

Efficient Farming

AN INEXPENSIVE HAY SHED.

It is exceedingly disheartening to stack bright, fine-looking hay out-of-doors and have it discolored by rains and snow. And discoloration is not always the most serious damage either. Upon opening a stack of hay that has stood for any length of time, one often will find that water has trickled deep into the stack. Keeping rains away from the top of the hay is the only effective way of guarding against this damage.

Last year I had more hay than my barns would hold. Aside from selling the hay the only alternative seemed to be stacking out-of-doors. Fortunately there came the eleventh-hour suggestion that a temporary shed might be constructed for holding the hay. This was done. This last winter the hay came from this shed just as sound and bright as the day it was loaded in the field.

Thinking that the structure of this shed is well worth passing on, I shall explain with some detail just how I constructed it.

To begin with it may be well to state that hay suffers mainly from the rain, that enters at the top. That which falls on the sides generally trickles off with slight damage to the hay.

I began my structure by securing a number of fairly heavy poles about like ordinary telegraph poles. These I set in the ground quite as ordinary posts are set. They were spaced six feet apart, centre to centre. The outer faces were aligned quite carefully. The height of the corners was carefully determined and the intervening posts aligned and the tops sawed off with a crosscut saw.

A 2x6-inch plate was then nailed securely to the tops of these posts all the way round. Rafters of 2x4's with a slant of about a one-fifth pitch were then erected on the plates, spaced so as to be three feet centre to centre. The top was then sheathed solidly with cheap grade lumber, then covered with prepared roofing of ordinary quality. Two feet of shiplap was then nailed on just underneath the eaves and across the gable ends. I should add in this connection that the roof on both sides extended down about eighteen inches from the plates, in order the better to turn the water away from the sides of the hay.

The height of a shed of this character depends, of course, upon the quantity of hay to be stored. In the case of my shed, the distance was twelve feet to the plates.

The shed was thirty feet long and fourteen feet wide. It too two of us just two days to build it. Outside the posts the material cost but a trifle over sixty dollars. Without crowding we were able to make it hold ten big loads of hay. I figure that the hay that was saved from waste comes close to paying the sixty dollars. And the shed is ready for a new crop.

GET THE PROPS READY.

It is none too early to make plans for the propping of heavily loaded trees.

They may go through the season without breaking down. But on the other hand many a good tree does break down.

Props are also valuable because one is able to have the branches on the tree better spaced, and therefore the fruit developing under better conditions.

If no propping is done the branches, as their load of fruit increases in weight month by month, gradually droop down until they are piled one on top of the other, leaving much of the fruit badly shaded.

If props are used the branches may be compelled to hold approximately their normal position about the tree and the sun and air still get at the fruit.

The most convenient prop is a light pole, about the size of a man's wrist, cut with a fork at the upper end to slip under the branch. Wood which will not decay too quickly, is preferable, since once cut the props may be used for years.

In placing the props, use enough of them to keep the larger branches in essentially their natural positions. And place the prop well toward the end of the branch so the end of the branch won't break down beyond the prop.

GIVE THE FLOCK SHADE.

Birds cannot produce effectively if allowed to suffer from extreme heat.

There is hardly a year when considerable losses do not happen to our egg-laying flocks. The losses are especially severe where birds are trap-nested, especially if they are not released at short intervals. The close confinement to the restriction of the trap-nest on a very hot day, without access to drinking water, will cause many of the birds to suffer in an extreme degree.

To guard against extreme heat, first of all, see that the yard or range over which the birds run, has natural shade on it. The shade made by a green growing plant, brush, shrub or tree is superior to any other type.

If natural shade is not abundant, artificial shade in the nature of burlap screens, boughs or elevated board platforms must be provided.

See that the poultry house itself is wide open, both front windows and openings, as well as all back ventilators and back windows, to enable the

air to circulate freely through the house.

If trap-nests are in use, release the hens often. Do not allow them to stay on the nest longer than necessary.

If, in spite of these precautions, birds suffer from heat prostration, they should be taken out of the house, placed in a cool shady spot on the lawn and sprinkled with cool water every few minutes until they are revived.

See that clean, fresh, cool drinking water is kept continuously before the birds during the hot weather.

Blood Clots and Bloody Eggs.

Eggs containing small clots of blood may be produced by any flock at any time of year. The clot is present in the egg when it is laid so that in this particular case a strictly fresh egg may not be of top quality as regards its interior.

Such eggs are believed to be caused by the rupture of a small blood vessel at the time the yolk leaves the ovary of the hen and enters the oviduct.

If such an egg is candled the clot will appear as a bright red spot directly on the yolk. Such an egg is condemned under most candling laws largely because it is likely to spoil more quickly than a normal egg. There is no reason why such eggs should not be used at home, as the clot, if small, may be easily removed, leaving the egg in a perfectly wholesome condition.

Such an egg is sometimes confused with the wholly different blood ring which is found in a fertile egg that has been subjected to incubation temperatures for a short time. The latter type of egg is considered quite unfit for food purposes.

When the two are broken in a saucer there is no danger of mistaking one for the other. The blood clot egg appears perfectly normal except for the small bright red spot on the yolk. The blood-ring egg appears with a much flattened yolk and a watery white.

Floors for Haystacks.

Every fall on the old home place we used to stack fifty to seventy-five tons of hay in the same place in the feed yard. Every spring we would haul several tons of spoiled hay out onto the fields as manure. The butts were always spoiled because of dampness.

It is quite likely that the loss of hay in one year would have equalled the cost of a concrete hay floor. After that it would have been a clear saving.

Hay floors are not common. Where the stacks are located at various places, either in the fields or about the buildings, they are not practicable. But when hay is stacked in the same place year after year, they are.

The best type resembles a very flat roof with the ridge running along the centre and from two to ten inches drop every six feet. Expansion joints must occur along the ridge and also at right angles to the ridge every six or eight feet. These joints serve a twofold purpose. They prevent cracking from frost action and they prevent cracking from settling, though unless the earth is well tamped before the concrete is placed, cracks may occur anyway.

Where the soil is soft, a top fill of stone and gravel will help to drain away surface moisture and also prevent excessive settling. The floor should be fully as wide as the proposed stack and four or five inches in thickness.

Potato Importation Restricted.

The potato growing industry in Canada is being safeguarded against the introduction of "wart disease" by a recently enacted regulation of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa.

Potatoes grown in Europe, the Canary Islands, Newfoundland, the Islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, and the State of California, may no longer be imported into this country. Shipments from the States of Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Maryland, are admitted only when accompanied by a certificate, duly signed by a state or federal official, that the stock was grown outside any quarantined areas within these states and has been found on examination to be free from wart disease. The certificate must also make it clear that the potatoes have not been in contact with infected potatoes, containers or materials. Potatoes coming from all other of the United States must be accompanied by an official certificate giving the name of the state in which the stock was grown.

Provides Successful Fly-chaser.

A cow cannot maintain a maximum flow of milk and fight flies. If in the hot sun, she will eventually seek shelter before she has fully satisfied her wants. Then, too, all the energy she uses worrying in the heat and fighting flies will be subtracted from her milk flow.

To prevent this loss, we hung a number of old ropes, bags, etc., from the overlays in an old shed. The ropes and clothing dangling about four feet above the dirt floor were saturated with a fly-repellent solution. When the cows walk into this effective barrier, you can imagine what happens to the flies.—C. C. D.



The photographer snapped this picture at the Wembley rodeo just as wild steer was doing its utmost to unseat its rider, but the cowboy was too good for it and remained seated.

Meat From Capons Far Superior.

Capons and roasters reared and finished for market side by side at the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa, showed a profit of \$1.05 per bird for the capons and 39 cents per bird for the roasters. The birds in each lot weighed one and one-half pounds each at the beginning. At the end of the test the capons weighed 6 lbs. 3 ozs., and the roasters 6 lbs. 9 ozs. They were handled in the same way as ordinary growing stock, being fed scratch grain, dry mash, and milk.

The capons put on their weight at a cost of 15 cents a pound, while the roasters cost 16 cents a pound. The profit, however, was not confined to this item as the flesh of the capons was so much superior to that of the roasters that they were valued at 40 cents a pound as against 30 cents for the roasters. In referring to this experiment, Mr. F. C. Elford, Dominion Poultry Husbandman, makes the observation in his annual report for 1923, that the value of caponizing lies rather in the production of meat of superior quality than in increased weight.

Storing Eggs.

When packing eggs to be stored for next winter's use, it is important to place the eggs in the case with the small end down. Unless this is done the yolks have a tendency to drop to the bottom of the eggs and stick to the shell, which causes them to grade as "seconds." The Dominion Poultry Husbandman, to determine the difference in storing eggs in the two ways, carried out an experiment for a period of six months, with fifteen dozen eggs in each case that were kept in a properly controlled cold storage.

When the eggs were brought out, those standing on the small ends graded 108 "extras" and 67 "firsts," whereas those resting on the large ends showed only 42 "extras" and 99 "firsts," while there were 30 eggs with yolks resting on the bottom and 7 that were weak and watery. A small number of cracked eggs made up the balance. This information is contained in the report of the Dominion Poultry Husbandman for 1923.

Refinishing Your Old Furniture

BY LUCY D. TAYLOR.

Many an old piece of furniture which is looked upon with scorn by the entire family hides underneath its mask of more or less cracked varnish a really lovely piece of wood that well repays the trouble of refinishing.

I attended a country auction not many months ago where a delightfully shaped little stand was held up by the auctioneer. A very small sum bought the piece of furniture, and a broken piece of glass, much patience, and many evenings of scraping brought to light a beautiful piece of real maple, which, both in color and grain, was worth all the work that it had cost. It needed no stain because the wood itself carried its own beauty. Consequently, I simply waxed the surface, rubbing it down and down until it had a beautiful soft gloss—after, of course, carefully sandpapering with first a coarse and then a fine piece of sandpaper tightly stretched over a flat block. Then I had a table to be proud of.

Of course, one can buy a scraper, which is much easier on the hands, or one may use varnish remover. But I should strongly recommend that, if possible, the varnish remover be avoided, as it eats into the grain of the wood and it is impossible to get the same satiny finish.

I know from personal experience that there are in many of our farm-houses beautiful pieces of real maple, oak, and mahogany furniture which, treated as suggested above, would be worth many times the price of new articles. It is also true that there are often pieces of old furniture in good hard woods, like chestnut and birch, that, with the addition of a little stain—either oak or mahogany—and then finished with shellac and oil applied successively and well rubbed down, will give a most satisfactory result. In this case, after the furniture had been scraped, sand-

Gasoline Losses.

During warm weather, farmers who purchase gasoline in large lots from tank wagons should receive an allowance for shrinkage to which they are entitled. Otherwise they are likely to lose a reduction in bulk amounting to almost 2 per cent. For instance, gasoline taken from a tank truck on a warm afternoon at a temperature of 85 degrees and put into an underground storage tank where temperature is 65, will shrink almost two gallons a hundred in cooling to that figure. The result being that when you measure it out to the various farm machines you have only about ninety-eight gallons.

Sales of car lots to dealers are corrected for a 20 degree change in temperature amounting to nearly two gallons a hundred. This is because gasoline expands with heat and is to protect the dealer against such losses. If the dealer is entitled to this consideration, why not the farmer who buys in large lots and under practically the same conditions? He should be careful to see that he gets it.

Separate the Sexes Early.

For the best development of either cockerels or pullets they should be separated as soon as there is a noticeable difference in size. The cockerels grow more rapidly than the pullets and hence are heavier at any given age.

Because of their larger size the cockerels are able to crowd the pullets away from the mash hopper or drinking fountain and so keep them from getting a fair share of the daily rations.

The cockerels are certain to do much more fighting among themselves if they are on the same range as the pullets than if kept by themselves. They will tend to mature somewhat earlier at the expense of physical size. The best plan is to get them out of the way early so that the pullets will have an abundance of room and plenty of opportunity to eat.

II. THE CALL OF THE MESSIAH, 9-11.

V. 9. Now comes the event which is the real beginning of gospel times. No explanation is given by Mark why Jesus came to John for baptism. If we ask an explanation, we may find it in Matt. 3:14, 15, where Jesus says to John: "Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness." That is to say, Jesus recognized in John's mission and baptism, a divine ordinance to which, in keeping with his holy purpose of always honoring God's commandments, he simply bowed his head. Recall that John's baptism signified not only repentance from sin, but dedication to God's purpose of bringing in his Kingdom. Without any consciousness of sin on his own part, Jesus submits to the rite because it dedicates him to the service of God and his Kingdom. Jesus identifies himself with his people in the surrender of their souls to God, and thus his baptism is the sign of his consecration to what ever task his Father has for him in connection with the great kingdom movement started by John. Jesus will not hold back from that movement, but yields himself without reserve.

Vs. 10, 11. And so the answer from heaven comes, Jesus, rising from the water, sees the heavens opening, and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove, and there follows a voice, apprehended by him as the voice of God: "Thou art my Son, the beloved, on whom I have my favor been seen." Notice that in Mark the Vision and the Voice are experiences of Jesus alone. No other eye is said to see, no other ear is said to hear. Jesus, who has lived in perfect communion with God, now received the title of his calling, and loved and chosen of the Father, he is conscious of being answered by his Holy Spirit. What does his calling as "Son of God" mean? It means he is the Messiah, but in what sense? How does Jesus think of the Messiahship? We can only answer this question as we go forward to further studies.

APPLICATION.

1. Baptism. This was the official entrance of Jesus upon his work. By it he made public announcement that

The Sunday School Lesson

JULY 29.

The Baptism of Jesus, Mark 1: 1-11. Golden Text—Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.—Mark 1: 11.

Introduction.—The Gospel of Mark is one of the noblest of the four Gospels, being earlier in date than either Matthew or Luke. It does not record the birth or earthly descent of Jesus, but opens with his baptism, when Jesus received the Divine sign of his calling. This event, as the first verse of Mark contains it, is the actual "beginning" of gospel history, and of gospel times. Jesus is already conscious of being in a new and wonderful sense, the Father's Son, but now he received the answer to his prayer, and the Father's voice, which proclaimed him to be the Son of God. The baptism thus becomes his consecration to his public work for God. We must keep this thought in mind if we are properly to understand the present lesson.

V. 1. We might paraphrase this verse thus: "Here begins the glad tidings concerning Jesus, who is the Messiah, the Son of God."

V. 2. The appearance of the prophet John was a sign of the times, and fulfilled two prophecies of scripture: (1) a verse of Malachi, which predicts God's sending of a "messenger of the covenant" who would prepare the way before him when he came to judge and purify Israel (Mal. 3:1). (2) A verse of Isaiah, which speaks of a "voice" proclaiming in the desert the removal of all obstacles in the way of God's redemption of his people (Isa. 40: 3).

V. 4. John's mission was to proclaim the nearness of the day of judgment, and to move men to repentance by setting before them the righteousness which alone would avail them on that tremendous day. Those who repented, and were baptized in the Jordan, were entering the rite of baptism for the purpose—and assured of future forgiveness of sins at the time when the Messiah should appear. John's message may be described therefore as "preaching of baptism of repentance with a view to remission of sins." His converts should be thought of as a people prepared by change of heart, for the coming of the Messiah.

V. 5. The preaching of John produced a great sensation, and thousands flocked from every quarter to the Jordan. Prophecy had been thought to be dead, but now it had found voice again, and a great wave of religious expectation was set circulating through the land. Yet, as Jesus afterwards reminded the people, many of the religious class remained indifferent and blind to the signs of the times. On the other hand, multitudes who had previously lived scandalous lives, genuinely came to God.

V. 6. John's strange habit and manner of life are mentioned (1) because they recalled the dress and diet of Elijah (see 2 Kings 1: 7, 8); and (2) because John preached by his manner of life quite as much as by his words. He was a stern, ascetic prophet, who frowned upon the life and the luxury of his puritan life of simplicity.

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Kentville, N.S.—In the Annapolis favorable for a 1924 judging from various points.

Fredericton, N.B.—latest crop report Dept. of Agriculture will have this year in potatoes it has years back. Local fertilizers which indicate that of potatoes will be than in 1923.

Quebec, Que.—which have been re-shore, especially as are to be subjected real value establishments arrangements come geologist will prepare Provincial Mining years there have spar reported from the north shore, manifested their exploitation if the real value.

Fort William, Ont.—siderable movement this port at the pr June 15th, the total kinds shipped from opening of naviga over 92,500,000 bush.

Winnipeg, Man.—the three western 224,900, according Grain Dealers' As acreages planted to lows: oats, 9,705,6 7 per cent.; barley increase of 13.4 per cent. increase 24 per cent. increase of 26 per cent.

Proud Flagship Elizabeth

H.M.S. Queen Elizabeth to Nelson's Victory shortly exchange for the comparative of a "private ship." life has been, an ad of it would make qu. But the Navy never though the "Q.E." her. Is yet in her pr sail has come along—suitable to "carry t inexorable law of the fittest decrees that give place to the "Jackstake" in Th Mail.

When war broke out just before completed ship she began her packing a dramatic Dardanelles. Until there and started to shells on to the few people knew of but from thence on came familiar all over known even than Lion.

The first British armed with 15-inch, wholly by fuel oil, secretly off the Dardanelles. She was secretly these months interim joint naval actions had been directed and she had a shell of the peninsula, each one of it was reported—£1, singular coincidence the Dardanelles the of Sir John de R. stances have made o once again, so that sh end her career as a under the same flag o.

It was in the fore of the German th decided terms for the High Seas Fleet.

A strange coincidence at Hampton Court Palace with the death of Cuppage at a very advanced age.

There is a Hampton clock always stopped one long resident in When it became k clock had stopped on Cuppage's death a cur feeling passed over the Miss Cuppage was t ing daughter of Geo Cuppage, who served on in the Peninsula in the campaign of 181 Battle of Waterloo.

With isolated exc European, Continental Canadian fur-buying represented at the fifth ar of the Canadian Fur Co., Ltd., Montreal. N lon pelts were offered the prices realized co ally with those receiv sale.

Timepiece is Tradition at Death

Butter was a drug on the local market, as everyone in the little town nearby owned a cow. I had a surplus of about six pounds a week. Determined to find a market, I wrapped a pound in oiled paper, put it in a butter carton, and sent it as a present to a friend in the city who lived in an apartment house. She showed the pie country butter to the other families, and each asked her to write asking me to furnish them a pound a week. She herself also ordered a pound a week. This disposed of three pounds a week at 56 cents a pound. Pretty soon this friend found three other customers, and from that time I have sold all I have for sale, and frequently get calls for more.—D. E.

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