

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE
AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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The Coming Seeding.

The answers contributed by a number of correspondents in reply to our series of questions as to their views and methods in relation to selection of seed, preparation of the soil, varieties of grain succeeding best in their section, etc., will no doubt be studied with interest by our readers, and it may not be amiss to sum up the salient points of these letters briefly in a short article. It is said that "in the multitude of counsellors there is wisdom," and while our readers will find much in most of the papers which is not new to them, they will also find in most of them some ideas which are new and which they may with profit and advantage adopt in their own practice. The selection and careful cleaning of seed grain is held by all to be of the first importance. While some attach much importance to frequent changes of seed from one locality to another, others do not take so much stock in that idea; but all are agreed that selection and cleaning is of vital importance. It is generally agreed that time should be taken by the forelock in the matter of early seeding. That is, that just as soon in the spring as the ground is dry enough to work without "poaching," seeding operations should commence. The harrow and cultivator may be started a day or two before the seed drill, opening up the land to the action of the sun and air to facilitate drying. This applies only, as a rule, to the first few days of seeding. The seed should all be cleaned and measured some time in advance of seeding time, so that no time may be lost during the busy days of the season for seeding. It is also important that harrows and cultivators be sharpened before the spring work commences. It makes all the difference in the world whether cultivator teeth are sharp or dull when the land begins to get dry and hard. If worn and dull they will slip over the hard places where good work is most needed, and will do good work only in the loose soil of the lowlands where a harrow alone would be sufficient. Look out for this point. As to the advantages of drilling or broadcasting, the weight of evidence is in favor of the former as a rule; there may be exceptions as to seed and soil in which the latter may be advantageous, and the farmer should use his own judgment and be guided by his experience. The prevailing opinion is that peas succeed best on fresh plowed sod, but where the land is clear of thistles will do well on any fairly fertile soil, and being a nitrogen gatherer, leave the land in good condition for the succeeding crop, especially if shallow cultivation is practiced in the preparation for the following crop.

The all-important question how best to secure a catch of clover seed is variously treated, the consensus of opinion being that to sow in early spring on fall wheat while the ground is frozen is the

surest way to get a catch, but sown with spring grain rich in humus or vegetable matter in average seasons a good catch may be relied on, especially with barley or spring wheat. If seeding is done with oats, the oats should be sown thinly, as being a gross grower they are apt to smother the young clover plants and leave them so weak that they cannot withstand the heat of the sun after the oats are harvested.

In the case of these small seeds, a finely pulverized seed-bed is indispensable to successful germination, and considering the high cost of the seed we are persuaded that on clay soils especially, and on most soils indeed, it is economy to harrow after the drill. Sow the clover seed by hand or machine and cover with a light harrow or brush. One thing may be put down for a certainty, and that is that to sow clover seed on poor land, void of vegetable matter, is wasting seed and money.

As to varieties of spring grain recommended, their name is legion, and opinions differ widely; but the results of experiments at the Dominion Experiment Stations, and of the Ontario Experimental Union, published in our last issue, together with the answers furnished by our correspondents in this series of papers, give a fair idea of the varieties most likely to give satisfaction in different sections of the country.

The Tuberculin Test—Note from the Minister of Agriculture.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

DEAR SIR,—In reply to yours of the 25th February about veterinary certificates, etc., the quotation you make is correct. The certificate of tuberculin test is no more a government matter than is a certificate of blood or registration. The reason that we make a scale of fees is that the United States requires certificates signed by a government appointee, and we only appointing a limited number would make something of the nature of a monopoly, and therefore we require to regulate the fees to prevent the people being unduly charged. At the same time these fees must be fair enough to induce the best veterinarians to undertake the test. The test is a delicate one, and the continuance of our arrangement with the United States is contingent on its being properly carried out and the certificates being unimpeachable. After full consideration we have fixed them as was stated by Dr. McEachran.

I will publish a list of inspectors as soon as possible.

Yours very truly,
SYDNEY FISHER.

Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, March 4, '97.

[NOTE.—The scale of fees for testing set by the Department is as follows: Five dollars for one animal; \$1 per head up to ten; and over ten, 50 cents per head. The owner must also pay for the tuberculin and traveling expenses.—EDITOR.]

Farmers and Dairymen's Association of New Brunswick.

The annual meeting of the above association was held in the Temperance Hall, Fredericton, on the 10th, 11th and 12th February.

President Tompkins in his opening address referred very feelingly to the death of the late Lieutenant-Governor, the Hon. J. J. Fraser, after which the Hon. Lieutenant-Governor, A. R. McClelland, addressed the meeting in an encouraging manner, contrasting the condition of the farmers, their facilities and comforts now, with those of forty years ago. In the afternoon, the Legislature adjourned their session, and nearly all of the members of the Government were present except the Hon. Premier, James Mitchell, who has been the leader of every movement to encourage and assist the farmers of the Province for many years, but because of the state of his health could not attend. His friendly presence and kind and wise words of counsel were greatly missed.

The Hon. L. J. Tweedie, Provincial Secretary, said the Provincial Government was pleased to see so many farmers assembled at their annual meeting, and he was glad to know that what the Government had been doing to assist the farmers in the past had been approved of, and they were quite willing, so far as their limited means would allow them, to continue that assistance, and any suggestions that the Association could give would be carefully considered by the Government.

The Hon. Mr. Emerson, Commissioner of the Board of Works, gave a practical address on "Good Roads," and asked the farmers to take more interest in the subject than they have done in the past.

Hon. A. T. Dunn, Minister of Crown Lands, spoke on hog raising and producing pork as a profitable branch of farming.

The following members of the Legislature addressed the Association: Messrs. Charles Smith, Carleton Co.; Porter, Victoria Co.; Killam, Westmoreland Co.; Dr. Alward, St. John; Farris, Queen's Co.; and Labllois, Restigouche Co.; after which Mayor Vanwort, Fredericton, gave an address of welcome on behalf of the city, which was replied to by Mr. J. R. Taylor, on behalf of the Association, who said among other things: "Fredericton has always been looked upon by us with admiration, being the capital of our Province when our Legislature meets; but it has another attraction since it has become the seat of our 'farmers' parliament,' where we plan and discuss matters relating to our own occupation."

The vice-presidents from each county and the secretaries of agricultural and dairy societies gave in their annual reports of the business transacted, and a resumé of the crops of the season. The general results were mostly satisfactory, except in two or three counties where the season had been very dry, causing very light crops of hay and pasture.

In connection with the meetings there was an exhibit of dairy butter in two classes, pound prints and ten-pound crocks or tubs. Nine entries in prints; highest score of points, 95, 94, 93, 92. Crocks, highest score of points, 94, 93, 92, 91. Then followed the report of the corresponding secretary, which gave an account of meetings held in different parts of the Province during the year, and touched upon a number of subjects relating to the Association's work. A number of papers were read, and some lively discussion followed on the registration of pure-bred stock, on the importation of stock by the Government, and mistakes in dairying, etc., which made up a good programme.

Prof. F. T. Shutt, Chemist, Experimental Farm, Ottawa, gave an address on stable management of cattle, giving prominence to pure air, light, pure water, and clean, wholesome food; advised growing corn, oats, peas, and clover, as cheap, wholesome foods for cattle. Cleanliness and good ventilation were needful in all stables.

Mr. G. W. Forrest, Experimental Farm, Nappan, N.S., gave a good account of the experimental work carried on at the farm in growing different kinds of grain, roots, and potatoes, which was very interesting and instructive.

Mr. Gilbert, Poultry Manager of the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, gave a very instructive address on the management of poultry for profit.

Mr. Blair, Horticulturist of the Experimental Farm at Nappan, gave a very instructive address on fruit growing.

Mr. Macpherson Defended.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—In the March 1st ADVOCATE Mr. D. P. Cameron takes a tilt at Mr. Macpherson's letter of February 1st, and would have us believe that Mr. Macpherson, from a crop value of over \$5,000, only realized a profit of \$40. If Mr. Cameron would look over Mr. Macpherson's statement closely, with an eye to business, he would find that Mr. Macpherson has 68 head of fattening cattle, 170 pigs, and about 4½ months' milk from 70 cows, which he estimates will fetch him \$5,000, and I think his estimate is low, especially on his pigs, put below \$5 each at six months old. If my mathematics are right, according to Mr. Macpherson's statement he sold \$2,640.25 worth the first six months of the year, and estimates that he will be able to sell \$5,000 more, which would make the handsome sum of \$7,640.25 in the year. Now, as to his expenses:—

Purchased feed for the year	\$1,800
Fattening cattle	1,500
Wear, tear, and repairs	500
Manual labor	1,500
Total in all	\$5,300

Which would leave him a profit of \$2,340.25 (instead of \$40, as Mr. Cameron stated) to live on, or interest on capital invested.

Mr. Cameron wants to know how to make a small farm (a poor one at that) grow a good crop. I take from this that he is still in the old rut trying to make a living growing grain. If he will make his farm pay he must first adopt business principles—know what pays and what does not. My experience teaches me that every bushel of grain grown for sale is grown at a loss; therefore, the more bushels the farther in debt. Studying Mr. Macpherson's letter, we find he grows very little grain, and if we cannot do a big business like him, let us do what we can, and stop selling off fertility.

Elgin Co., Ont.

ED. TERRY.

STOCK.

The Canadian Horse Show.

More than usual interest will attach to the Spring Horse Show to be held in Toronto this year on the last two days of April and 1st of May. The improving prices for first-class horses and the general disposition to give more attention to breeding the classes demanded by the market will give new life to the industry, and will, no doubt, bring out many additional exhibitors and visitors. It is generally believed that the show this year will exceed all its predecessors, both in the number and quality of exhibits, especially in the breeding classes, and it is pretty certain the classes for riding and driving horses will be well sustained as usual. The prize list is a very liberal and extensive one, amounting to nearly \$5,000, embracing in all 63 classes, with first prizes of \$50, second prizes of \$30, and third prizes of \$20 in a large proportion of the classes. The list for breeding horses is liberal and encouraging, and it is hoped that breeders will generally avail themselves of the privilege of competing, and thus adding to the interest in the business as well as to the interest in the reputation of our Spring Horse Show, which has apparently become one of the established institutions of the country and is certainly one of the most enjoyable events of the season. Prize lists and all necessary information may be obtained by addressing Mr. Henry Wade, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, who is the Recording Secretary.