

# The Canadian Dairyman AND Farming World

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THE CANADIAN DAIRYMAN AND FARMING WORLD, PETERBORO, ONT.

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## THE HORSE INTERESTS NEED MORE ATTENTION

Why are Ontario and the other eastern provinces of Canada so far behind other divisions of country in the matter of advancing the horse breeding interests? In Manitoba, in Wisconsin, in Pennsylvania, in Utah, as well as in most European countries, legislation has been enacted that makes it a difficult matter to travel anything but pure bred stallions to advantage, and which practically prohibits the use of unsound stallions of any kind. We need similar legislation in Ontario and in Eastern Canada.

We have too few pure-bred stallions to serve the needs of the country. As quickly as possible, how-

ever, their numbers should be strengthened, all unsound animals should be weeded out, and the pampered pure-breds should be made potent and muscular by work. Nothing should be done that would be unfair to the owners of grade stallions but steps should be taken to replace such animals by good pure-breds. It is astonishing that our horse interests have been neglected hitherto as they have been. It is time for a change. More and better horses should be kept at the Guelph Agricultural College and better accommodation should be provided for them. At the earliest possible date, also, we should have legislation that will serve to ensure our farmers obtaining value for their money when they breed their mares to the stallions that are allowed to travel throughout the country.

## THE HONEY BEE

For some time the interest, on the part of agriculturists, in things pertaining to the apiary, has been on the wane. Farmers as a class apparently have come to realize that owing to the comparative insignificance of bees, as against what might be termed our larger live stock, they are not worth the trouble it takes to care for them. Probably this is putting it too strongly. Nevertheless, the fact remains that year by year the product of our apiaries is falling off, and larger and larger importations of this important food article are being made.

It is to be regretted that we farmers do not take a greater interest in the bee. Did we take a greater interest in that industrious servant of mankind, we would profit thereby in many ways. It is difficult to estimate the real value of the honey bee to our present day agriculture. Bee keeping is as much a branch of agriculture as any other line of enterprise in which our farmers engage. Considering the importance of this industry to our country at large, it should receive some fostering care from the hands of our Government, and something should be done to encourage our farmers to take a deeper interest in the bee.

Bees, when properly handled, are a valuable asset. When wisely managed, and in a fair season, they not only return a direct profit to their owners, in the form of marketable honey, but they do much towards enriching a full crop of fruit, alkali and buckwheat. It is a well-known fact, and it is vouched for by many of our leading fruit and clover seed growers, that where bees abound, larger yields are obtained than where bees are not so plentiful. So strong is this belief with some, that they offer free sites to the apiarist on which to locate his bees, as well as holding out other inducements for him to locate upon their premises. These men are men of experience, and well know what they are about. We can profitably take a lesson from their enterprise.

A few colonies of bees, at least, should be on every ordinary farm. It costs but little to establish them, and

it requires very little time, except on one or two occasions in the season, to care for them. Aside from the swarming time, the bees can be cared for in almost any spare period. Some, however, have carried this practice to the extreme, and the careless way of handling bees that exists in many sections, is accountable for their lack of popularity, and the lack of profitable returns therefrom. With a few skips of bees located on his farm, the farmer insures himself the fullest set of fruit from his blossoms, a larger yield of alkali, if he grows that crop, besides doing a good turn for his neighbor, who might be benefitted by any work from the bees. Besides this consideration, what could be nicer for the farmer than to be able to extract from his few colonies of bees, from 300 to 600 lbs. of honey a year? This product he could always sell at a remunerative price, or if he cared to keep it for himself, it would form one of the most delicious and wholesome of foods that he could place upon his table.

## EARLY AND LATE THRESHING

Threshing time is an important time on the farm. The custom with many is to thresh fall wheat as soon as it is harvested. This means two threshings in the one season, for the process must be gone through with again when the spring crop is harvested, though it may be delayed well on in the fall, when the busy season is over.

One reason why fall wheat is threshed early, is to procure seed for September sowing. Were it not for this it would be better to postpone all threshing till September is well over. It is an inconvenience to many farmers to have to turn out in the midst of harvest to help their neighbors thresh. In these days, when grain ripens up so quickly from the time having begins till the last crop is in the barn, there is hardly a day to spare for anything else. It is a real hardship, and sometimes a loss, to have to put in a day or two threshing at this season. If there were some other way of procuring fall wheat seed, such as saving enough from the previous year's crop, it would be better to postpone all threshing till, at least, the harvest is over, or, better, till the fall wheat is sown, and the corn and wheat crops prepared for winter.

There has been considerable improvement in threshing machinery of late years. The blower or stacker has got rid of one of the most dirty jobs at threshing time, that of taking the straw away from the head of the carriers. This has improved the labor side of the problem. But the tendency is for machines of larger capacity, consistent with clean work. All of which means that every farmer is still dependent upon his neighbors to help him out with his threshing. Nothing in the recent improvements of threshing machinery tends to eliminate this feature, and it looks as if the present plan would continue for all time.

There may be no practical way of

improvement in this respect. If, however, instead of increasing the capacity of their machines, manufacturers would turn their attention to the production of a small separator of fair capacity, that would enable a farmer to do his own threshing, or enable two of them to combine for that purpose, would it not help to solve the difficulty, and do away with this dependence upon the whole neighborhood for help at threshing time? Such a machine would enable a farmer to do his threshing at odd times, when he was not busy at anything else, or when wet weather prevented working in the fields. Most of the threshing could be postponed till late fall and winter, when there is little else to do but look after the stock. A great deal of threshing, even under the present plan, could be better done at the later period when farmers have plenty of idle time on their hands. Early threshing seems to be the rule in most sections, and it seems like a waste of valuable time.

There are, no doubt, drawbacks to postponing threshing to late fall or winter, whether it is done by the farmer himself, or with the help of his neighbors. It would prevent taking advantage of the early market to sell the grain. But, with the exception of wheat, most of the grain is kept for feeding purposes, and is only needed when stock are housed for the winter. So far, therefore, as marketing the grain is concerned, that should not prove a serious objection to late threshing.

The whole question is worth considering by farmers generally. As it is now, threshing is rushed through in a few weeks. This means more threshing outfits, and a higher cost for the work. If spread out for a longer period, and extended well into the winter months, the threshing would have a longer period during which to make a profit on his large outlay for engine and separator, and should be able to do the work at a cheaper rate. It would be easier to get help and all interests would be better served. There would be more work for people in the winter months, and threshing would be transferred to a period when it would least interfere with other work on the farm. This was more the practice some years back, when farmers had less to do at harvest time, and the few weeks following, than they have to-day. Might not a return to the old order of things be wise? We shall be glad to have the opinion of our readers in regard to this.

The horse, that faithful friend and helper, deserves much more consideration than he very often receives. Do your share to make him comfortable. Do not forget that a tight check rein is very painful to a horse, that a sore shoulder is a great source of agony, that thirst torments a horse in the same manner that it does a man. Heat brings on the latter discomfort worse than anything else. Be merciful, and receive the merciful man's reward. Horses must work, but their comfort should be looked after when laboring in our interests.