

Potatoes and Beans.

Judging from appearances some of the propaganda regarding an increased planting of beans and potatoes must have had the desired result, for on almost every farm in Old Ontario one sees if not more acres at least more rows of potatoes than usual, and farms which never grew beans outside of the garden patch before have this year a few acres or a few rows of field beans. Besides this, nearly every house in village, town and city where any ground at all is available has its back-yard garden, and many are the excellent patches of potatoes and small garden stuff which have resulted either from the increased call for greater production, or from the high prices which have obtained for these products during the past months. Whether for patriotic reasons or for their own selfish benefit or for both, the Ontario farmer and the Ontario villager and townsman has evidently put forth every effort this year to grow beans, potatoes and garden truck, and to their credit be it said that for the most part they are looking after their plantations very well, and with anything like favorable weather potatoes should be particularly abundant, beans more so than usual, and all kinds of the smaller garden truck produced in un-heard-of quantities. This will have an effect on food supplies. While most of these are perishable products good only for a season, they will release for export or for carrying over cereal grains and other food products which may be kept. No one can estimate the value of the extra rows of potatoes, the extra rows of beans, and the extra garden truck put in on the farm and in the back-yard gardens this year. At any rate a large percentage of our population will have a plentiful supply of garden vegetables, where if they had not grown them they would have done without in many cases rather than buy. Let us hope that from year to year gardens and garden crops become more popular.

Four-Horse Teams and Tractors.

Reports from the various districts Canada over show that the season is in the neighborhood of two weeks late from one end of Canada to the other. Unless something unforeseen in the way of unfavorable weather with intense heat and drouth follows very closely upon the protracted wet weather we have had, harvest will be a little later than usual, and unless the weather continues open later in the fall a correspondingly shorter time will be left for the after-harvest cultivation and plowing in preparation for next spring's crop. If the effort put forward is to accomplish all that is hoped for, more tractors and more farm power will be necessary this fall. Where farms are not so situated as to be able to employ a tractor to advantage more horses will have to be used in the teams to get the necessary power to pull two-furrowed plows and wider implements. We have always favored plowing two furrows at a time, and only under special conditions will it be at all advisable to use single plows this fall. Of course, where a man has a small farm and can do the work he has with a single plow the case is different, but even then he might get his own done more quickly by the use of the two-furrowed implement and give the land a thorough top cultivation, in many cases where land is heavy, ridging up late in the fall. At any rate he could plow his land twice where he might only get over it once with a single

plow. Four-horse teams and farm tractors will be easier got than extra hired men this fall, and at least the teams with the wider implements will be more profitably used.

An Abused Implement.

The farm wagon is about the most abused implement on many farms. From the time the snow begins to go off in the spring until it is put away early the next winter many a wagon is not under cover, and too many neglect to grease their wagons as they should. It is hard enough on the running gears to have to carry heavy loads when well greased, but it is much worse on both wagon and team to have the axles dry. Tires also are very often allowed to become too loose, and the whole wheel or wheels are in danger when such is the case. Loading wagons with loose tires heavily is a big strain on them. Every farm has a barn, if not an implement shed, and after using the wagon it should be placed under cover. We have seen wagons which had been painted yearly for many years and run nearly two decades and still good, while others just as satisfactory in the beginning have gone to pieces in a very few years through neglect.

Let the Hay Fork Help Mow Back.

About the time this reaches our readers haying will be in full swing. Most barns are now equipped with rods and hay-fork outfits. The problem of mowing back the hay is not as difficult to solve as it was in the old days when it went back small forkful by forkful. As a general thing, there is plenty of time in the winter to get the hay out of the mow, and, such being the case, most farmers are not so particular about putting it in so that it will be easy to get out when feeding time comes. To facilitate matters in harvesting the crop as much of it is generally pulled in as possible without any mowing back, and then the big bundles from hay forks or slings are rolled down from the center to outside of the mow. If a man can be kept in the mow when the bundles are going up and after the centre has been filled up pretty well, he can so swing them with a pitch fork before they are tripped that they will very often roll to the extreme outside of the mow. It is necessary to have hay fairly dry to put it in this way else some heating will take place where it drops, but for the sake of speed in harvesting where help is scarce this method is a good one. Of course, if grain is to go on top of the hay it should be levelled off at the finish, else it will be difficult to get out at threshing time.

Pull or Smother Twitch.

One of the worst weeds the farmer has to combat is twitch grass, and it seems to be gaining yearly. Cultivation and smothering crops are the only means of getting rid of it, and even then a few of the running root-stocks may remain to start new patches of the pest. The disk harrow and the broad-sharred cultivator are not the best implements to fight this pest. We prefer the spring-toothed cultivator with the narrow teeth, as it is better to pull out the roots rather than cut them out or cut them off in any way. Frequent cultivation is necessary at any time, and in a wet spell the roots should be

stirred up and pulled out after each rain. Where the grass is thick and the roots have spread thickly through the soil after a thorough cultivation a horse rake is sometimes used. Where this system is followed always take the precaution to burn the root-stocks when dry. Buckwheat is very often used as a smothering crop, and it is not too late to sow it thickly for this purpose and to plow in later in the fall, particularly where time will not be available to continue thorough cultivation throughout the summer. Rape sown at the rate of 1½ pounds per acre in drills is also effective in combatting this weed, which also must be fought with a short rotation of crops.

Use a Skimmer.

Indications point toward the sowing of an increased acreage of winter wheat this fall, much of which will go on sod land. Remembering the difficulties of getting wheat in last year and also keeping in mind that any land prepared for wheat, and particularly sod, generally gives the best results when plowed early and thoroughly cultivated before sowing, our advice is to plow the sod as soon as the hay is off and work it down immediately. A better seed-bed will likely result if the skimmer is used on the plow and the furrow turned a fair depth so that sufficient soil is loose on top to thoroughly cover and mulch the wheat. The skimmer is an attachment which does not get the wide use which its importance warrants that it should have. Much sod requires a great deal extra after-cultivation, because it is only turned over, sometimes carelessly and without the use of the skimmer, and press of other work leaves it as the plow turned it for some time before the disk and harrow can be used and the seams grow up with grass. The skimmer, well set, would avoid this and would turn under not only grass but all weeds and undesirable vegetation. It will make the plow draw a little harder but put on the horse-power and do the work right.

A Road Supervisor Necessary.

One of the biggest drawbacks to the making and maintenance of good roads under the statute labor system is the changing of pathmasters from year to year, and yet in some places all the work would go on one strip of road where the pathmaster is not changed, for there are still many who would, year after year, put all the road work of the beat as close to their own places as possible, or at least on those parts of the road which they themselves travelled most. If all those living on the beat had the same selfish disposition and the job of pathmaster started at one end of the beat and went from farmer to farmer annually until the other end of the beat was reached, and then started back over the ground again, all the road would be sure of getting some work done upon it. No such uniformity of system and selfishness could be worked out however, and if it were, probably no two of the pathmasters would have the same idea as to the proper methods of road construction and maintenance. There seems to be only one solution of the whole problem, and that is to have a permanent road supervisor in each township with power to plan construction and maintenance and say where it should go in each beat.

Canada's Young Farmers and Future Leaders.



A Well Graded and Attractive Country Road.

The sod shoulders are removed, giving a gradual slope toward the ditches.

Departmental Farming.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Many farmers succeed financially and steadily enlarge their business until middle life is reached, then meet a serious difficulty. The members of their family are approaching maturity, and are beginning to map out their own careers. The boys have been the chief standbys in the farm work, but now they are considering leaving the farm, and more or less uncertain hired help must take their place. The father realizes that his responsibilities and cares will be much increased at a time when he would like to decrease them by placing part of them on younger shoulders. The boys, too, have fairly earned a portion of what he holds, and are in justice entitled to a portion, as they start for themselves on other farms or in some other line of business. The usual result is that either a division or a sale is made. The father either retires or continues on a smaller scale, with less enthusiasm and with less incentive to improve.

Would it not be wiser in such cases to continue the natural development, and to increase its speed? It is human nature to wish to improve. Not many boys worth sand, are willing to simply fall into step with father and travel at his pace for the rest of their days. To be simply a workman on father's farm does not appeal to them. Most boys, if they are to remain, desire to feel that they are adding some new element to the farm.

If, while the boys are still young, the father studies the preferences of each, carefully educates each along the line of his natural bent, and leads their minds in the right channels, he will, in most cases, be able to commit the care and oversight of one department of the farm business to each of his sons as they reach maturity, and instead of selling out or dividing up he can enlarge his business, adding new lines and having less care as to details resting on him. In one case one of the boys