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Note and Comment

There is no use disguising the fact that a rather serious situation is facing the farmer in many parts of Canada. He finds himself on the threshold of winter with little or no feed for his stock. To buy is out of the question, and he is forced to sell, and at prices away below what his stock is worth. In some cases milch cows that are usually sold at from \$40 to \$50 each are going at \$70 to \$20, and young pigs are selling at 50c, to 75c, each, that never sold less than \$5.00 a pair. Next spring will find many without stock. Others who have feed are buying up with the hope of high prices for stock next season. But unless a lot of the stock now offered is butchered or sold out of the country, very high prices are not likely to follow, though they will undoubtedly be higher than they are now.

The case mentioned by an Ottawa correspondent this issue of a grower who lost his season's crop of onions because of inferior seed, raises the question of the responsibility of the seedsman for the quality or character of the seeds he sells. All catalogues sent out by seedsmen contain a clause stating that the seller gives no warranty as to description, quality, growth, production, kind or any other matter of any seeds sold. They assume no responsibility whatsoever, and fill orders only on that condition. Is this just? Should not the seedsman be held responsible for the quality of the seeds he sells just as any other dealer is held responsible in law under an implied warranty that the goods shall be fit for the purpose for which they are sold? As the case is likely to come into court, any further comment we might make will have to be deferred.

The high price and scarcity of feed is causing the market to be flooded with a lot of cheap cattle. And yet there is no reduction in the price of the beef to the consumer. The different cuts of beef sold in Toronto to-day are from 2c. to 5c. per lb. higher than at this time last year. A year ago sirloin steak sold at 16c., to-day it is 20c. per lb. Round steak was 12c. per lb. in October 1906. In October, 1907, it is 17c. per lb. In October, 1906, butchers' cattle sold on Toronto market at from \$4.25 to \$4.55 for the best, down to \$2.25 to \$4.10 per cwt. for common to good quality. In last issue we reported prime butchers cattle selling at from \$4.70 to \$4.90, down to

\$2.40 to \$4.30 per cwt. for common to good. While prices this year are nearly one-half cent per lb. more for the live animal than a year ago, there is an increase of fully 3c. per lb. in the average price which the consumer in Toronto pays for his beef taking all qualities together. Can anyone explain where the discrepancy is?

One of the important addresses at the annual convention of Farmer's Institute workers held at Washington last week was delivered by President Creelman of the Ontario Agricultural College. He emphasized the great need on this continent of making each acre of farm land produce more crop. That is the key note to successful agriculture to-day. We are safe in saying that there is not a farm in older Canada producing to the extent which it can be made to do

they would to-day have a little saved up and many of them comfortable homes for the winter. Either these people should agree to work on farms when they come to this country or be prevented from coming at all.

Is the Seedsman Responsible?

A very peculiar dispute with regard to seeds has come under the notice of the Seed Division. This year a large firm of onion growers near Collingwood bought onion seed of a local dealer and sowed about twenty acres with it. The seed was sold as being of the Yellow Danvers variety, but when the onions reached maturity, they turned out to be scallions—a thick-necked sport of the onion plant, worthless for the onion market. The grower, it is understood, intended to take the matter into the courts and claims that he was sold an inferior variety of seed and should be compensated there for. On the other hand, the dealer claims that he gave no guarantee with the seed which was sold, he says, at a price far below that of the market price of guaranteed seed. The grower also claims compensation because the seed sold him was not of the variety ordered. Samples sent to the Department of Agriculture, however, showed, in the opinion of experts, sufficient identifying signs to warrant the belief that they are from seed of that variety.

It has been suggested that it is possible that the seed sold may have come from California. California raises a great deal of onion seed, and it has been known to act in a similar manner on other occasions though, perhaps, to not so great an extent. The cause of this is thought to be the sudden change from the mild climate of the Pacific to the rigorous climate of Central Canada. As this summer was a particularly severe one on plants of all kinds, this may account for the freakish action of the large fields of onions in question. A large amount of onion seed in Canada is imported from Connecticut, and as the climate of that state is nearer that of the Dominion, it does well on Canadian soil. Last year the onion seed crop in that state was not so good as usual, and on account of a shortage dealers had to look elsewhere for their supply.

How the case in question will turn out cannot yet be indicated, but it is an interesting one to all who have occasion to use seed of any kind purchased from dealers.

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by the application of skillful and intelligent methods of farming. This should be the farmers first concern. Let him study his land and find out its needs and apply himself intelligently to supplying these needs and the production of his land will be increased many times over.

As winter approaches, the number of unemployed in Toronto increases. A great many of these are men who have been in the city, picking up odd jobs, and there rather than take steady work on farms. They now find themselves out of work and with little prospect of anything to do till warm weather comes again. Had these people gone on to farms in the spring