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The Orchard on the Farm

IN these days of specializing there are not a few who contend that the farmer's orchard will soon be a thing of the past, and that the growing of fruit will be relegated to the person making a specialty of fruit culture. In fact, this prediction is borne out by the testimony of not a few farmers who claim that it does not pay to bother with the orchard as the labor of caring for it and the constant warfare against fungi, insects and blight, makes it too expensive.

While the farmer may have good ground for making a complaint of this kind, it would be a sorry day for the farms of this country if the farmer were to give up his orchard. Imagine a farm in older Ontario without apples! One of the real pleasures of country life is the abundance of fresh fruit to be had in season, and the farmer who is not providing this is not doing his duty to himself or to his family.

There is no great mystery or expense about running an orchard. Anyone who can run a farm ought to be able to care for an orchard, or at least a small one for family use. If the trees are about played out buy new ones. It will pay. Why should a farmer buy apples or other fruits when he can grow them with little trouble. Might as well give up poultry and buy eggs, as give up the orchard and buy fruit.

The great drawback in caring for the orchard of to-day is the question of spraying. Many farmers will cultivate and prune the orchard but when it comes to spraying they object. For the individual with a small orchard, spraying at the right time is often expensive and troublesome. But if a number of farmers will unite in securing a power sprayer, the work can be done with little cost and trouble to each one. In some sections the three-man makes spraying an adjunct to his business and engages with farmers to do their spraying at a stated rate per tree. With a power sprayer, properly managed, a person will get over a large amount of territory in a short while. This feature of orchard work is well worth considering. In any case, don't give up the orchard.

Cut Out Prizes for Grade Males

During the discussion at the Fairs Association meeting last week, a report of which appears elsewhere in this issue, it was shown that a great many of the local shows in Ontario are still giving prizes for grade male animals. Such practices should be discontinued, and the Government

might well take some action in the matter. Years ago, when there were but few pure-bred males in the country, the giving of prizes for grades was perhaps necessary; but today, in Ontario at least, there is no need for it. It is a positive injury to the best development of the live stock industry of the country. While some good individuals may no doubt be secured among grade males, to encourage breeding from these by giving prizes is to ally wrong and will work lasting injury to our live stock industry. Let the local fair boards this year cut out all prizes for grade males and they will merit the support of every one interested in improved live stock.

The Milking Shorthorn in Demand

At the last meeting of the American Shorthorn Association a resolution was adopted to re-establish the appendix which was a feature of the earlier volumes of the Shorthorn herd book and in which, when properly certified, dairy Shorthorns could be recorded. The re-establishment of this order makes it possible for Shorthorn breeders who have cows of pronounced dairy qualities, which give more than eight thousand pounds of milk in one year, to record them in this appendix. This system will be started with volume 66 of the American Shorthorn Herd Book.

The action of American Shorthorn men in returning to the old order of things is an indication of how the wind blows. The feeling seems to be growing not only in the United States but also in Canada that some more attention should be given to developing the milking qualities of the Shorthorn. Outside of the special cheese districts there is room, and more than that, there is a demand for a cow that will give a fair amount of milk and whose offspring will make a good quality of beef. The Shorthorn supplies these qualities better than any other breed and if milk and beef can be combined in the one individual by giving more attention to the development of the milking qualities, an effort should be made to accomplish it. Mr. Dryden, in last issue in discussing the Booth and Bates methods, showed clearly what could be done in this direction. Had the promoters of Bates cattle not gone pedigree crazy the influence of this strain upon the cattle of this continent would have been more marked than it is today. While the fine qualities of the Shorthorn as a beef animal should not be sacrificed, it should be possible to develop to a considerable extent, at least, their milking qualities without doing so.

The Wool Situation

Referring to the wool situation in a recent issue, the "Monetary Times" of this city, says:

"So far as one can gauge the situation, however, in the absence of any movement, the tone of the market is firm, and manufacturers look forward to continuing to pay the prices which they have had to pay for their raw material during the last year or more. And indeed there would appear to be no special reason why values should decline to any extent, though of course the wool markets of the world are sometimes very erratic."

While this summary defines very clearly the situation as it appears for cross-bred wool, it is worth noting that at recent sales in England there have been largely increased offerings of Merino and the finest cross-bred wools. While an increase in price was reported in the face of these enlarged receipts, many are inclined to the view that a decline in price is imminent in the near future. However, the present prices for these finer grades are still low when compared with the coarser cross-breds, the kind mainly produced in Canada. While stocks of all grades, taking the world's markets all through, are less than normal, the market position regarding cross-breds is somewhat complicated and an uncertainty in regard to the future is felt in many centres. No doubt the steady decrease in the production of Merino wool during recent years has increased the demand for cross-breds, especially those of the finer qualities, which have largely taken the place of the former. It is worth while considering, therefore, whether a marked increase in the receipts of Merino may not lessen the demand for the coarser kinds, bringing with it a lowering in values.

However this may be, there can be no doubt that wool prices will be maintained at the present high level during the coming season, though it would occasion little surprise if prices for the low cross-breds fell off somewhat. Prices here at the moment are normal at 25 cents to 25½ cents for washed, and 15 cents to 15½ cents for unwashed fleeces.

Mr. Hodson's Resignation Accepted

The resignation of Mr. F. W. Hodson, Live Stock Commissioner, which was tendered on Jan. 6, has been accepted by the Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture. The resignation will, however, not take effect till June 30th next. In accepting his resignation, Mr. Fisher referred to the splendid work Mr. Hodson had accomplished for the live stock interests