

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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available for purchase by commercial seed growers, in such quantities as to yield the necessary quantity of bulk commercial seed when multiplied by those who grow seed for sale. There is no reason why some constructive, efficient and adequate policy of seed improvement and distribution should not be put into effect under Government supervision.

The Government, however, should not be held responsible for all the objections which can be raised to the quality of our field crops. Individual farmers in thousands of cases pay too little attention to the quality of seed they sow. It may be difficult to obtain pure seed, but many farmers do not sow seed as good as can be obtained. Those who use seed from last year's grain crop often neglect to clean it thoroughly. There is no excuse for sowing grain from your own crop that has not been run through the fanning mill at least two or three times until all the light, shrunken grains are blown out, and nothing but the very best remain. Let us make a concerted effort this spring to eliminate so far as we can do it individually the poor seed, which in so many cases makes the stand of crop uneven, and markedly cuts down the returns from farming. Let us educate ourselves, by an honest trial, to the fact that good seed pays, and then when the Government has succeeded in establishing centres for the distribution of pure seed, let us see that what we use is the best that can be obtained.

Southwestern Ontario farming conditions are different, in some respects, from those prevailing elsewhere in the Province. On this account a local experiment station would be of great service to several counties in the Peninsula and a Winter Fair at Chatham would carry the gospel of good farming, combined with more and better live stock, to a great many farmers who never attend winter fairs located east and north.

If you have an idea don't bury it away in a napkin. Pass it along and see it multiply.

Guard Against Bolshevism.

BY ALLAN MCDIARMID.

News of the successes of the Bolsheviks in Russia ought to have the effect of rousing up the civilized nations of the earth to the danger that lies ahead of them. Since history was first written we know that, almost invariably, the ruling classes have been those that stood for law and order. If the movement that is on foot in Russia now gets into full control they will not stop at the borders of their own country. And the result may be that the class that have for their religion anarchy and revolution will gain temporary control of the world.

We don't say that the above result is probable, but it is quite possible if we just continue to do nothing about it. It is the unlooked for things that are always happening. Two years ago no one would have believed that the farmers would, so soon, have got control of the Provincial Government. It is safe in their hands, we are all satisfied, but the tendency of humanity is to go to extremes and who knows what these revolutionary movements may accomplish.

Good has come out of some of the revolutions of the past but it was because they were brought under control before the real danger-point had been reached. Revolution and Bolshevism carried to its logical conclusion means anarchy and a final relapse into barbarism. The Government it attempts to set up is responsible to no one and as a consequence the mass of the people have no say as to the way their laws shall be made or the country ruled. By the voice and vote of the whole people a nation should be governed and this plan has been adopted the world over. But Bolshevism, insofar as it has been demonstrated, is mob rule and not rational Government.

People in this country are not very much concerned over the possibilities of a revolution that may take place some time in the distant future. But, in this 20th Century, what affects one country is likely to affect all, for the world to-day is more nearly one family than it has ever been in the past. And the seeds of Bolshevism that are being planted all over America won't take very long springing up with the right temperature and surroundings.

For the last quarter of a century, or more, the United States and Canada have been doing all they could to bring in immigrants from foreign countries. Whether they came from the hot-beds of anarchy in Russia, or from somewhere else, it was all one so long as our countries were populated. Every immigrant was a consumer and more consumers meant more business and more prosperous towns and cities.

Unrestricted immigration is one of the greatest mistakes that any Government can be guilty of. When it comes to getting neighbors and business associates for our people it's quality we want. Quantity is a secondary consideration.

We may not be able to avoid all the consequences of a revolution in Europe but we can help to handle the situation to far greater advantage if we haven't the germs of the same trouble developing in our own land. I don't believe in the cry, "Canada for Canadians," but I do hold to the idea of keeping this country for men and women who are reasonably sure to become good citizens and who will be likely to support its institutions.

Let us get our land populated as soon as possible, consistent with safety, but, "safety first." Canada couldn't choose a better watchword, for the rest of this century, probably, than "Restricted Immigration."

Another question comes up in connection with this subject. What are we to do with our foreign-born population once we have admitted them to the country? Should we exercise some oversight in regard to them or is it advisable to let them shift for themselves and make the best of it?

If it is possible to do it I think our immigrants should be looked after by the Government for a certain time, at least, after they arrive here. This would have the effect of making the stranger more kindly disposed towards the institutions of the country of his adoption and at the same time it would create the opportunity whereby more of our foreign-born citizens might be directed on to the land, and for two or three reasons that is where we want to get them.

In the first place for their own good they are better on a farm than in the over-crowded towns. There is hardly any argument as to that point.

In the second place we need them there to keep down, to some extent, the increasing cost of living. I think the best interests of farmers, as well as of any other class, will be best served by the prevention, in some way, of prices going any higher. The cost of living is what is creating, to a great extent, the unrest and labor troubles that have become so common throughout the world during the past year. As farmers, the increased prices we have been getting for our produce have reacted on ourselves to a large extent, in the way of higher cost of production. And the higher the price for food goes the more it is going to cost us to produce it. Calling a halt to the whole business of price-raising would be serving the interests of all concerned. And the one way to bring this about would seem to be for as many as possible of our incoming settlers to take up farms. Government help should be given these people to enable them to get properly started. It would be an investment that would be likely to return good dividends—better than the G. T. P.

By putting these people on farms we take them out of the hands of the strike-promoter and the Bolshevik orator. They can do their work in the towns and cities only. Mob-riots were never heard of out in the country. The most law-abiding and peaceable citizens of a country

are always found on the farm. This is not in any way a boast. It is only stating a fact. And that being the case the moral is easily read. Simply get the individual that we are not quite sure of, the one who has come to us from the land of the Revolutionary, out on to the land where he won't have to be watched so closely and where hard work and healthy surroundings will make a man of him. I can't imagine any better medicine for the cure of Bolshevism than country air and ten or twelve hours a day following the plow. It has cured many other troubles just about as bad.

Nature's Diary.

By A. BROOKER KLUGH, M. A.

The Origin of Cultivated Plants—3.

The Apple, *Pyrus malus*, is indigenous in southern and central Europe and as far east as the Persian Province of Ghilan, and grows wild to-day over much of this area. It was made use of by the inhabitants of the ancient lake-dwellings, being dried for use in winter, and judging from the size of some of the fruit found in these dwellings was cultivated by this prehistoric people. Practically all the different varieties of apples now in cultivation have sprung from *Pyrus malus*, but the Siberian Crab, *P. baccata*, has been introduced into the Northern States and Canada, and certain other crabs, such as the Souldard and the Matthews, are apparently hybrids between a native American species *P. iowensis*, and *P. malus*.

The Pear, *Pyrus communis*, grows wild over the whole of temperate Europe and Western Asia, and has been used from ancient times as is shown by remains found in the Swiss lake-dwellings.

The Peach, *Amygdalus persica*, is a native of China, where it has been cultivated for at least five thousand years. The original type of this species has a downy skin and a rounded shape, and from it have been derived the flattened varieties and also the smooth kinds known as nectarines. The peach was very early carried from China to Persia, and the Greeks first came in contact with it in Persia in 332 B. C.

The apricot, *Prunus armeniaca*, is likewise indigenous in China, and is referred to in Chinese literature of the date 2205 B. C. It was introduced into Western Asia in 100 B. C.

At the present time there are several hundred varieties of plums. Most of these have been derived from *Prunus domestica*, which is a native of Anatolia and Northern Persia. The Romans, two thousand years ago, cultivated a great many varieties of plums and the Damson was a variety known to them as abundant about Damascus, whence the name "damascene" and our common name. Some plums now cultivated in North America, such as the Golden Beauty, Honey Drop and Wayland, are derived from one or other of the American species of wild plums.

Most of the cultivated cherries are derived from *Prunus avium*, the Bird-cherry, which is native in Europe from Southern Sweden to the mountainous parts of Greece, Italy and Spain, and in Western Asia. Some, such as the Montmorency, are, however, derived from *P. cerasus*, a species with sour fruit, which is a native of the Caspian region.

The modern cultivated strawberry is the result of the crossing of several species found in different parts of the world. The foundation stock is *Fragaria vesca*, which grows wild over a very large portion of the Northern hemisphere, being found in Europe, Asia and America. This species was not cultivated by the Greeks or Romans, and its culture was first undertaken in England and France in the fifteenth century. The improvement in recent times has been brought about by crossing with the Virginian strawberry, which is our commonest and best-flavored wild strawberry in Canada, and with the Chili strawberry, which was brought to France in 1715.

The European wild raspberry, which is a native of temperate Europe and Asia was first taken into cultivation about five hundred years ago. This plant was introduced into America in early days, but did not withstand either the cold of the North or the hot summers of the South, and the varieties we now grow are all derived from native species. The first of the native raspberries to be taken into cultivation was a natural hybrid between the Red raspberry, *Rubus strigosus*, and the Black-cap R. *occidentalis*, though at the time its hybrid origin was not suspected. The culture of this hybrid was begun in 1825, and from this plant all the purple raspberries and the best of the red berries have been derived. In 1832 the Black-cap was brought into cultivation by Nicholas Longworth and became known as the Ohio Everbearing, while in 1860 the Red raspberry was domesticated, but has not given rise to as promising varieties as the hybrid.

Red and white currants are both derived from the common wild red currant of temperate Europe and Asia, of which a variety is native to Canada, while black currants are the larger cultivated form of the European wild black currant. Both were brought into cultivation some six hundred years ago.

The gooseberry, which attains to such a large size and so excellent a flavor in English gardens, is the descendant of the common European *Ribes grosularia*. When introduced into America this plant was found to be subject to a native species of mildew to such an extent as to render it unprofitable. Consequently horticulturists turned to the American wild gooseberries, and about 1847 Abel Houghton produced a cultivated variety of *Ribes oxycanthoides*, and from this variety known as the Houghton, the Downing, which is the most widely cultivated gooseberry in North America, was derived about 1853.

(To be continued.)