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NEWSY FARM NOTES

By Agricola

A HIGHER STANDARD IN HENS

An article appeared in these columns a week or two ago, summarizing the results of the various egg-laying contests in Canada, and particularly those of this province. The record of Performance Certificate at that time was based upon the hen's ability to lay 150 eggs during the year, but at the last annual meeting of the R. O. P. Poultry Breeder's Association, the standard was raised, so that to qualify for the certificate, the hen must produce a minimum of 175 eggs in the same period. This is a step in the right direction for the report of the Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion points out, the average production in 1928 was 172.5 per bird as against 122.5 in 1929.

The poultry industry is making rapid advances, and even a small flock is found to be productive of profit at a time when money is slack. Greater care in culling, and especially in the preparation of the flock for winter egg-laying, will easily secure an approximation to the new standard, with its consequent increase of profit.

of spending laborious days over a place where one didn't intend to stay? Generation after generation the Briton stayed on the old homestead and each generation left its mark in increased value, in production and appearance. The tendency to be ever on the move kept the education of the children back, deprived the neighbourhood of social and ethical good, and in a word, accounted for the general wave of pessimism that prevailed here at the time.

Happily, those times are gone, never to return let us hope. A run through the country today reveals neatly kept homesteads and a pride in them. Never was seen such a plentiful use of paint and whitewash as there was in the spring; everyone is trying to out-do his neighbour in the matter. It is the one-time when "keeping up with the Joneses" is a laudible ambition, and it is certain that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor's interest is bearing good fruit. So much so that an Englishman who came to the Province within the fortnight, confessed that of all places in Canada that he had seen, this was the prettiest.

ROLLING STONES

There are individuals who through lack of means, or of ambition, or maybe through some mental inhibition, go through life as laborers drifting from one employer to another and gaining nothing in the process. We are rather apt to think of the old saying "a rolling stone gathers no moss" than to waste sympathy over such an individual.

And there are persons, who, though in possession of desirable property or property which might easily be made so, lack the stability to stay by the place, and gather the "moss" in the shape of stock, equipment, and improvement in value.

This condition of things was very noticeable 20 years ago and it was surprising how little would induce a farmer to sell his property and "flit" as the Scottish say. And seldom did he "flit" to better himself. Often the lure of the West caught him and forth he fared, only to repeat the performance—for it got into the blood, or perhaps was in the blood, a throw back to his pioneering ancestors. Sometimes the West made his fortune and there was another Successful Islander abroad. Oftener it didn't but the fact was not heralded by headlines.

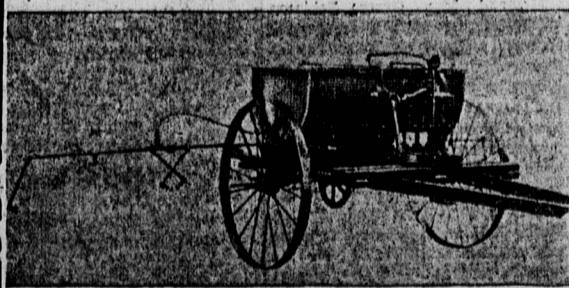
This everlasting movement—incomprehensible to one fresh from the Homeland—was disastrous to the community. What need of improving—

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the following afternoon, and it is a good practice to cut sufficient in the morning to keep the teams going continuously. In this way, cutting and raking is done in the mornings and hay can be housed in the afternoon. If the weather looks threatening in the early morning the farmer can refrain from cutting, and in the event of a shower approaching, could either haul early in the day or have the hay put in coils. It is well to have an eye to the weather probabilities for with this assistance, a much better quality of hay can be secured. There is a danger in storing improperly cured or damp hay in the mow, as spontaneous combustion is liable to occur. A large percentage of the barn fires that annually happen in the autumn and fall months, are due to this cause. While there may be a few people who doubt this fact, nevertheless it has been proven beyond the shadow of a doubt that many cases of barn destruction have occurred from the storing of immature hay and grain. The report issued by the "Fire Marshal" of Ontario, gives the result of many investigations under oath, where eye witnesses have proven the great danger that exists from this cause. Heating rapidly occurs in damp hay, especially in the centre lot, if the large dumps made by the swinging fork are not carefully spread around. All experienced farmers know that the greatest amount of heating occurs directly under the drop from the fork. If the hay is removed and salting is carefully practised, it lessens the danger. However, it is always most unwise to store large quantities of immature cured hay in a barn.

Well cured clover is very rich in protein and if properly cured and saved will cheapen the ration for dairy cattle and calves, but its feed value so greatly depends on the state of maturity and the manner in which it is saved that the greatest possible care should be exercised, if the greatest amount of value is to be secured. We feel that there is no crop grown or harvested in this Province which loses so much in handling and storing, as hay and we are convinced that if the loss that occurs in overmaturity and badly cured hay could be shown to the farmer in dollars and cents, that we would see very much earlier cutting and greater care in curing and storing than has been practised in the past. It always pays to start on the early side and watch carefully the approach of stormy weather, taking full advantage of the service provided by the Weather Bureau, which is of incalculable value to the grower of hay and grain.

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