

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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1866

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LONDON, ONTARIO, MAY 11, 1916.

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EDITORIAL.

Selling the best does not tend to improve the herd.

What have they done? Is the test for cows as well as for men.

They have "gopher" days out West. Why not a "ground-hog day" in Ontario?

It is nearly time to plant tested corn. It is never time to plant untested seed.

A late seeding does not necessarily mean a late harvest, but it does mean speeding up the farm work.

You do not know how good or how bad your cow is, until you systematically weigh the milk and test her.

The split-log drag was used to good advantage on many roads this year. Many more needed it but did not get it.

Alfalfa, where it will grow well, makes good farms and good cattle. Sweet clover may do the same where alfalfa is a failure.

Buy "Made-in-Canada" goods seems to be a slogan for the Canadian people and not for those who handle the fuse contracts.

The man who does not watch his mare and so loses his colt generally resolves to be on hand next time. Rather an expensive lesson.

We saw many cattle on pasture as early as April 25 this year. There was no grass then, and there will be little on the fields on which these cattle graze at any time this summer.

Some say: "a wet seeding a dry harvest." We hope it is some drier than that of 1915, but no one will complain much if he has as much to harvest as he had last year, even though no men are available.

At time of writing, the Shell Committee does not seem to have been very complimentary to Canadian manufacturers. Canadians have more confidence in the ability of their own firms to turn out good goods at fair prices than had the said Committee.

A Canadian farmer recently said to us: "Is it not strange that while Canadian farmers were recently cautioned against buying and selling outside their own country, the Government lets its contracts in another country?" Politicians should remember that farmers are alive and awake.

The Kaiser wanted a birthday present for the Crown Prince. He promised him Verdun, but the walking wasn't good between his headquarters in the woods and the French fortress, so the Crown Prince had to do without his present and many of his people will have to do without their nearest and dearest relatives for all time.

Dragged Roads Are Better Roads.

In the course of an extended drive through a county composed largely of clay, and where the roads are for the most part clay roads, we recently encountered some very bad holes and some exceedingly rough driving, due to the roads having been cut up by vehicular traffic and not smoothed down as they began to dry out. It was a relief however to come upon a strip of three or four miles of road which had been dragged by either a split-log drag or smoothed off with a scraper, right in the midst of these, generally described, bad roads. For the most part where the road was not dragged we were only able to drive our horses at a walk and it was difficult for them to travel at all. The buggy was in and out of deep ruts, making it hard on both rig and beast as well as unpleasant for those called upon to travel. In time past "The Farmer's Advocate" has spoken strongly in favor of a universal use of the split-log drag on clay roads in the spring. We never saw a better demonstration than the one mentioned, which was in Haldimand county, of what can be done to a road by dragging at the proper time. When we struck the piece of dragged road, we were able to trot along at a fair rate of speed on a comparatively smooth road, easy on horse, rig and man. The dragged road will be the best road all summer, and there is no estimating the value of the drag when it comes to preparing roads for the traffic which must be carried on over their surface. For speed in smoothing up, rounding off and filling in, the drag is a wonder, aids in drying out the surface and hardening it making a passable road out of a quagmire. No doubt there are many roads in the country which would be the better of more dragging this spring and which, after heavy rains during the summer, would be more rapidly dried, improved and repaired by the use of the drag. We wish that every pathmaster and every road worker could see a demonstration of the use of the drag at the right time, and we venture to say that the number of drags in use would be multiplied many times. Try a home-made one on your own wet lane sometime and see how it works out, then drag it from the lane to the road and show the neighbors what can be done.

Do You Grow These Varieties?

Some interesting facts are brought out by the report of the results of Standing Field Crop Competitions in Ontario in 1915. We wonder if the relative number of tests made in each crop bears any relation to the relative popularity or general adoption of these crops. There were 152 competitions in oats, 9 in spring wheat, 15 in fall wheat, 16 in barley, 4 in peas, 45 in corn, nearly 50 in potatoes, 10 in turnips, 7 in mangels and 1 in beans.

Undoubtedly oats are the big crop in Ontario, and it is interesting to note the winning varieties. In 1913 there was only one entry of O. A. C., No. 72 oats in these competitions in Ontario and it took first place. In 1914 this variety received twenty first prizes and in 1915 it secured 48 first prizes. In 1915 O. A. C. 72 oats were entered in 99 of the 152 competitions and so took first place in nearly 50 per cent. of the contests where entered. It is interesting to note that the Banner variety secured 45 first prizes and stood high up in most competitions where entered. These two varieties are undoubtedly leaders in Ontario. Abundance, Siberian and Sensation stood well up in the lists in some places.

In the sixteen barley competitions, first place in every instance went to O. A. C. No. 21. In most competitions it was the only variety entered. A few entries of Mandscheuri got in the money but the growers of the best barley grew No. 21.

A small acreage of spring wheat is grown in Ontario, but Marquis, a variety originated at the C. E. F.,

Ottawa, led in each of six out of the nine competitions. White Fife and Red Fife were the other common winners, but in York county every entry was Wild Goose, a macaroni variety which does well on heavy, strong land.

Dawson's Golden Chaff led in ten of the fifteen competitions in fall wheat. This heavy yielder seems hard to beat.

Peas, once a staple crop in Ontario, but now not relied upon, were in competition in only four societies, two in Renfrew, one in Bruce and one in Huron. This is indicative of the trend. The crop does not prove valuable in the southern counties and is now grown only in the north.

The number of corn competitions indicates the growing importance of this crop in Ontario. Forty-five competitions as compared with the numbers in other crops puts corn next to oats. In different districts, different varieties led, but on the whole the standbys such as Compton's Early, Salzer's North Dakota, and Longfellow, and White Cap, Leaming, Bailey, Wisconsin and Golden Glow did well.

The outstanding feature of the potato contest report is the number of varieties, altogether too many. Potato growers would do well to settle down to a few good early and late varieties and put an end to the everlasting hustle for new sorts.

One is surprised at there being more turnip competitions than mangrel trials. They number eleven to seven and yet mangels are growing in favor rapidly.

These competitions carried on in all parts of the Province are valuable and the results should be a lesson to those looking for new varieties especially in oats, barley, spring and fall wheat. It is a pity these reports could not be in the hands of farmers a few weeks before seeding so that in selecting varieties they could benefit from the experience of others. Too many reports turned out are too long in the making and reach the public at an unseasonable time.

Money Is Not Everything.

Money is not everything. The foregoing sentence is one that should receive the consideration of every farmer, as well as of every citizen. We recently spent an interesting hour with a young bookkeeper, who, tiring of office work, has purchased a few good dual-purpose Shorthorn cows and on five acres in a town in Haldimand county, Ontario, is enjoying farming on a small scale with good, pure-bred cows and choice pure-bred chickens. The feature which is drawing him and his wife to the work is not altogether the money that is in it, but, as he puts it, "money is not everything". They like the work. It is interesting to them, they enjoy it and every day they are learning something new and something more interesting about the cows and the hens. Would that thousands of others, among them many now on the farm and others who have left farms and are living in towns and cities, could see farming as these people see it. The work of milking cows is not drudgery to these people. Feeding them is a pleasure. The average farmer—the average man in any walk of life, is too ready to measure the occupation by the money there is in it. The twentieth-century human being places the dollar sign on everything, and it is a pleasing relief to find a few people who do things not altogether for the money there is in it but for the pleasure, the information, the education, and the real life which their occupation holds in store for them. There should be satisfaction for the farmer in the growing and development of crops, and in the breeding and feeding of better live stock, there should be some satisfaction other than the money returns which are not everything in life. As a general thing we believe farmers do not make the amount of money to which they are entitled in comparison with other business, but there should be no