and one-half feet, then manure, each about four inches thick, mixed and draped as the filling proper, until the bed is four inches higher than it was before the digging began. Bone-meat can be thrown on the pile of excavated earth. A safe rule for using bone-meat is one pound for each two square feet of bed surface, but mixed well through. Moist soils are more or less acid scattered on the top of the finished bed will help to modify such a condition. The bed in ten days will be ready for planting.

AND THE WORST IS YET TO COME



New Weights for Bacon Hogs.

A change has been made recently in the weights of hogs grading as select. According to the new standard, hogs to come within this class at stockyards, or 190 to 236 pounds, fed and watered, at stockyards or local shipping points. To come within this select bacon class, the hog must have length of side. The standard length of the ideal, "Wiltshire" is 36 inches from neck to knuckle bone. The hog should be of uniform depth with trim, smooth, medium length with a slightly curved face, broad forehead, and rather small, firmly attached erect ears fringed with fine hair; the neck should be well muscled with no tendency to such on top and below, in the vicinity of the jaw, should be trim and not heavy or flabby or coarse; the shoulders should be smooth and compact; the back should be slightly arched from neck to tail with a few coarse hairs dropping straight; the ham should be smooth and tapering, having no excess bulges of fat. Well finished hogs are of medium width throughout, indicating a full deep loin and a long well-developed rump; which is of the utmost importance.

The Only Thing Lacking.

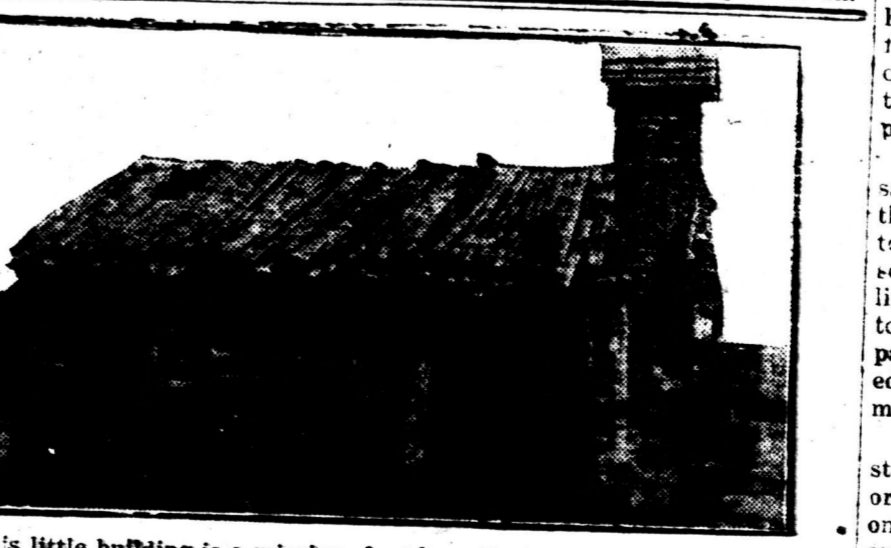
"I can give you thirty dollars a month and board," said Farmer Bent. "Fair enough," replied the applicant for the hire of a car. "Now if you can hush over with an automobile and will provide me with one I'll take the job."

When using a belt which is to cover fixed pulleys or fixed shafts, the following points may be followed: Cut the belt so that it will be tight. To do this stretch a light wire over the pulleys and get the exact length the belt is to be when stretched. For each inch of belt width make the belt from one-eighth to three-eighths of an inch short, depending on how likely the belt is to stretch. If the wires are four feet long for an average car, one should allow one-eighth inch per foot and so cut three inches short.

For Home and Country

A Society of Good Deeds to Their Credit.

One of the records of all the nineteen branches of the Women's Institutes of Ontario, as shown by the recent historical survey made by the members of that county, is that of the third oldest, Estevan, which has a variety of good deeds to its credit. Organized in the spring of 1906, it began with a membership of 39. During the Great War it devoted itself almost entirely to Red Cross and war work, and every appeal for supplies or money met with a ready response.



This little building is a mission church on Teslin Lake, British Columbia, which is almost out of touch with civilization. It is reached after a week's travel up the Hootalinqua River, where a trading post is located.

The Sunday School Lesson

APRIL 13

Elijah and the Struggle with Baal, 1 Kings 16: 29 to 19: 21
 ch. 21; 2 Kings 1: 1 to 2: 12. Golden Text—No man can serve two masters. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

YOUNG

Continuation of the story—We must now follow for a little more than two hundred years, the parallel history of the two kingdoms, Israel and Judah. Israel was the kingdom of the ten tribes, much the larger territory, including all north of Judah and east of Jordan, and was much more populous, and more powerful than Judah. But Judah had the advantage of being more isolated from the outside world and less subject to its temptations, and Judah's kings inherited the wisdom, the piety, and the prestige of the great reigns of David and Solomon. The kingdom of Judah remained, therefore, comparatively stable, and its royal line, with one tragic exception, unbroken for three hundred and fifty years. But Israel's kingdom was torn by frequent revolutions, its dynasties were short-lived and evil, and it came to a disastrous end when invaded by the Assyrians after two centuries only of troubled existence.

The historians have little good to say of the kings of Israel. Jeroboam set an evil example for those who came after him, and was remembered as the man who "made Israel to sin." His first act was to fortify Shechem and make it his capital. Then he established national sanctuaries at Bethel in the south; and at Dan on the slopes of Mount Hermon in the north, so that the people might not be tempted to go to Jerusalem to worship, thus recognizing how strong a bond of unity lay in the common religion. By his endowment and patronage of the northern shrines, he hoped to break that bond. At these shrines he set up images of Jehovah in the form of golden calves, thus degrading the worship of Israel's God to a level with that of Baal, he made new priests who were not of the old priestly families of Levi, and changed the date of some of the ancient festivals.

Ch. 18: 20. Ahab appears in some respects to have been one of the best of the kings of Israel. His father was Omri, the founder and builder of Samaria. He himself fought courageously and successfully against the Assyrians who invaded his country and besieged Samaria, and at one time, Assyrian records show, his armies fought side by side with the Assyrians against Assyrian invaders from the east. His treatment of the vanquished king of Damascus was generous and kindly, and he proved a brave and faithful ally of the god Jehovah. Ahab's wife was Jezebel, a Phoenician, daughter of the Phoenician king of Tyre, whose god Baal he worshipped. Jezebel, a high promiscuous princess, was the most unscrupulous and cruel woman of the time. Her husband was a man of Gilead, had appeared as the leader of the prophets of Jehovah in their protest against the bringing in of Jezebel of her god Baal and goddess Ashtoreth, apple tree! If you want to get sap, you must tap a maple tree." "But, dear mother," replied Billy, very seriously, "I do not care to get sap. I want to get some nice apple cider. If maple sap comes from a maple tree, why doesn't apple cider come from an apple tree. Isn't it apple sap?"

"No, apple cider comes from apples. Mother Nature sent the sap up the tree trunk and along the branches to the blossoms and finally into the apples themselves."

Billy Pig gave a very discouraged grunt. "If apple-tree juice is apple cider," he complained, "why isn't maple-tree juice called maple cider?"

But Mother Sow heard the farmer's wife rattle a pail down in the pig yard and toddled off to see if there was something to eat. So Billy Pig's lesson came to an end.

Dairy Record Keeping Pays.

The milk and fat records of the Brampton, Ont., Cow Testing Association, says the Dominion Dairy News Letter of March 10, show very clearly the value of selection, good feeding, and pure-bred sires of milk-giving ancestry in obtaining high average production in dairy herds. Although the farmers comprising the Association have been using pure-bred sires for years and have been selecting the best and eliminating the poorest cows as opportunity afforded, they have been testing for only two years in an organized way. In 1922, in six herds, number 84 cows, the average production of milk was 8,046 lbs., the percentage 3.76, and the fat production 303.2 lbs. In 1923, six herds numbering 98 cows had an average production of 8,385 lbs. milk, 3.82 in test percentage, and 320.5 lbs. fat. The increased production in the latter year over the preceding meant an additional average income of over \$100 per herd. Twelve herds, consisting of 179 cows, had an average production per cow in 1923 of 8,580 lbs. milk and 320 lbs. fat, which is more than double the average production of all dairy cows in Ontario. The cows, it should be observed, were fed with succulent, high protein roughage and good grain ration.