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MAY 3, 1906

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

Not Health, but Protection.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate "

I have been very much interested in Mr. Stratton's letter, in your issue of April 5th, and I agree with him in some of his statements : for instance, where he says it must be more economical to fatten our store cattle at home than to send them to England in a lean state, and send our coarse grains over there, also, to be used in fattening them ; but there are a number of other statements he makes that I do not agree with, or, perhaps, that he forgets to make. He does not present the thing right, so far as we in Canada are concerned. For instance, under the existing law Canadian cattle are only allowed to land at one port, Glasgow, in Scotland, and three or four ports in England, London and Liverpool being by far the most important. At these ports, within ten days of arrival, the cattle have to be slaughtered. As a result of these conditions, the buyers are confined to a few butchers in the vicinity of the ports, who, in case of large ar-rivals, have only to "lie off" till near the end the short period of grace to have the fixing i the price practically in their own hands.

Prior to 1892 Canadian cattle were allowed to land at any port in England or Scotland. Thence they were taken to markets throughout the country, and exposed for sale to all the butchers, who eagerly sought them. Under these conditions, the buyers would probably exceed 100 to 1 under the present method.

In 1892 pleuro-pneumonia was alleged to have been discovered in one or two Canadian cattle, and on this account they were excluded. Now, however, it has been abundantly proved, and is admitted on all hands, that this diagnosis was incorrect. Since that time over a million Canadian cattle have been slaughtered in Great Britain, and not a single trace of any contagious disease has been found. Could the same be said of the same number of home-bred cattle? We say, emphatically, no. We claim that there is no country in the world to-day that is so free from all kinds of cattle diseases as Canada; the climatic conditions of life are much better here than in Brit-There can be no doubt that if our cattle ain. had access to the open markets throughout Great Britain they would bring from \$10 to \$15 a head more than they do at present. The exclusion of our cattle from the interior markets is a subterfuge for protection, pure and simple York Co., Ont.

WM. LINTON.

THE FARM.

The Wood Supply of the Canadian Manufacturer.

(From a Paper read before the Canadian Forestry Association, by James Kerr Osborne, Vice-President and Assistant General Manager Massey-Harris Co., Limited.]

Twenty-five years ago wood entered far more largely into the manufacture of agricultural implements than at present. Then large supplies of various woods were available at moderate cost. Year by year steel has displaced wood. Beams, trusses, ties, angles, in infinitude of variety, have taken the place of numerous kinds of woods, until, to-day, in the moden agricultural implement, steel is the prevailing element. This is true, also, in respect to the building of houses, warehouses, office-buildings factor way cars, etc.-in all of which steel has, to an enormous extent, superseded the use of wood. It is well this is the case, otherwise the drain upon the wood supply of the world would have become much more acute than it is.

kind of wood, but the supplies of this variety come almost exclusively from the southern and south-western States. Every bending factory in Canada is practically dependent upon the southern States for supplies of oak and hickory. The south-eastern States are the chief sources of supply, and the freight rates to points in Ontario vary in cost from \$10.00 to \$15.00 per thousand feet, b. m.

During late years cotton lands in the southern States have greatly increased in value, and I have been told that thousands of beautiful hickory trees there have been girdled so that they would die quickly, and thus enable the land to be more rapidly brought under cotton cultivation. Whether the forestry laws of the United States permit this or not, I cannot say, but it seems a wanton destruction of valuable timber.

DEMAND, FOR POLE TIMBER.

The chief source of anxiety to the Canadian implement and vehicle manufacturer is his wood supply for poles or tongues; every binder, reaper, mower, drill, cultivator, wagon or sleigh made in Canada requires a pole. 1 estimate that from 200,000 to 250,000 poles are required annually for these machines made in Canada. The quantity used is constantly increasing ; the supply rapidly decreasing. Twenty-five years ago the counties of Essex, Kent, Lambton and Huron, in Ontario, supplied vast quantities of white ash, from which wagon and implement poles were The total coming from these counties now made. would not give a supply to one of our smallest factories. Canadian oak is also about all used Any oak poles used in Canada come from the United States. Practically all the poles or tongues used for agricultural implements, both in Canada and the United States, are made from Long-leaf Southern Pine. Not only is this material used for this purpose, but also in carbuilding, and for a variety of other purposes for which Canadian white or red pine is not suit-The Long-leaf Yellow Pine, grown in the able. States of Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, seems to be especially adapted for poles for agricultural implements. It is very strong and tough, being full of resin or pitch, and it grows large and free from knots. The freight on this, from the mills where it is produced to points in Canada where it is used, runs from \$12 to \$15 per 1,000 feet, b.m. During the past year, we have experimented, to some extent, with Canadian birch, and we are of the opinion that, if properly selected, it would be suitable for the purpose. The growth of large birch trees is confined to northern Ontario and Quebec, and, while moderate supplies of suitable timber might be obtained, it would not be possible to secure sufficient to meet the large demand for the purpose indicated.

The production in Canada of soft elm and basswood is still large, and these timbers come in greater or lesser quantities from all parts of These varieties are used, not only by Ontario. agricultural-implement manufacturers, but by piano and organ makers; besides, large quantities are exported. The selected and best qualities are used for piano keys, and for export trade, and immense quantities of the lower grades are used for packing cases. This is also true in regard to spruce and hemlock. Canadian hard maple is still in good supply, coming chiefly from northern Ontario, and is an excellent wood for many purposes.

The lumber c

Corn Growing in Ontario.

According to the Bureau of Industries, the area in Ontario annually devoted to the growing of husking corn amounts to 330,000 acres, while that set aside for the production of fodder or silage corn scarcely reaches 193,000 acres. These amounts, to some, may appear large, yet, considered mathematically, the combined areas repretent but one-seventeenth of the entire acreage devoted to crop production in this Province. fact is due to a variety of causes. The diversified conditions and the different systems of farming peculiar to this Province have gone far to encourage the growing of a great variety of crops. Then, again, a lack of proper appreciation of the food value of corn per acre, as compared with that of other crops, together with the failure to recognize the possibilities of evolving more profitable strains, has mitigated against the more extensive growing of corn in the Province.

Regarding the present yield per acre, we find that the average for the past thirteen years has peen 70.2 bushels in the case of busking corn, while with fodder or silage corn, 11.4 tons of green corn per acre is given as the average for the same length of time. Heretofore, the majority of our corn-growers have been content to let well enough alone, and have made but little attempt to improve upon existing types. True. a great deal of valuable work, bearing on crop improvement, has been and is being done by scientific men at our Experiment Stations. Yet the great work of corn improvement must be conducted on the farms where the corn is intended to be grown. Corn bred for use in its own locality gives better results than does imported seed, since experience has shown that it is very difficult and expensive to obtain seed corn of first-class quality from others. In work such as this-practical, yet verging on the scientific-the greatest enemies are ignorance, apathy and prejudice. While "the man of science is the sworn inter-preter of the high court of reason," yet of what avail is even plain fact if prejudice be uppermost. In the light of economic truths, therefore, should we not waive everything which tends to retard advancement, and grapple with this all-important problem ? The work of corn improvement is so simple, so practical, yet withal so scientific that it cannot help but appeal to the intelligence of all progressive growers.

In Ontario, the kinds of corn grown for animal food may be divided into two great classes, viz., the Dents and the Flints. The former class is composed of varieties of the well-known Leaming type, which produce large, leafy plants, bearing The latter class is great deep-kernelled ears. composed of varieties of the Longfellow and Compton's Early type, which produce finer, more compact stalks, bearing long, large-cobbed, shal-low-grained ears. Strains of this type have been developed by nature in the central and northern localities in order to facilitate early maturity.

The dent varieties are indigenous to southern latitudes, where they grow large and succulent. producing large ears, with deep kernels. Brought north, where the growing period is much shorter. and where early frosts prevail, they have not sufficient time to reach maturity, hence the lighter, earlier-maturing flints must be resorted to where grain production is sought for. Fortunately. however, these dent varieties will reach a sufficiently advanced stage of maturity for silage purposes over the greatest part of Ontario, especially when the seed is matured north of Lake Erie, and not in the mon southern corn States, as is often the case. While it is generally recognized that a greater food value per acre may be realized from the dent varieties, still the difficulty of securing reliable seed of the right type has caused many to abandon these varieties and fall back upon the lighter-yielding but more reliable flints. Particularly is this the case in the more northern parts of the Province, where growers have to depend largely upon the seed-houses for their seed. These establishments, finding it difficult to get in Ontario seed of these varieties possessing good vitality, because of the present system of storing, get their supplies from across the line. Seed such as this, though it may all grow, cannot be expected to give best results when brought from a southern latitude into a district where the growing season is limited. While, therefore, the problem of securing seed from pure, early-maturing, heavy-yielding strains of corn which are better adapted to our conditions is one which must be met, still, in the last analysis, our first consideration should be directed towards the storing of our seed, in order that its vitality be maintained until planting time. Until this problem, already solved by private individuals, is more generally practiced, dealers will continue to draw their supplies of dent corn from these sources, which are more reliable, so far as vitality is concerned. In the light of this fact, together with the fact that southern-grown varieties are too tender, so to speak, even when grown for silage purposes further north, there is a great field open for a most valuable work in Ontario. This work must necessarily be educational in its nature, and must advance slowly and systematically.

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('anada has been a favored nation in regard to her vast supplies of timber. In the older portions of the country the wood supply has been largely depleted, but the new lands now opening up to the north bid fair to furnish supplies of certain kinds available for many years to come. In the variety of woods, Canada has also been favored, producing hickory, white ash, black ash, rock and soft elms, white and red oaks, hard and soft maples, birch, hemlock, fir, spruce, and white and red pine. This article will deal with the so-called hard woods.

NADIAN HICKORY, WHITE ASH, ROCK ELM AND OAK PRACTICALLY EXHAUSTED.

In earlier years, hickory, white ash, rock elm and oak were produced largely in Canada. These are the woods most highly prized by the manufacturer, on account of their great strength and adaptability for such a variety of purposes. The supply of these woods is practically exhausted in Canada, and so far as my knowledge extends, no attempt has ever been made to replant or to replenish the supplies of these valuable timbers.

Failing these more desirable varieties, the manufacturer has been obliged to have recourse to other kinds, so that of late years, hard and soft maple, black ash, soft elm, birch and basswood have come into larger commercial use. For many purposes oak is still the most desirable regular stand.

-Harris Co. exceeds ten million feet annually, and, with the exception of pole stock, oak and whitewood, is principally drawn from Canadian sources. The value of their annual purchases is about \$260,-000.60.

1 offer the following suggestions, among many others that will doubtless come before you

Encourage the planting of the more valuable varieties of timber which are gradually becoming extinct in Canada.

Foster the protection of standing timber that is still growing and increasing in value.

As far as possible, draw our timber supplies from lands, where settlement is crowding clearing.

Where our own timber is growing and increasing in value, use the other fellow's, i.e., draw on outside supplies, and conserve your own.

Dimes for Minutes in Grading and Testing Seed Corn.

After the seed corn has been carefully selected as to the type of ear and character of kernel, and properly tested as to germinating power, says A. T. Wiancko, Agriculturist of the Purdue Experiment Station, it should be shelled and graded, with special attention to securing uniformity in size and shape of kernel, in order that the planter may be readily adjusted to uniformly drop the required number of kernels.

Do not neglect this grading and testing. Do it on the first rainy day. You will be paid for the work many times over when you harvest the crop. You can make dimes for minutes at this work. You cannot afford to have a poor or ir-You can make dimes for minutes at this

Starting from the first, we must encourage the production of a few pure-bred strains of our best

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