

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"
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system other than continuous cultivation throughout the season, and a rape crop has in many instances been sown to good advantage toward the end of June or first of July. This permits of a good deal of cultivation early in the season, and the thick-growing rape shuts out all weed growth later on and takes the burden of extra work off the farmer's shoulders during the busy haying and harvest season. Besides the rape may be utilized to good advantage as a fodder and pasture crop.

The point we wish to make, however, is this, that good crops cannot be grown without cultivation, and the time to begin the cultivation for next year's harvest is right now. Get the land in the best possible tilth this fall either by cultivating followed by ploughing and subsequent cultivation or by ploughing lightly at first and cross ploughing later on, following the first ploughing by cultivating and harrowing to start weed growth and conserve soil moisture. On heavy land we believe that no better policy can be worked out than ploughing a fair depth now, keeping the top worked until late on in the fall, and ridging the soil up for the winter. The successful farmer places just as much importance on fall cultivation as he does upon spring tillage, and often more. Land that is well prepared between now and the winter season can be seeded much earlier next spring, and the seed will go in a much better seed bed from which, as stated in our opening sentence, distinctly superior crops are sure to follow. Cultivation is really the sheet anchor of successful farming. It cleans the soil, places it in good tilth, releases stored plant food, conserves moisture and makes for larger crops all the way round.

All farmers who have harvested enough clean grain for seed next spring should carefully hold on to this, as good seed is never too plentiful and may be scarce and high-priced next spring. At threshing keep a bin of the best grain separate for seed.

The stubble field covered with a mat of rape or other green crop soon after harvest forestalls the autumn weed growth, furnishes food for stock when pastures are bare, enriches the soil and retains moisture.

Nature's Diary.

A. B. Klugh, M.A.

We have in Canada many very handsome species of Ferns, some of which form large and striking beds. Such is the case with the Hay-scented Fern in New Brunswick, the Ostrich Fern in Ontario, and the Sensitive Fern all through



Fig. 1.—Pacific Sword Fern.

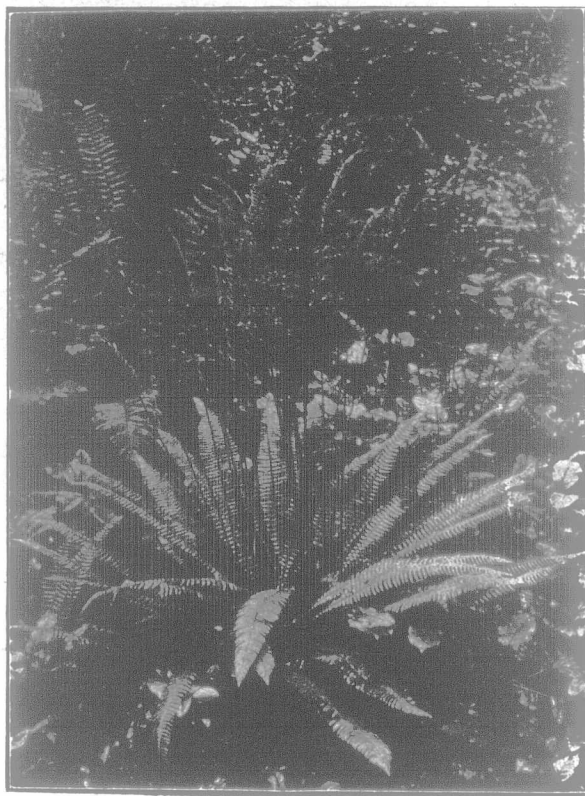


Fig. 2.—Deer Fern.



Fig. 3.—Pacific Bracken.

the East. But nowhere in Canada do we find such extremely beautiful and extensive beds as are formed by the Pacific Sword Fern and the Deer Fern in British Columbia.

As may be seen from Fig. 1, the Pacific Sword

Fern (*Polystichum munitum*), is a large and very striking species. The fronds are from three to four feet in height, dark green in color, and grow in a vase-shaped crown. It is very common in damp woods along the coast of British Columbia and on Vancouver Island.

The Deer Fern (*Lomaria spicata*), is a most handsome fern with a very characteristic habit of growth. As may be seen from Fig. 2, the fertile fronds stand erect while the sterile fronds spread out in a sort of rosette round them. The pinnae (divisions of the frond) of the fertile fronds are longer, narrower and more distant than those of the sterile fronds. The sterile fronds taper to both ends, the lower pinnae being reduced to mere auricles or lobes. This species is common in many localities in the coastal region of British Columbia, growing in moist places under the gigantic Douglas Firs, Cedars, Balsams and Hemlocks which are characteristic of that region.

In the matter of height among our Ferns we must award the palm to the Pacific Bracken (*Pteris aquilina lanuginosa*), which reaches a height of ten feet and sometimes more. It covers immense areas in clearings and in open woods in British Columbia, and forms a regular thick "forest" in which a man completely disappears. Fig. 3, which shows a man 5 feet 10 inches tall among the Bracken, gives some idea of the height which it attains. It also differs from the eastern Bracken in having the under surface of the fronds covered with a fine "wool."

Our Present Problems.

By Peter McArthur.

Now that unexpected burdens are being laid upon us it is very necessary that we should try to distinguish between those that are inevitable and those that are due to Canada taking a part in the war. I find that there are some who are by no means convinced that we should take so active a part in the conflict, but it is no part of my present purpose to show them their error. The great mass of the Canadian people is in favor of what is being done, and that is as much as could be expected. Our greatest need at the present time is clear thinking, so that as far as possible the evils entailed by the way may be tempered by justice and what must be endured may be endured in a cheerful spirit. Even if Canada stood aloof and took no part in the war we would still be bound to suffer much. To understand this we have only to look at the United States. Although they are entirely neutral they are suffering as actually as we are from paralysis of trade and the increased cost of the necessities of life. Their factories are closing down, men are being thrown out of employment and poverty is overtaking a large section of the people. This is due to the fact that modern civilization had become so wonderfully interdependent. The dislocation of the world's commerce cannot help being felt in every part of the world, and practically all the evils that have fallen on Canada up to the present time are due to that cause. The action of the government in hurrying to the aid of the Motherland has nothing to do with it. At the present session of parliament the government must do what it can to relieve the growing distress, and as what it will do will be done hastily we must not expect that in every case they will find the best solution. We must expect some mistakes but we may be permitted to hope that the interests of the people at large will receive the first consideration. Already the banks have received the fullest possible protection, and it is to be expected that they will extend to the people at large the same thoughtful consideration that has been shown to them by the representatives of the people in the government.

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The gallant response that has been made to the call for volunteers is evidence of the fundamental loyalty of Canada, and the regret that we may feel for the probable sacrifice of many of the flower of our youth is tempered by the thought that they are supporting a noble cause and that their service is voluntary. They are not conscripts called reluctantly to arms by a military tyrant, but free men battling for the rights of mankind. The assembling of these troops to be prepared for taking part in the war is the only thing due to Canada's participation that is yet felt or is likely to be felt for some time to come. The voting of money need not materially affect our condition at the present. The money will be raised by loans and bonds, and not until the first interest is to be met will the average citizen feel the burden. Even without our taking part in the war it is probable that action would have been taken to control prices in order to protect our own citizens. Similarly, if a moratorium is declared we must remember that it might have been necessary without our taking part in the war. The closing of the stock exchanges in the United States acts as a partial moratorium, and the latest papers indicate that its scope may be broadened. The conditions in some parts of Canada, particularly in the West, are such that