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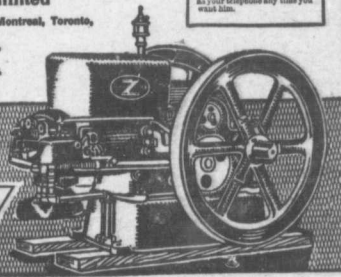
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\$71

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Current Comments on the Farming Business

The Seed Corn Situation

THE more we learn of the seed corn situation, the more convinced do we become of its seriousness. Last week in Toronto Mr. P. L. Faucher, the Ontario Crop Specialist, made the statement that there would be only enough good seed corn in south-western Ontario this year to reseed the five Western counties of Essex, Kent, Lambton, Middlesex and Elgin. He is advocating that home grown seed be used for this purpose and that growers in other parts of Canada who produce corn for export only, secure their supplies largely from the United States. We submitted Mr. Faucher's conclusions to the criticism of two of the most extensive corn growers in Essex county and they agreed that he had not over-stated the case—there will be little if any seed corn available for export from Ontario's corn belt. The difficulty of the situation is heightened by the marked scarcity of good seed corn in the United States.

A high price for seed corn next spring seems assured. Growers who have corn suitable for seed in Ontario, will be wise to peg dry all that they can and resist the temptation to finish hogs on good seed corn that they may have available. In average years the wisdom of fire drying seed corn may well be questioned, but with good prices in prospect it is possible that this year fire drying may be a profitable proposition. In the meantime all who desire to have good seed corn for planting next spring, will be wise to secure their supplies as early as possible.

The Serum Treatment for Hogs

HOG production in south western Ontario would be given a wonderful impetus were immunization against hog cholera permitted. "I am prepared to put 1,000 sows on our farms," remarked one of Ontario's most extensive farmers, after the great production conference held in Toronto last week, "but first I must be permitted to safeguard myself against cholera." We have the plant to house and feed these hogs which at present is 1,200 sows. The breeding stock alone, however, would represent an investment of \$50,000 to \$75,000 and we might lose them all at one stroke did cholera break out." Another delegate to the conference stated that many of his neighbors, who would be glad to make hogs an important sideline, have not a pig on their farms, because of their fear of loss from cholera.

The regrettable feature of the situation is that cholera losses are preventable. The double serum treatment is now recognized all over the corn belt of the United States as an effective anti-toxin for cholera. So far only one farm in Canada has been allowed to even give the method a trial and although on that farm it has been a complete success, Canada's Veterinary Director General, still refuses to have anything to do with it. The indiscriminate slaughter of all hogs in which the disease is found is the only method of control that Dr. Torrance will permit. The maximum compensation allowed for slaughtered hogs is only a fraction of the market price and under the circumstances the farmer of south-western Ontario may be pardoned if he shows no great enthusiasm for greater hog production. Would not the Food Controller be justified, in view of the worldwide shortage of hogs, in taking measures to afford to these prospective hog raisers the protection that the Veterinary Director General obstinately refuses them? Perhaps too, if proper representations were made to the Dominion Minister of Agriculture, he might lend his influence to the same end.

What of Winter Dairying?

ONE of the scapegoats upon which the city milk distributor places responsibility for the large "spread" between the prices paid for producer milk and that charged the consumer, is irregular supply. "We always find ourselves in June with more milk than we can handle profitably," said a distributor recently, when giving evidence before the Food Controller. "Then in the fall, we find it impossible to get enough milk to supply the demand." The distributors claim that the surplus of milk which they take in at certain seasons and for which they pay at regular rates, has to be turned into cheaper products such as butter, and, in order to keep themselves clear, they must pay a lower average price for milk. They suggest that farmers arrange to have their cows fresh in the fall, so that the milk supply will be more regular.

The cure for this state of affairs is within the control of the distributor himself. Just so soon as the difference in the price paid for winter and summer milk is great enough to make profitable the feeding of high priced meals necessary in winter dairying, so soon will the milk producer arrange to have his cows fresh in the fall.

At present prices, when the difference in cost of production is taken into account, summer dairying is more profitable than winter dairying. And the producer is going to follow the line of work that gives him the greatest monetary return for his labor. Under a system of summer dairying, the large feed of milk is produced while the cows are upon pasture. In the winter during the cows' restive period, the feed problem resolves itself into one of maintenance only. With winter dairying the feed problem is not only one of maintenance, but of feeding high priced concentrates necessary to produce milk.

"There is a tendency," said a milk producer whose milk goes to Montreal, "for farmers in our district to dry off their cows until the dealers pay such prices as will warrant our feeding high priced meals. We will get rid of our hired men and produce milk in the summer for cheese factories and condenseries." This is the situation. The distributors have it in their own power to make their winter milk supply equal the summer.