

wrote, and the weather was then most favorable for the operation.

**Hops.**—Very few correspondents outside of the County of Prince Edward have anything to say regarding hops. Those reporting were most favorable in their comments upon the condition of the crop.

**Tobacco.**—The growing of this crop is confined mainly to Essex and Kent in the west, and to one or two counties in the east, along the St. Lawrence. Although the plant suffered considerably from wet weather early in the season, it made good recovery, and its general condition was classed as good by most of those who reported on it. Early planting is in better condition than that put in later. There are a few complaints of cutworm.

**Potatoes.**—A large yield is promised, and of good quality. Some of the seed rotted on low land, owing to the wet weather just after planting, but comparatively few correspondents anticipate rot in the new crop. The bug, as usual, was present in large numbers, and in some cases an extra dose of Paris green had to be applied. Bordeaux mixture for potato blight appears to be coming into favor with Ontario farmers.

**Roots.**—The scarcity of labor, and the crowding of harvesting, forced a number of farmers to neglect their roots, and some fields are rather weedy. Nevertheless, all classes of roots promise a good yield, especially mangels and sugar beets, which are doing better than turnips.

**Fruit.**—All varieties of berries have yielded well, and grapes also promise well. Apples will be poor in point of yield, but the quality will be rather above the average. In many sections there will be barely enough for local consumption. Peaches have done better, and may be classed as from fair to good. Some correspondents report good yields of plums, while others claim an almost complete failure. The reports regarding pears, as in the case of plums, vary much, but they have done better than apples.

**Corn.**—While there is great diversity in the reports concerning the condition of corn, the general tone may be considered favorable. The crop got a decided setback about the time of planting, owing to cold and wet weather, and the early outlook for corn was most discouraging. The very favorable weather of July, however, brought growth along with a bound, and it is now likely that corn fields will give a full yield.

**Labor and Wages.**—There was more or less of a scarcity of farm labor all over the Province, notwithstanding that the situation had been considerably relieved by the presence of fresh immigrants from Great Britain. Farmers are utilizing improved machinery and newer methods more and more, in order to get along with less manual aid. Skilled farm laborers receive from \$30 to \$40 a month, and from \$1.50 to \$2 a day during harvesting, but inexperienced men get as low as half these wages.

### Suggestions About Wheat.

Plowing for fall wheat should be finished by the first week in September, but the proper way is to plow a field in July as shallow as possible, roll immediately to prevent escape of moisture and coax weed seeds to sprout; then keep the cultivator going at short intervals till seeding time. The selection of seed is very important. Changes of seed should be made with caution, and the whole crop should not be risked at once. I have tried it at a great loss to myself. We had a white oat that always yielded 40 bushels per acre at least. We were prevailed upon to try another kind, and bought enough seed for a whole field, which averaged 20 bushels per acre at harvest two years in succession; so I repeat, if you have good seed, use it, otherwise plant only what has been tried in your neighborhood, or else risk only an acre at most of imported seed.

White wheat requires rich soil and strong limestone land. The red or amber will do fairly well on gravelly land, or where the soil is not so rich. Always sow the best and heaviest seed, and above all things avoid weeds. Always put your seed through the fanning mill, twice at least.

Now about the quantity to sow per acre. This depends much upon the quality. A bushel and a half of plump seed, thoroughly cleaned and freed of weeds, is better than two bushels taken at random from the bin. On rich, clean ground, sow one bushel and one peck; on poor soils, two bushels is barely enough. After drilling, roll and harrow the ground. Roll to break lumps and press dirt around the seeds, and harrow to loosen up the top soil, prevent caking and the escape of moisture. A few loads of good, well-rotted manure, harrowed into the surface either before or after drilling, is better than twice as many loads spread in the winter as a top dressing. Strong plants at the start are what we want. If there is food at hand, the roots from the sprouting seed find it and make a rapid growth, when growth is safety. Strong, fibrous roots spreading far into the soil are not so easily thrown out by frost as weak, puny, short roots, which have no hold. Thousands of young plants die for want of food in poor soil, long before any frost touches them.

The manure and seed should go into the ground together; not green manure, but that which is well rotted, and fine, if possible.

Timothy should be sown with the wheat in

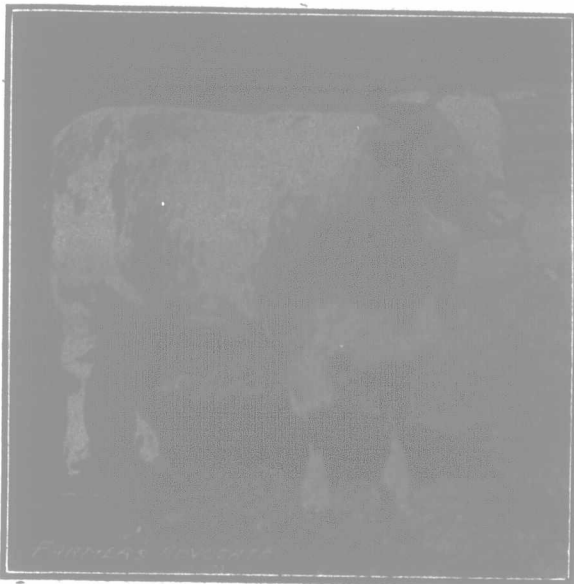
September—behind the drill, never in front, as the drill teeth will cover it too deeply—sow from 4 to 6 quarts per acre; sow only clean, fresh seed. If the seed is old, one-half more will be needed. These are merely reminders, but, above all things, if your land is good do not sow too thick.

Norfolk Co., Ont.

J. D. F.

### A Pertinent Inquiry.

The subjoined, from Mark Lane Express, is a pertinent question, and one demanding an answer: "Agricultural education is a term with a meaning in these days, and various opinions are expressed as to the best means of training the farmers of the future. It is an open question, however, whether, up to the present time, we have hit upon the best means of training young men to become farmers. All will agree that a sound training is essential if a man is to be successful in agriculture, but the question under discussion is, what is the best means of getting that training? Is it provided at agricultural colleges? Of late years a number of these institutions have been established in different countries, and a good deal of public money is being spent on them. At first these establishments could only be treated as experimental, but that stage is past now, and the question may reasonably be asked, what agricultural colleges are doing towards turning out practical farmers? We do not see that country agricultural colleges are intended to train men for colonial life, because we want good farmers at home; neither are they required to turn out estate agents, or provide education for men who never make any practical use of it, but what we should like to see is an official return showing what percentage of the students at agricultural colleges are the sons of farmers, and also what percentage return to the land when their college course is finished, and take up farming as an occupation.



Queen Ideal.

Junior champion Shorthorn, Winnipeg Exhibition, 1905. Owned by R. A. & J. A. Watt, Salem, Ont.

We are by no means averse to agricultural education, but, on the other hand, are strong believers in it. We realize, however, how essential it is that the education should be of the right character, and that men who go to agricultural colleges should do so in order to learn farming with the idea of becoming farmers. Further, it is essential that the education given should be of a thoroughly practical character, which fits a man for the work-a-day life of a farmer, and not a training which gives ideas above it."

### DAIRY.

#### Keeping Dairy Cows Loose in Illinois.

Partly as a result of inquiry among dairymen who practiced keeping their milch cows loose in sheds, the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station, in the fall of 1903, decided to put the method into active operation with part of their dairy herd. A shed 30x66 feet, adjacent to the dairy barn, was arranged for this purpose, and twenty-two cows were tried in it, and the results so far have been found to agree with those of the Illinois dairymen whose example had been followed.

The conditions under which the best results are obtained are thus described: 1. The shed area should be as large as possible. 2. Plenty of straw must be used. 3. Water supply should be within reach of the herd. 4. Shed should be well lighted and ventilated. 5. There must be a milking stable in connection, where cows—one, two or three at a time—may eat grain while being milked.

The advantages claimed are: 1. Cattle get air, room, exercise without exposure to cold and rain, instead of being closely confined in stalls. 2. The milking stable can be kept perfectly clean with little work.

3. The large amount of straw gives more and better manure, which has to be handled but seldom, and then at convenient times. 4. The shed is a good place for feeding roughage.

We do not suppose many Canadian dairymen will find it advisable to adopt this plan, though in some circumstances it has important considerations to recommend it, and we believe a modification of this plan, which would consist in allowing the cows out in a shed a good part of the day to exercise, and get one feed of hay in racks, would result in more vigorous stock, less disease, and, ultimately, though, perhaps, not immediately, increased production.

### The Cheese-weighing Question from an English Point of View.

In the weekly Trade and Commerce Report, Mr. J. B. Jackson, Canadian Commercial Agent in Leeds and Hull, Eng., replies to a communication he had received from this side in regard to the weighing of cheese for export, the excess and shortage weights on boxes, and the way the importers in Britain weigh the cheese shipped from Canada:

#### RULE LAID DOWN BY BUYERS.

"The rule laid down by the buyers as given me is as follows: 'If the factoryman sends them 50 cheese, the official weigher at Montreal takes out any 5 of these cheese and weighs each separately. To allow for shrinkage a cheese should weigh a quarter of a pound more than the weight marked on the box. If it is found that 2 cheese weigh less than the weight marked on the box, 2 out of every 5 cheese in the whole consignment are docked a pound a box. This cut is made even if it happens that 2 of the other boxes in the 5 boxes that are weighed were each a pound overweight.'

#### RULE DEMANDED BY FACTORYMEN.

"The rule asked for by the factoryman as given me is as follows: 'That 5 boxes of cheese should be weighed together, and that the average weight should be secured and applied to the 50 boxes in the shipment. In this way, if any box is over-weight, the over-weight would be used to offset under-weight in other boxes.'

"I have gone into this matter with the large cheese-importing houses in this district, and find that they are in entire ignorance as to the custom in Canada, in the weighing of cheese, but in no case do I find that the rule laid down by the buyers in Canada is the one in use by the importers here. The importers here pay full price for the cheese received, and unless the average loss over the whole shipment falls under two per cent. they make no claim against the shippers.

#### VIEWS OF LARGE IMPORTERS.

"The following are the results of the interviews with the large importers:

"Leeds.—'Taking our own invoices, supporting cheese are full weight or over, they are marked O. K., while some lots of cheese may show a loss of 5 pounds on 5 cheese, sometimes 10 pounds on 5 cheese, and at other times, say, 8 pounds or 12 pounds on 10 cheese, as the case may be.

"We have no knowledge as to what is the system on the other side. We average the parcels on arrival here, and if there is anything seriously wrong, we make a claim in accordance therewith.'

"Hull.—'Our shippers recognize all claims above two per cent. on marked weights; we weigh 5 boxes, and this averages for the whole parcel. We may say, however, it is very seldom we have to make a claim, which is very satisfactory to Canada.'

"Newcastle-on-Tyne.—'We consider the Canadian factoryman's contention perfectly fair, viz., that two or three fives should be weighed together out of every 50 to 100 boxes cheese from each factory, and the shortage allowed on the lot; this is, in fact, the custom in Liverpool, here and elsewhere generally now.

"It must, however, be borne in mind that importers never can get more than the box weights from retail buyers, so that any over-weight coming into the average is a loss to the importer.

"The allowance of a quarter of a pound for shrinkage is, in our opinion and long experience, much too small, and should in no case be less than half a pound, so that a cheese marked 90 pounds should really weigh 90½ pounds, which in the long run would be no loss to the factory, and would save much labor and trouble.

"It is customary in the trade here to weigh 5 or 10 cheese representing a lot, and allow average loss on the whole parcel accordingly. This is probably not an absolutely accurate method, but taking it all round it probably works out fairly well for both buyer and seller.

"As to the method adopted on the other side, we can only say that, as a general rule, the box weights of Canadian cheese work out much to the disadvantage of the importer on this side, and he could not be wrong in trying some fresh means of testing the various shipments.

"We have had this year June cheese showing a loss of as much as two pounds per box, and one shipment invoiced as O.K. right throughout, when