

HOW EUROPEAN FARMING COMPARES WITH CANADIAN

BY WILLIAM CROWNOVER.

Road roads were the first thing that attracted my attention. England has the best roads of any country I visited. The roads are very narrow, never wider than for two cars to pass easily. I should think they are about 20 feet wide on the main thoroughfares. Many of the roads are only wide enough for one vehicle, with passing places every 40 to 80 rods. These roads are built with a blue flint-like rock, hauled from quarries sometimes six to eight miles, with traction engines. Four to six loads are piled by the roadside, and men with hammers break them into pieces about the size of a hen's egg. They are then put on the road and a preparation that looks like asphalt is poured over the broken stone. The stone is then rolled down with heavy rollers, leaving it as smooth as asphalt paving.

Road taxes are very high. Every person who owns a vehicle, whether of lawful age or not, pays a cash road tax. A gentleman informed me that he was paying \$2, or \$40 of our money road tax on 200 acres he was renting, and that the landlord was paying about the same amount.

Canadians want good roads, but do not like high taxes. They have not yet learned that they cannot get something for nothing. They will complain of the trustees raise the assessment one mill, and I don't know but what they are justified in complaining. A lot of our money has been wasted in poor road work; but if we are to have good roads, we must have money to do it with, and then have the work properly done.

The crops are wheat, oats, barley, beet, carrots, turnips and beans. The fields are divided, usually in four to ten-acre lots. A rotation of crops is strictly followed. There is but a small percentage of the land in crops, compared to pastures and hay lands, as dairying and stock raising are the main industries. Roots and bran are the main stock foods, with a little chopped oats, beans or barley mixed. Oil cake is bought and ground, as used on the farm. A six-acre lot produces an enormous amount of roots, which are pulled and piled up in a row on one side of the field three or four feet high, covered with a little straw and four inches of dirt, which protects them from freezing through the winter. From this they are taken and used as wanted. The wheat is taken to the mill and ground into flour and bran only, and bran resembles rolled oats and is far superior to our Canadian bran. Milling machinery, as used here, has been introduced, but not satisfactorily to the farmer. He says it spoils his bran. Nearly all farmers rent their lands, paying from 15 to 50 shillings per acre, or \$4 to \$11 in our money, and some choice farms rent higher. Many old men have been born on the farms they are renting, their forefathers having rented before them. Many of them are very wealthy and rated much higher than their landlords.

I was somewhat surprised to learn that some men were renting several estates. One man whom I visited was renting 4,000 acres. He was entirely a stock breeder and dealer and is rated at \$1,000,000. He is posted on the markets of the world and inquired as to our corn crop and prospective fat cattle market, as it was necessary for him to make his plans for feeding beef cattle accordingly, for stockmen on this side, he said, were killing their beef trade; that we were putting our meat on the market cheaper than they could produce it now.

Dairying is carried on quite extensively. The Guernseys and Devons are the leading dairy cattle. They are of a good beef type also. Dehorning is not practiced, and, of course, one animal has to suffer when cornered by another.

The milking is done in some localities by the men and others by the women. The hand separator is used everywhere, the cream kept in the cooling cellar and churned every day by one of the maids. She has a low wooden tub about eight inches high. She puts the cream into this and stirs it with her hand round and round until the butter is separated from the milk, which takes only a short time. It is then washed, salted and made into prints ready for market day. It is all handled perfectly neat and clean. I never saw any nicer looking butter, nor never tasted better any butter.

The cows in winter time are kept in the barn and never exposed to any severe weather. Their ration is good hay, beets, turnips, warm bran or meal mashes. The Canadian stock breeder is handicapped for lack of careful expert herdsmen. We could pay the wages if we could get the men.

There should be more young men to fit themselves for stockmasters and managers of pure-bred stock farms. There is no more honorable position nor no place that requires any more skill than stock breeding or farming to make ten per cent. on \$150 land. Why not encourage young men to fit themselves for the positions that are opening up in our land on stock farms? It is just as honorable as pleading a case before the bar, standing behind the counter in a bank, or carrying pills in a box. Nearly every establishment on the American continent of any note has an English or Scotch herdman. Why? Because they are experts. Farmers on this side are the best experts in every other line and shall we forever have to depend on Europe for skilled labor on our farms?

I was at a loss to know how the European farmer paid \$15 an acre rent, but when I came to buying his products at the price I had to pay to get good animals, I soon discovered how it was done. The show rings in England are very educational. Every county has an association which is open to the kingdom for competition. They take more interest in showing than any other people. Every man will be out with his horses, cattle, sheep, pigs and chickens. Their shows are run on the square and the man with one animal stands just as good a chance to win as any lord or king if his animal is worthy.

The automobile has found its way out to the farm. In its early days city streets were best and men of leisure and wealth were more agreeable owners than the practical workers in the country. Now that the automobile has established itself, no one regrets that the experiment was made and that the city man's dollars and not the countryman's dollars were used for the purpose.

The feeling still exists in some quarters that the automobile is not for the farmer. This, however, is not true, as thousands of farmers over the land will willingly testify. You can go north, south, east or west, in almost any country or town, and find automobiles owned by farmers and used for general purposes, such as are included in road work, pleasure driving, business trips and light hauling. Some carry the automobile, because of its competition with the horse. This is a very narrow view, however, to take. If the common driving horse is displaced, it is because the automobile is better, more satisfying and because it brings greater pleasure and comfort to its owner.

If crops can be more cheaply grown, harvested and moved by machine power, what farmer shall say that such is not wise and desirable? The automobile has for years stood for pleasure, rapid transit and quick travel. While it was a city institution at first, city people no longer have a monopoly of it. The automobile is within the financial reach of farmers. Thousands have by purchasing, using and continuing to use them demonstrated this simple fact. That more automobiles will go to the farm each year is now a certain fact and no one will say that it is not a good omen, or desirable. By the use of automobiles in the country, more pleasure and satisfaction are added to country living.

Idleness and intemperance often go hand in hand; combined, they easily and often lead to complete degradation. A good way to raise the standard of manhood is to apply more honest common sense to regulating the liquor traffic. The new law in New Jersey U.S.A., provides for the appointment in each city or town of a board of three protectors.

The protectors' duty is to investigate the causes of drunkenness and find out who the people are that are getting drunk, then they must give to every licensed liquor dealer a list of the habitual drunkards and of those whom the board believes are liable to become drunkards. The liquor dealers are warned not to sell to such persons. The dealer who knowingly sells to a near-drunkard after warning may be fined \$50 for a first offence, \$100 for second, and \$200 for third offence. His license may be forfeited on the third call.

Great fortunes have been made through the rise in value of land, for there is nothing safer or surer in the form of investment than well chosen real estate. In order to meet the extraordinary demands of building a huge navy England proposes to tax the unearned increment of land between one sale and another and is sure to raise many millions in this way.

This system of taxation has been in force for many years in a number of German municipalities, where it has worked exceedingly well.

DAIRYING THE SACRIFICE OF COWS SEEN IN THE CITY

Poor Economy to Send Cow to the Slaughter Too Soon.

HOW TO AVOID IT.

BY PROF. THOMAS SHAW.

The sacrifice of cows in city dairies is, unfortunately, very large. By sacrifice is meant the disposal of the same at the end of the lactation period by sending them to the slaughter house. Many engaged in this kind of dairying buy one season and then sell them for what they will bring, and invest again



This is the thriving western town of Indian Head, Sask. Eleven huge grain elevators are seen on the left of the picture, while fifteen miles of wheat farms stretch to the horizon beyond. The photograph was taken from the Experimental Farm.

In other cows that are fresh. Such a system means the premature loss of many good cows. Is there any way of preventing it?

If farmers not far distant were engaged in growing baby beef they should be prevented by the farmer taking such cows and maintaining them when dry on such terms as may be agreed upon. A check cannot be kept in filthy quarters, but when they had freshened and well ventilated. See that brooders are of room for exercise. For myself I prefer brooders to the mother hen. I verily believe that if the mother hen of chick food, while other cheaper food hens it is a good plan to have a place for them to run into and feed by themselves. I have found it an easy matter to have ten-week-old chicks ready for broiling at a weight of good quality.

The greatest benefit, however, would come from the retention of good cows for a number of successive years in a dairy. A good cow is a valuable asset, too valuable to be milked for only one season, and then sent to the slaughter. Such a course means cutting them off in the midst of their usefulness. It is only those whose performance in the dairy is not satisfactory that should be dealt with thus.

HANDLING THE BULL.

When the raising of good stock is to be taken into consideration, the bull is the better half of the herd. In a majority of cases this animal seems to be possessed and is disposed to exercise a head of his own and, if not properly handled, needs careful management and control from the beginning of his calving.

I am not sure that even beyond this period thought should be given to his ancestry in order to possess a knowledge of the traits of character and disposition likely to be developed in the offspring. A vicious ancestry, either on the part of the sire or dam, will likely sooner or later manifest itself in the young animal; and in selecting the one to head the herd, his should be carefully guarded against.

One requirement in handling the bull is with reference to his early, thrifty growth and development. Good feed and good care are essential in order that a decent, well proportioned animal may head the herd, and one that will likely leave a good impression on his posterity.

The calf should be dealt with from the start gently, yet firmly, but never in a teasing or snarling way. He should be taught to be handled quietly, to be easily haltered and led by the time he is a yearling, and a good ring should be put in his nose to aid in his complete control.

When old enough for service, he should not be allowed to run with the other cattle, but be kept stabled or in a substantially fenced field or lot. The latter is the best, and can be provided in a reasonably cheap and effective manner. My own method is to have a lot, consisting of about three acres, enclosed with a four foot wire fence substantially put up on good, well-set posts, the posts extending eight or ten inches above the top of the woven fence, which is put on the outside of the posts. On the inside of the posts a barbed wire is placed about six inches above the top of the woven fence, and one also about eight inches below the same, on the inside of the posts. In nearly every case this will be a sufficient fence against fence throwing or breaking of fence.

Well provided with water and comfortable shelter, and a strong plank fence to protect the lot, the bull will be in the best of health and the arrangement. I have found in my own case this kind of enclosure sufficient to keep under control a vigorous Short Horn bull of about 1,700 pounds weight.—Wm. H. Underwood.

Unpalatable Milk or Cream is of practically no value as an article of food. On the other hand, if these products contain a low percentage of fats or solids not fat, or an excessive number of bacteria, and still have a good flavor, they may be utilized, and, in fact, more or less milk or cream of this character is used. Hence we see that flavor is of the first importance.

POULTRY HATCH WINTER LAYERS NOW IS SOUND ADVICE

Cleanliness is First Consideration in Care of Chicks.

DON'T STINT THE FOOD.

BY MRS. H. R. GOSLEE.

Now is the time to hatch winter layers if you are in the poultry business for profit. I have found that it is a mistaken idea that the earlier chicks are hatched the more likely they are to lay during the winter months. A pullet hatched in January or February begins to lay in August or September.

One cannot say all that is in mind on different topics at the time when a suggestion might be useful. Yet there are advantages of having the opinion of another for comparison and observation of methods already employed.

When this is read corn planting will have been completed, but a thought on the subject may not be amiss. In this region the time for planting, except on naturally or artificially underdrained soil, has been disastrously delayed for a number of years on account of too much rain. These latter circumstances, planting has been done on land not prepared so that the corn might be done in the best manner. The seed bed for corn should be tilled so that the seed may be planted at a uniform depth of, say, two inches—except in extreme dry weather, when the depth should be sufficient to reach moisture.

DEPTH OF SPRING PLOWING.

If a field is stubble land, or corn stalk ground, it should be plowed about five inches. Ordinarily spring plowing to a depth of eight or nine inches is a waste of horsepower. It is better to conserve the energy of the horse for cultivating the corn after it is planted. We plow to let air into the soil; to provide for an easy and uniform covering of seeds; to kill weeds, and to emulsify the surface. All these points are covered by cutting the soil to a depth of five inches. There is no danger of getting a clay soil too tight. The tiller of a clay soil looks over a prairie drift loam and says there is something about it that I do not understand. It seems to have no body, no density.

INDIAN HEAD.

There is one thing he discovers, namely, that one man can farm many more acres of prairie land than he can of a clay soil. This is due to the mellowness of the loam, and the evenness of surface. By reason of this mellow character of prairie soils we are apt to spoil the anchorage of plants by not preserving the proper density of the soil. Anyone familiar with transplanting trees—in this kind of soil—knows that if the soil is not carefully compressed around the roots, the tree will die. That is the tree will literally starve to death because the roots are out of reach of moisture and, consequently, plant food. Setting a plant in too loose earth is somewhat like feeding a horse and then tying him out of reach of the feed box.

Nothing so much feed and improve the soil as to let the whole hog through the winter and I give more credit to this than to anything else for my successful hog raising.

It may not be the exercise only that makes such wonderful improvement of the soil, but the fact that they pick up a large amount of feed that is suitable for their systems.

OVERSIGHT OF THE SOW.

I let the sow loose until farrowing time and then I shut her up for a day or two. When I see her begin to carry straw for a bed, then I shut her up and watch her carefully. We have never had any trouble at farrowing time and my father and I have raised hogs on this farm for 19 years. Several have had difficulty, but I think the lack of exercise has had a lot to do with it. It may not be the exercise only that makes such wonderful improvement of the soil, but the fact that they pick up a large amount of feed that is suitable for their systems.

THE FIRST DAY AFTER FARROWING I feed the sow very little and only give her a little drink. After that I feed her gradually with slop, oats and corn. When the pigs are three weeks old I make a separate ration for them, milk and grain separate from the mother. When they are six to eight weeks old I put them in a small pasture near the barn and wean them from the sow. I feed them well for a while. I intend to put them on the early market. If I intend to keep them a long time I feed them on bulky feed.

DON'T FEED THEM TOO LONG.

I like to market my hogs when they weigh about 250 pounds, although I

have had a few old breeding animals that weighed as high as 500 pounds, but I don't care to raise them. I think hogs should have their bedding changed as often as once a week or ten days. I have my sheds arranged in connection with calf sheds so that I can quickly change it.

MAKING A HOG WALLOW.

A wallow for the hogs is a good thing in summer, for it helps to keep them cool. One can be easily made of concrete by digging a hole 12 inches deep and 10 feet square. In the bottom make a layer of coarse gravel or cinders and bring it up 3 inches of concrete. This makes a good, sanitary basin which will make a good, sanitary wallow. A barrel of water a day will keep it going. If you can pipe running water to the basin so much the better.

SPECULATION AND FRAUDS.

Farmers are usually looked upon by men in other lines of business as the prey of sharpers, but not long since a gentleman of mature age, successful in his calling, and well informed on matters of public interest, told me that he had long since ceased to criticize the farmer in this respect; for schemes as barbed as any of the popular ones that are perpetrated were often practiced on shrewd, careful men of affairs; indeed, he himself had been caught by something not unlike the "note" trick.

If people would only bear in mind that seldom does the opportunity appear when a dollar's worth of any commodity can be bought for less than one hundred cents. Yet there are times when the necessities of holders of certain articles can be bought for less than usual, so that those who can anticipate future wants may profit by the other fellow's distress. But exceptions of this kind only prove the rule.

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AGRICULTURE DON'T PLOW TOO DEEP; IT'S WASTE OF HORSE POWER

Remember That Five Inches is Deep Enough for Anything.

WAVE OF SPECULATION.

BY C. L. GRIMSBY.

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SWINE UP-TO-DATE WAYS MAKE SUCCESS IN SWINE RAISING

A Prize-Winning Article Which is Full of Good Sense.

CARE OF YOUNG PIGS.

BY NELS LARSON.

(This article won a prize in a recent swine-keeping contest and deserves more than a passing notice.—Editor.)

I have been breeding the Poland-China for several years, as I like them because of their quiet disposition and early maturity. I have no certain month in the year for litters to come, but change it according to conditions. The surroundings are different, such as suitable feed, shed room and the age of breeding stock. Some years when I have kept old sows I have litters come in early March with good success. These are really the best because they have the full benefit of the green feed in early summer and make large hogs before cold weather sets in. I have had litters in November and they weigh about 240 pounds.

Those that I keep for breeding purposes I sort out and leave them to fatten, while I feed the others for market. When I keep only young sows for breeding I have the litters come in late April or May, and these pigs are not crowded with heavy feeding, because they have to be fed in cold weather and fitted for market in winter or spring. For several years I have fed a few head of cattle in the fall and early winter, and keep a part of the sows with the cattle and the rest of them get the run of a big pasture of 60 acres, which is fenced hog tight. I have my corn out of the fields and they have the run of the whole hog through the winter and I give more credit to this than to anything else for my successful hog raising.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

Worms.—G. F. E. wants a remedy for worms. Give two drams copperas at a dose in bran mash twice a day and continue for a month if needed.

Scrubbing.—Subscriber—"What is the best scrub for scratches?"

Ans.—Add salt, 1 dram; Petroleum, 1 ounce; and a little kerosene to the dissolved skin.

Appetition Capricious.—Subscriber—"My cow eats grass, but refuses to eat hay; she is weak and sallow, probably because she does not eat. Her teeth are good. What do you advise?"

Ans.—Give her green grass to eat in place of hay. Continue to feed grain.

Indigestion.—Subscriber—"What can I do for a horse that has indigestion and swelling under the body and about the legs?"

Ans.—A month or two on grass is the best remedy for your horse. Feed some grain, also, until he becomes used to the change of hay.

Rupture.—C. O. S.—"A mare was ruptured or strained in the intestinal membrane just in front of the uterus by rubbing down in the deep snow six years ago. Is it safe to breed her?"

Ans.—There is not much danger if the mare is causing trouble if the mare gets with foal.

Lame Horse.—A. P. F.—"Horse became lame after walking a short distance; his front legs felt just back of the shoulders, swelling under, but left him stiff. What shall I do?"

Ans.—Give him a rest in pasture for a few weeks and rub shoulders each night with spirits camphor.

Mare Lying.—Subscriber—"A mare lamed a foal last year. She has been lying under the belly, and lays down and rolls back as if in pain. Can she be bred again?"

Ans.—We are unable to determine the cause of the mare's trouble, if she recovers her health she can be bred again.

Urinary Trouble.—Old Subscriber—"A three months old calf is running with the cows. She kicks her hind legs and strains to make water and passes only a few drops at a time. She is fed separately for milk and timothy hay and is well otherwise."

Ans.—Probably some trouble with bladder such as stone, which obstructs the flow of water.

Infectious Disease.—J. S.—"I have lost several cows this spring. They get down and can't get up. They eat well, but lay around for two or three weeks, then die. Toward the last there is a bloody discharge from the rectum."

Ans.—Your description is not very full, but the symptoms mentioned are those of an infectious disease. Report to your state veterinarian.

Tomato Rot.—Subscriber—"Last season my tomatoes were affected with dry rot. What is a remedy?"

Ans.—The only practical remedy is to grow tomatoes on land not previously used for them, as the disease lives over in the ground. Spraying the young fruit with Bordeaux mixture has been found effective, though it is of doubtful dependence on account of the expense of labor.

Brain Disease.—J. M. M.—"My horse has lost several pigs. They hold their heads to one side, otherwise they seem healthy. They are fed on milk about a dozen times a day. The above symptoms are those of strychnine poisoning. Give five grains bromide of potassium three times a day in a tablespoonful of water, and continue for two days. Feed ground oats and middlings instead of corn."

Infection, Sheep.—Subscriber—"Have lost twenty-two head of sheep. They lay down and can't get up; when they get up there is a rattling sound like that of full of water. They have diarrhoea. After ten to twenty-four or thirty-six hours they are dead. What shall I do?"

Ans.—Probably an infectious trouble, which should be investigated by the state live stock board. Write them.

Hens Lying.—A. E. S.—"What all my hens begin to turn? They eat well, but dump around for about a week and then die. There is no undue discharge from the bowels. They eat and drink a little and more or less. Several have died. The diarrhoea is probably black rot; give physio of colomel in one-teaspoonful of water or castor oil, followed by a good tonic and nourishing food."

Fertilizer for Strawberries.—E. B.—"What is the best time to apply fertilizer to newly set strawberry plants, and what should be used?"

Ans.—If potash and phosphoric acid is used, apply along the row, work well with cultivator, then set the plants. A fertilizer largely made of potash, one-third each by weight of sulphate of acid phosphate and sulphate of potash. Complete fertilizers are most probably used in connection with strawberries. It is doubtful if it would pay to use them alone.

Spayed Heifers with Calf.—J. D.—"It is possible in spaying cattle to leave a portion of the ovary that would still perform its functions? I spayed a number of heifers last spring and removed both ovaries from every animal. The owner of the spayed animals writes me that some of the spayed heifers are with calf. We throw the animals and I cut off the upper ovary; the lower one I placed with my thumb nail."

Agony.—You must not have removed all the ovary with the thumb nail. Use shears or a saw to remove them and try to get all of the ovarian tissue.

Inflammation of Intestines.—Subscriber—"I had a horse that was subject to colic. After a bad attack I gave him a colic cure, which failed to relieve; then I gave him an ounce of laudanum. After the effects were off the symptoms returned. I gave him more medicine, but he grew worse and died after being sick twenty-six hours. When I opened him his intestines were full of water and gas. The intestines were purple and the water in them looked like dark blood. There was a growth near the liver and the intestines were looked bad. Did I kill the horse with too much medicine or what caused his death?"

Ans.—Your horse evidently died of inflammation of the intestines. We do not see any reason for blaming your treatment. This disease is a painful death.