

Efficient Farming

HOW I IMPROVE MY FLOCK.

In the first place, I constantly have in mind my ideal sheep. My type was chosen for both the production of wool and mutton. It also favors an early maturing animal that yields a juicy meat. Excessive fatness is avoided. I am particular, too, about selecting a breeding ewe that delivers a good, strong, healthy lamb and puts on the wool-board a heavy fleece of desirable fibre.

Not only do we seek ewes that give birth to good lambs, but we want generous milking mothers that keep these lambs growing steadily until they are able to take care of themselves. Usually the ewe that gives birth to strong, healthy lambs is also a good milker, but not always. The wedge shape conformation familiar in the lore of dairymen, should have the same consideration of the flock master who would choose good milkers. This wedge-shaped type we have found, responds readily in milk flow to a well-balanced ration fed in reasonable quantities.

I aim to have the animals in my breeding flock uniform. This aids me in keeping my ideal sheep constantly in mind, which is a matter no sheep breeder can overlook. Uniformity makes my flock more valuable and I have a more attractive lamb crop to send to the markets, which pay more money for lambs of a uniform type.

Furthermore, I will not permit myself to be tempted in breaking away from my favorite breed by injecting the blood of other breeds. As soon as a breeder tries to improve his sheep by crossing breeds he is done as a sheep improver. The first cross may be promising; but, thereafter, the flock begins to deteriorate. A flock master should give much study to the breed of sheep he selects; but, once decided upon, he should stand by and keep within that choice.—L. C. R.

MY BELT TROUBLES.

Farm belt machinery cannot be operated satisfactorily without good belts. I've had a feed grinder, husker, silo filler, and buzz saw to pull almost from the first year I farmed. I tried to save money on belts at first. They did cost a lot, and I could buy a second hand belt and some laces cheaper than a new belt.

But here's just where I made the mistakes. I saved dollars in money, outlay, but I lost them in delay. Every time a belt went wrong I stopped, and

from one to three men stopped too. Sometimes it took ten minutes to lace it up, and sometimes an hour. Then the engine had to be reset before starting again.

Finally I saw what poor belts cost me. I bought a brand-new 50-foot endless canvas belt. I used it for two or three jobs and traded it in on a 75-foot six-inch rubber belt, and now my belt troubles are over.

My belt is laced right—by being endless. It is long enough to have the proper "hang" to keep close to the pulleys and yet not have to be too tight. I've got \$39 invested in this last belt. I've run it two years and can't see that it is any worse off than when bought. If you use belts, get a good one and forget it. Get a poor one and spend more time and money than the good one costs.—E. R.

"GRAVEL" AND ITS CURE.

When the pus forms under the sole of a horse's hoof, at the heel, and burrows upward, finally to break out at the hoof head, the condition popularly is called "gravel." That name is erroneous in that gravel is not the cause. A bit of gravel may enter the hoof after pus has formed and broken through the sole, or when a separation has taken place between the sole and wall of the hoof. The common cause is persistent cutting away of the frog, sole, and bar, and cutting out a notch at the sides of the frog, erroneously termed "opening the heels," as it has, in time, the opposite effect. A nail driven too close to the "quick," or puncturing it, may also cause suppurating corn.

The burrowing of pus causes agony, and should be stopped at once by opening up the sole and, if necessary, cutting away a part of the wall. If this is done promptly, it usually prevents pus from breaking out at the hoof head, and healing soon occurs. When delayed, a "quitter" or flatulent sore of the hoof head results and requires the surgical skill of a veterinarian to remedy. Prevention is all-important.

Mutilation of the hoof should be prevented and the shoes should be reset at least every six weeks. A run bare-foot on moist pasture will help when hoofs tend to become hard and contracted. Blistering the hoof heads also helps by stimulating the growth of new, sound horn. Small shoe nails of the best quality should be employed, and carefully driven when putting on the shoes.—Dr. A. S. Alexander.

HAVE YOU CLEANED YOUR CELLAR?

BY ORIN CROOKER.

The influence of the cellar upon the health of those living in the house above it is little suspected, yet it requires the same attention as that which has been given the farm well and the farm toilet. It is not generally recognized that in the average farm dwelling the character of the cellar influences very strongly the air in the living rooms, particularly during the winter months.

At this time of the year the doors and windows of the house are closed to keep out the cold, while the kitchen and heating stoves, subject to the draft of the chimneys, are constantly drawing air out of the living rooms. To take the place of that which goes up the flues, air must be drawn from somewhere, and under these conditions the cellar supplies the deficiency, air being constantly sucked up through the floors and working into the rooms through the doorway opening to the cellar stairs. The ease and rapidity with which air from below moves through a dwelling can be demonstrated by burning a teaspoonful of sulphur, or some ground cinnamon or cloves, on a pan of hot coals in the basement or cellar. The odor will reach the rooms above in a very few moments.

IMPURITIES OF CELLAR AIR.
The air in a dirty, untidy and poorly ventilated cellar is heavily charged not only with odors characteristic of such environments but with impurities as well. The odors are most noticeable, but, as in the case of drinking water, the undetected impurities harbor the greatest menace to health. Cellar air contains, as a rule, an overcharge of carbon dioxide gas, due to the processes of slow decay which go on in places where sunlight is excluded and where conditions otherwise are ideal for its formation. Decaying fruits or vegetables have their part in this as do also decaying wood and the disintegration of low forms of life that exist in moist earth or are harbored by damp masonry. Wherever bacteria are active, carbon dioxide is produced, and the ordinary cellar offers ideal conditions for bacterial life.

The result of this overcharge of invisible odorless gas, augmenting the natural production due to breathing the air of living rooms that are usually poorly ventilated, gives rise to pale faces and anemic bodies. While not a cause in itself of any specific illness, it results in lowered vitality of those who spend many hours a day in such an atmosphere, and is a well-recognized factor in predisposition to many human ills.

Years ago a damp cellar was regarded as the direct cause of certain diseases. It is now recognized that it is so only indirectly. The result, however, so far as health is concerned, is

not far different. Dampness means conditions favorable to rot and mildew, which of themselves are the result of bacterial life. Many forms of bacteria are perfectly harmless, but conditions which permit the multiplication of harmless organisms are favorable also to the development of noxious forms.

VENTILATING THE CELLAR.
It is a common practice for farm housewives to place food on the cellar floor to keep it cool in summer. Undoubtedly many a case of ptomaine poisoning, due to the development in food of virulent bacteria, has had its origin in the conditions of the cellar with respect to bacterial life.

The means at hand to control cellar conditions are twofold: First, a thorough cleaning twice a year; second, plenty of ventilation at such times as this is practical. In summer much can be accomplished by airing the cellar during cool weather, especially at night, while in winter it is good practice to let fresh outside air draw on bright, warm, sunny days. Fresh air is always wholesome in its effect and it should be let into the cellar abundantly whenever it will not interfere too greatly with other things, such as freezing water pipes or stored food.

The semi-annual clean-up should be thorough and exacting. Next to the attic of a house the cellar is likely to receive less care than any other part of the dwelling. Its bearing upon the health of the home, however, is so vital that farm folks can ill afford to neglect it.

Hog Cholera.

The disease of hog cholera has not caused serious losses in Canada for many years. A limited number of outbreaks which have occurred, have been promptly put down by the Health of Animals Branch of the Dept. of Agriculture. Dr. George Hilton, Veterinary Director General, in his report for last year, credits the prohibited use of virus for immunizing purposes, the licensing of garbage feeders and the periodical inspection of their premises, with the control of the disease that has been effected. Small outbreaks occur in some of the provinces while other provinces have escaped entirely during the past two years. The infection was traced in some of the outbreaks to the feeding of raw garbage. The most searching investigation in some other cases failed to reveal any exposure to infection.

Soft corns can be used for seed purposes if properly stored and dried.

The Saxons called September the "Barley Month," this crop, from which their favorite beverage was brewed, being then gathered.

TRAINING OUR CHILDREN

The Pueblo Indians in New Mexico, especially the Zunis, have acquired a wisdom about training their children which could well be emulated by the parents of other races.

It is an astonishing fact that Indian children, even babies, seldom cry unless they are in physical discomfort or frightened. They are consistently well-behaved and obedient.

The Indian mother trains her child from its birth. There are certain tribal ceremonies, based upon a deep religious concept of life, which, they believe, must be observed in order to insure the child strength, health and keenness of mind.

The Indian mother says that the brain and thoughts of the child are forming during its first year, and that it should be kept quiet and not be distracted by being played with or unnecessarily handled, as such treatment will cause it to become upset, and affect its whole life.

We can teach the Indians much with regard to the prevention of infant mortality, but, in the matter of the emotions and in character training, we can learn much. Always is their child treated with gentleness, kindness and understanding sympathy. Obedience is taken as a matter of course, but it is never enforced by physical violence, or excited speech, and in that lies the secret of their power. The Indians can be excited in their sports, in discussing matters of government, in individual altercations and in calamity, but with their children they are calm, they never raise their voices in sharp tones, they never take hold of a child to shake or spank it. They talk to it soothingly, kindly and lovingly, until the little one is calmed. The doctrine of "Love" is the one used; punishment is rarely needed.

Another wise custom in the training of an Indian child is to keep it busy and to make it feel its ultimate importance in the community. We allow our children too much undirected play which has no connection with the later issues of life. An Indian mother

begins as soon as the child can walk to train the little girl to imitate, in the spirit of privilege and play, the things she does in her daily household life. The little boy is taught by his father, or grandfather—who has more time—in the ways of men, hunting and caring for the crops; and, almost before they can talk, folk-tales and verbal histories of the tribe are told to them, to which they pay unflinching attention.

Sincerity, loyalty, consideration for others and the tribal good, as well as strict observance of ceremonial life, involving as it does the religion and philosophy of the tribe, are all familiar things to a child before it is five years old. The qualities mentioned are not enforced, ever; they are the logical result of consistent behavior on the part of the parents. The child, being a natural imitator, becomes imbued with them to such an extent that they form an integral part of its character before it begins to think for itself.

Hill Selection of Potatoes.

The hill selection of potatoes for seed having proved unsatisfactory at the Invermere, British Columbia, Experimental Station, a trial was made of selecting the tubers on their individual merits. Three or four weeks before planting time the potatoes are brought to the light and allowed to sprout. Only tubers showing strong, vigorous sprouts are selected. The Superintendent of the Station remarks that all varieties do not show the same sprouting tendencies or characteristics, but the grower will readily learn to distinguish the strong vigorous tubers and reject the weak ones. The average yield for four years of seventeen varieties selected in this way was 2 tons, 175 pounds, which was 124 per cent. higher than the average yield of the four preceding years with the same varieties selected from the hills. Not only are the yields increased from the individual selection, but diseases are eradicated or at least held in check.

The drainage of low, wet spots on the farm usually pays in the cost of labor saved from not being obliged to work around these spots. Such drains also turn these unproductive places into best producing areas of the farm.

FOR HOME AND COUNTRY

Women's Institute Convention—Kenna, Thunder Bay and Rainy River Districts.

At the Women's Institute Convention held in Dryden on October 8th and 9th, delegates came a distance of over 400 miles from the Rainy River District and over 200 miles from the Thunder Bay District, but it was well worth the time and money spent, for activities of vital interest to the individual, the community and the nation formed the basis of reports, discussions, addresses, and plans for the future. Upon the arrival of trains, some of them as early as 3.30 in the morning, local members met the delegates and took them to the homes where they were to be guests during the convention. Everything from billowing to special dinners, banquets and the program was carried on in "apple-pie" order. Mrs. R. G. Wigle, member of the Provincial Board and chairman of the local committee, had a band of able assistants to plan and carry on. We will allow reports as presented to speak for themselves.

Mayor A. Pitt in welcoming the delegates expressed deep appreciation of the creative, protective, and philanthropic work being done by the Institutes.

The Superintendent, Mr. Geo. A. Putnam, complimented the Institutes of the far north-western section of the province on their good judgment in stressing these features which were of greatest interest and value to the community concerned, and expressed the view that the development of the Institutes was largely due to the fact that women of experience, resourcefulness, and with a keen interest in the home and the community, have planned lines of work of vital interest to the people as a whole. Well balanced programs in which the educational, social and the community improvement have a healthful balance, have characterized the Institutes of the District. The Superintendent impressed the delegates with the great responsibility which rested upon them, for both private individuals and public bodies now look to the Institutes for leadership and aggressive action in community affairs. Assurance was given that if the Institutes continue to do their part, the Government service would be of greater and greater value.

WHAT THE BRANCHES ARE DOING.

The Oxdrift Branch of the Women's Institute had twenty members last year.

"We hold our meetings once a month, nearly all the meetings being held in the members' homes."

"We have had two good demonstrations given in cookery, also three good papers, one by Miss Collins being on 'Women's National Outlook.'"

"We gave \$10 to an ex-member who lost her home by fire. We also collected money for the School Fair prizes."

"A successful shower was held for the Dryden Hospital."

"We have our program for the year supported by one of our members, a paper or demonstration being given at each meeting. The Travelling Library brought by the Institute has been well patronized by the community."

"We hold a Memorial Service annually in June, in honor of our fallen heroes, whose names are engraved on a beautiful monument erected in Oxdrift Cemetery by the Institute."

"In September last another Memorial in the form of an honor roll, beautifully hand-painted and engraved, was unveiled and is hung in the Community Hall, a lasting tribute to those who will not return."

Hymns.—Help the baseball boys by socials. Have a sick committee appointed each month, which also attends to the sanitary requirements of the school. They put gas lamps, a cook stove, and piano, and finally a new roof on their hall. Naturally the monthly meetings with the discussion of various live topics, exchange of recipes and ideas on household helps, followed by a social hour, are full of interest.

Ellsworth.—Give a present to each new baby in the community. Helped the young family of a man disabled by an accident, assist the School Fair and supply phonographs for the school gramophone. In their monthly programs they studied physical training for the school, and had a poultry culling demonstration, and an address on plants and how to grow them.

Cattle Tuberculosis.

The control of bovine tuberculosis, it is admitted by the Veterinary Director General for Canada, has always been a difficult problem, chiefly because of its wide prevalence, the tremendous cost involved, and because the full support and co-operation of the live stock owner is essential to success. This disease is a chronic one and does not excite suspicion except in advanced cases.

The great majority of tuberculous cows do not exhibit any signs of disease and are from physical appearances apparently in the best of health. Many of these animals are, however, the most prolific source of disseminating infection. It is the very deceptive nature of this disease that makes it difficult for the live stock owner to realize that it is the most costly disease of live stock and that it is also a very great menace to public health.

Moore Hill.—Furnish cocoa and sugar for a hot school lunch, and furnished dinner for a community tea to clean the school grounds. They held a play, basket and tie socials, then with the proceeds installed a piano in the Community Hall, and a series of dialogues will raise funds for its kitchen. The members look after the new babies and their mothers in cases without a doctor.

Slater River.—Had the young men and women put on a play and closed a delightful evening with a sale of homemade aprons. They gave a jolly sleighing party to the two schools, which ended with games and refreshments at the Community Hall. This for the last two years the members have been furnishing, purchasing lumber "and prevailing on our good-natured husbands to take a day off and build the tables."

A picnic closed the school year. They sent prize money and a very practical list of prizes to the School Fair, which they cordially support. Such a pretty way too to help the Hospital—by selling violets at a social evening in the hall.

Port Arthur.—Specializes in lectures on its programs. Helped a neighbor Institute with a cash donation to their Community Hall. Polished the floors, painted, papered and bought linen for their own Children's Shelter, finally giving \$50 to the General Hospital.

West Port William.—Hold a December educational "at home" in honor of all their teachers. Have excellent monthly programs with recipe demonstrations and end by eating the demonstration.

O'Connor.—"The biggest feature perhaps of our year's work is the Fair managed by the Institute. Prizes are awarded for stock, vegetables, dairy products, and domestic science products. There are sports for the young people and for the last two years the Children's School Fair has been held in conjunction with ours, with their own place and prizes and sports, though they may compete in the others as well. We also had a Health Clinic." **Combes.**—Bought two organs, window blinds, water tanks and drinking cups for the schools. Helped neighboring fire or hurricane sufferers, two widows, and are securing the Mothers' Allowance for the mother of young children.

Atikokan.—Are active community workers. Built sidewalks, paid for culverts on the Government Road, bought athletic grounds, built a grandstand, a school platform, improved the cemetery and hall and helped needy families.

Box Alder.—Helped the needy and provided social good times for the community.

Big Fork.—Brought Government Travelling Libraries for the long winter evenings, gave School Fair prizes, helped the Sick Children's Hospital and have excellent monthly programs.

Fort Frances.—Helped many needy ones, sick and shut-ins, the School Fair; held a reception for new teachers and strangers, got a local Children's Aid organized; assisted the Muskoka and Sick Children's Hospital, raising money for this in such pleasant ways as rink carnivals, plant sales and teas.

Lavall.—Improved the cemetery, built a band-stand, help the School Fair, remembered the sick and needy, Muskoka Hospital, and helped with a neighborhood Christmas Tree.

McIrvine.—Had a sewing course and one in domestic science, helped the needy, bought a piano for the hall and assisted with a Christmas Tree. "This Branch is paying the membership fee of one member who has passed away, feeling they cannot allow her name to be taken from the roll. They called her their 'Inspiration,' always ready and willing to do and never allowing an ill word to be spoken of an absent member."

AN APPRECIATION.

The Branches also united in tendering to the Superintendent the following resolution of appreciation:

"We, the Women's Institutes of Northwestern Ontario, now in convention at Dryden, wish to convey to Mr. Putnam our sincere appreciation of his service as Superintendent of Institutes of Ontario. We value highly his attendance and co-operation and we hope it will be convenient for him to attend our convention for many years to come."

While the limitations of the tuberculin test are recognized, the Veterinary Director General points out in his report for last year, that it is the most practical and best method at present available for the detection of infected animals. Experience has shown that it is possible by the careful application of this test to eradicate this disease in herds and to maintain them free from it. Many thousands of post mortems conducted by the Health of Animals Branch have been held on carcasses of reacting cattle and the great majority of them reveal typical lesions of the disease.

A little flour dusted over the top of the cake before it is iced will prevent the icing running off.

Farmers will succeed better when they reduce the amount of growing and increase the use of accurate tests and data upon which to base their practices.