

Send a Commission to Denmark

H. McNish, Leeds Co., Ont.

The articles in The Canadian Dairyman and World re the bacon trade have greatly interested me particularly so because I was one of the first to advocate the raising of more bacon hogs by our Dairymen. In the early eighties Canada was importing hog products instead of exporting them. I saw no reason why, with superior advantages Canadian Dairymen had in their cheap by-products from the dairy, they should not only supply the home market but export large quantities of bacon.

It has been a great satisfaction to me to see how the export trade has grown during the past ten years.

No one regrets more than I to see the figures this past year or two growing the wrong way. It is to be admitted that there are local causes for this falling off in the export trade. The past two years have been poor years for the production of milk, which of course materially lessened the cheap pig feed. Grain has been unusually high and pork has ruled low for the past 12 months. With these two extremes it certainly has made the production of bacon hogs, on a large scale, unprofitable. I have not been one of the large producers, but my yearly output will average up pretty well. For the past ten years I have not turned off less than 100 hogs a year and sometimes up as high as 210. At present I have not one that I am feeding for pork.

Now what puzzles me is the statement made by the Matthews people to the effect that the Danes are buying the very grain that we Canadian farmers do not think profitable to feed to hogs and are producing bacon and selling it to our customers at a profit. If this is a fact, why is it? Are the Danes more skillful feeders than the Canadians, or do they get more for their hogs than we Canadian farmers do? This bacon question is a very important one and as a nation we must not allow any trade that we have once secured to slip away from us.

I have great faith in the ability of the Canadian farmer. He is an intelligent man and I believe can hold his own against all comers with equal chances.

To get at the very roots of this matter I suggest that a commission be sent over to Denmark to inquire into the question and find out at whose door lies the fault, whether it lies with the packer or with the farmer. Send good practical men, men who can go into all the details from the time the pig is weaned till it is put on the consumers' table.

Such a commission would not cost much and I am sure would be worth many millions if they could stay the decline in this most important trade.

The Seed Question

W. J. Stevenson, Ontario Co., Ont.

Considerable discussion is going on at this season of the year while the seed shows are on, relative to the sowing of good pure seed. Let us first consider what is required of a seed. The seed is nothing more nor less than a store house of plant food, intended to nourish the germ until the root and leaf are developed. The germination to take place, moisture, oxygen and a suitable temperature are necessary, under these conditions the seed swells, oxygen is absorbed, a part of the carbonaceous ingredients is oxidized, heat is developed, and carbonic acid is evolved. During these changes the solid ingredients of the seed gradually become soluble; the starch and the fat are converted into sugar.

With this supply of soluble food the root and leaf stem are nourished; they rapidly increase in size and burst through the coats of the seed.

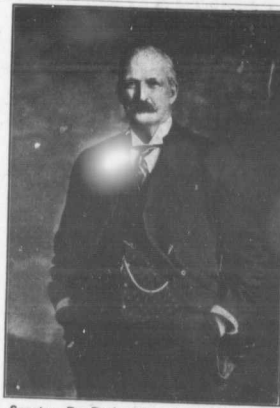
If the external conditions are suitable, the root and leaf commence their separate functions.

How important then to select large plump seed

that will be able to supply the food required until the root is established in the soil thus giving the young plant a good start in life. Sowing large and small grains will never produce the same results as large plump even seed. The smaller seed being weaker is apt to be buried too deeply and this can not reach the surface as quickly as large and it consequently suffers in the race.

Planting Trees on Stony Land

The planting of forests on absolute agricultural soil in the older parts of Ontario is not advisable, but there is in many agricultural sections of the province considerable waste lands in the form of steep hillsides, sandy or rocky soils, which could with profit, be covered with trees. At the request of a subscriber living in Northumberland Co., Ont., for information regarding the planting of a piece of stony land to a wood lot, we herewith publish an extract from "Farm Forestry," Bulletin 155 by E. J. Zavitz, B.A., M.S.F., lecturer on Forestry at the O.A.C. In forest planting we are



Senator D. Derbyshire, Brockville, Ont.

The annual convention of the Eastern Ontario Dairymen's Association is taking place this week at Prescott, Ont. As has been the case for many years, the most prominent figure is likely to be that of Senator Derbyshire of Brockville, the past president, and now is Senator Derbyshire well known to the dairymen of among the people of the Brockville section, who, at various times, have elected him mayor of Brockville, and, later, their member in the House of Commons. One reason for the success of the Eastern Ontario Dairymen's Association is found in the fact that its including, as they do, such men as Messrs. J. E. Dargavel, and W. J. Paul, members of the Ontario Legislature; Edward Kidd, ex-M.P., Carleton County, and several who were candidates at the recent elections for the Ontario Legislature and House of Commons.

limited to certain species of trees owing to various factors. Some of these factors are:

1. Hardiness and rate of growth.
2. Nature of soil to be planted.
3. Kind of wood crop desired.
4. Availability and cost of planting material.

"In choosing species to plant, the original growth of forest in Ontario gives us some knowledge as to the possibilities of our native trees for re-forestation. With the evergreens, some of the more important species in relation to re-planting are: White Pine, Red Pine, White Cedar, or Arbor Vitae and White Spruce. Of the native species of hard woods, the following give promise of usefulness, Red Oak, White Elm, White Ash, Black Locust, Black Walnut, Black Cherry, Sugar Maple, Manitoba Maple or Box Elder, Whitebark or Tulip. One of our best guides in re-planting will be found in the original natural distribution of trees. Through many generations certain species have become adapted to certain areas having certain conditions. Such distribution may be spoken

of as geographical and local. Geographical distribution depends upon climatic factors as temperature, rain fall and atmospheric moisture. Local distribution depends on local variations as quality of soil drainage, exposure, etc."

Probably the best varieties of trees for planting the piece of stony land in question to wood lot would be, White Pine, Black Locust, Red Oak, Chestnut and Rock Elm. These varieties would furnish a very desirable crop of the different sorts of wood required in a wood-lot. If it is desired to make a solid plantation of one variety probably White Pine would give the best results. From the information available it would appear that the Black Locust is a very desirable tree to plant for wood-lot purposes. It is a hard wood and a very rapid grower. It is also very desirable for fence-post purposes. We would suggest as being a most satisfactory combination, White Pine and Black Locust. Possibly it would be best to set the plantation out all White Pine and afterwards fill in the blanks with Black Locust. If it is desired to have good wood for fuel purposes, one had better plant Red Oak, Sugar Maple or Rock Elm. As these latter are much slower growers, the White Pine and Black Locust are to be preferred for ordinary planting.

The Clover Seed Midge

Arthur Gibson, Chief Assistant, Division of Entomology and Botany, Ottawa.

During the past season the clover-seed midge has done serious damage in districts of Ontario, where clover is grown for seed. Many complaints have been received from farmers of the presence of the small legless, pink maggots in their clover-seed at threshing time, and some anxiety has been felt as to whether these would mature, and affect the crop of next year. In the samples received, all the maggots were dead and shrivelled up.

The life-history and habits of this insect are well known. There are two broods in the season, corresponding with the two crops of clover-seed. The eggs are laid in the forming flower heads of the clover; when these hatch, the maggots penetrate the seed pods and destroy the seed. When the larvae are full grown, about the end of June, they leave the clover heads and enter a short distance into the ground, to change to pupae. The perfect insects, forming the second brood, emerge from the ground, just as the second crop of clover is coming into flower, and the females, at once, begin to lay their eggs amongst the forming blossoms. These eggs soon hatch, and, about the time the seed is ripe, the maggots leave the clover and enter the ground to pass the winter, whence they emerge again the next spring, just at the time the clover comes into flower.

Experiences has taught farmers that the practice of feeding off their clover fields with cattle and sheep until the beginning, or middle of June, or cutting it before the 20th of that month, is the only way to secure an autumn crop of seed; thus the maggots of this first brood are destroyed by the cattle eating them, or they dry up with the clover hay which has been cut before they were mature enough to leave the heads of clover and go into the ground to pupate and change to the perfect insect, which is a small midge. If the clover is left standing in the fields till the end of June, a sufficient time elapses for this latter process to take place, and the perfect flies emerge again just in time to lay their eggs in the opening flowers of the second crop. In this way the seed of the second crop is destroyed, as well as that of the first.

As mentioned above, in all the samples of infested clover-seed received this autumn and early winter, the maggots were already dead and dried up; consequently there would be no advantage in destroying by burning such material. At threshing time, however, if the living maggots are noticed, it would be a good practice to have all screenings swept up and burned.

A short Canadian article on Macdonald the article on cultivation

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