

Some Seasonable Farm Talk.

Flurries of snow early last week constituted the first real intimation that winter is approaching rapidly. Following a long, dry period, the greater part of Ontario was drenched daily for almost a week. At times the rain was heavy; at others it descended slowly and steadily, soaking into the thirsty soil, softening the hard bottom and making it possible to plow where, in many districts, such had not been practicable for some time, owing to the dry weather. In some places winter wheat is patchy, several knolls in many fields not having had, at time of sowing, or since sufficient moisture to sprout all the seed. We dug down to some of this seed recently and found most of it intact, and look for it to grow now that moisture is abundant. Of course it cannot be expected to make much growth this fall and much of it may winter-kill, but enough may survive to cover the bare places if the winter is favorable. Some of the seed had commenced germination, but the young sprout had withered. This will not come, and the stand on these dry knolls is likely to be thin.

As winter draws near the rush of work increases. A wet week delayed potato digging and apple picking, but good weather had previously well advanced these operations, although a large proportion of the roots were still in the fields the end of last week. Much plowing is still to be done. It will be necessary, on many farms, to keep the plow teams going to finish up the work before frost intervenes.

Important work faces the man on the land from all angles at this season. Stables not already fitted up must be repaired. Stock, at present prices, is too valuable to have huddled in the scant protection of bare trees and rail fences. Mangers, ties, floors, windows, and doors often need repairs just now. In fact this is generally the case.

Then there is the implements and machinery. The proper thing to do is to house all implements and machines as soon as finished using them, but this is not always done. There may be some excuse for leaving the plow out a day or two when plowing is not completed, and there may be reasons offered why the mower is backed under an apple tree for a few days until ready to cut the last field of clover seed, but there can be no excuse for leaving such implements and machines outside throughout the entire winter. Preparing for and housing the farm machinery and tillage implements is just as important as preparing the stable for the stock and making them comfortable.

There are a hundred and one odd jobs which might be mentioned. In the fall the stock are allowed to graze over most of the fields; gaps are down. These fences should be put up before the ground freezes hard. There is always plenty to do in spring without leaving too much of the fall work over. It is always wise to make the rounds of the outlets of tile drains and clear away any debris or silt which may have chanced to lodge there. Get the feed stored, put the implements and machines in their place under cover, and stable the stock comfortably. This means work, but is work that yields profit.

Where and How to Preserve Seed Corn.

The influence of seed corn on the crop is so marked that every known device should be used to preserve the seed corn and retain the vitality and good germinating quality which should be outstandingly inherent in all kinds of seed. One bushel of seed corn will plant from four to six acres, planted on the check system in hills 42 inches apart, with three kernels to the hill it will plant approximately six acres. On account of so little seed being required per acre, one can select it very closely and give it considerable attention throughout the winter. In only a few years the whole character of the strain can be changed from a large cob poorly covered and bare at the ends to a deep-kerneled ear straight and well-filled in the rows. No other cereal will show the result of breeding and selecting so quickly as the corn crop.

When husking is being done, the good cobs show up more plainly than after they are put into the crib, and if cared for and the water dried from them before the cold weather comes, the germ is less likely to be frozen. The time required to mature any variety can also be regulated by the height the cob grows on the stalk. Cobs on the fourth and fifth joints mature earlier than those growing further up, and for climate similar to Western Ontario the fifth joint is perhaps the proper distance from the ground to select the cob for seed. This corn so selected will have a tendency to throw a crop with the majority of the corn in that joint. Districts with shorter seasons should select from the fourth joint, but it must be borne in mind that the lower the corn grows the smaller will be the cob.

Corn preserved in bags or in the crib, unless previously dried or cured, does not make the best seed. It is worth the trouble to arrange some special device whereby mice and rats will be prohibited from access and where it will be dry and cool. Long boards one inch by four or six inches may easily be suspended from a rafter or plate in the barn or shed. Into these on both sides drive two rows of finishing nails and stab or impale the husked corn onto them. In this way no ear of the corn is touched by another and no vermin will have access to it. Pieces of lumber 2 in. by 2 in. also make a convenient holder. When any quantity is required corn should only be stabbed on two sides so the different sticks may be hung closely together and not occupy a large space. Wire holders are made on the same principle, each holder supporting about twelve or fifteen cobs. A little hook in each end makes it possible to attach them one below another and only occupy a very small space. Each holder will preserve enough seed for one acre when the proper kind of ears are selected.

Good corn preserved in this way should show a high germination test in the spring, and the vitality will be maintained in such a way as to force the young shoots ahead even under adverse circumstances. The initial stages of the growth are critical indeed and the whole season's crop is tied up in that little green blade that first breaks the ground. Its nourishment for the first few days is in the kernel itself and particular care of the little nascent grain which we place in the ground may be equivalent to many tons of fertilizer.

The Middleman's Profit.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I am a constant reader of your valuable paper, and I see a few items in it from Dufferin County. I thought I would give the readers an account of my experience with the "middleman." In the spring I planted about three-quarters of an acre to early potatoes, thinking I would ship them to Toronto for the Exhibition market. So on the first Wednesday after the exhibition started, I telephoned to a commission man and asked him what he could get for fifty bags of potatoes. He said they were selling at \$1.25 a bag, and would get the top of the market and to ship them right along. Well I did, I put them in the car at the station on the following Friday morning for Toronto. I got the returns in about thirty days, and the price I got for my potatoes was forty-eight cents a bag. Where did the balance go? Of course the railroads got a share, and the commission man deserved a profit too, but I think if the farmers would unite and sell their produce right to the consumer instead of depending on a commission man they would be likely to get nearer the \$1.25 a bag than I did. All other classes are forming unions and associations, why not the farmer?

For without the farmer they all would have to quit, but it seems more difficult to get the farmers together. Possibly it is because they live farther apart than do our city friends, but now with the telephones and rural mail deliveries I think they are getting closer together, and I hope to see the time when we will have more well-organized associations of our own.

Dufferin Co., Ont. A YOUNG FARMER.

Canadian Grain Wins Again.

At the exhibition now being held in connection with the International Dry Farming Congress in session at Tulsa, Oklahoma, Canadian grain won the best of the awards, taking seven out of sixteen sweepstakes and the grand prize for the best bushel of hard wheat. Paul Gerlach, Allan, Sask., had the best bushel of wheat and won the chreshing machine offered in this class. The best peck of barley came from Claresholm, Alta., Nicholas Tittinger winning with it a gasoline engine. E. J. Lanigan, Effross, Sask., exhibited the best bushel of oats and won a harvester and binder. Saskatchewan scored again in flax, John Flews, of Carnduff, winning. A. H. Crossman, Kindersley, Sask., had the winning sheaf of barley and takes home a disc harrow, while R. C. West of the same address gets a plow for the best sheaf of flax. Alberta took leading honors in sheaf oats, Arthur Perry, of Cardston, winning the cultivator.

This is a record of which to feel proud. The competition was very keen, over thirty States entering. Montana won four sweepstakes, so Northern districts "clean up" pretty well.

All differences between the Board of the Canadian National Exhibition and the officials of the new National Live Stock, Dairy and Horticultural Exhibition, regarding the use of the former's buildings, have been amicably settled, the final decision being to allow the new exhibition use of all the buildings they require, excepting the Government Building, which is to remain closed throughout the show.

Markets.

Toronto.

Receipts at the Union Stock-yards, West Toronto, Monday, Oct. 27th, were 285 cars, comprising 6,000 cattle, 530 hogs, 2,449 sheep and lambs, 379 calves, and 10 horses. Trade was active in all classes. Export steers, \$7.50 to \$7.75; choice butchers', \$7.25 to \$7.50; good, \$6.75 to \$7; medium, \$6.25 to \$6.50; common, \$5.50 to \$5.75; cows, \$3.50 to \$6.50; bulls, \$4.50 to \$6.50; calves, \$1.50 to \$10; milkers, \$50 to \$94; feeders, \$5.50 to \$6.50; stockers, \$4.50 to \$5.25; sheep, \$4.25 to \$5.25; lambs, \$7.25 to \$7.50; hogs, \$9 fed and watered, and \$8.75 f. n. b. cars.

REVIEW OF LAST WEEK'S MARKETS

The total receipts of live stock at the City and Union Stock-yards for the past week were:

	City.	Union.	Total.
Cars	84	728	812
Cattle	1,892	15,236	17,128
Hogs	127	4,268	4,395
Sheep	847	7,038	7,885
Calves	167	1,367	1,534
Horses	19	63	82

The total receipts of live stock at the

two markets for the corresponding week of 1912 were:

	City.	Union.	Total.
Cars	83	415	498
Cattle	875	6,438	7,313
Hogs	2,147	5,763	7,910
Sheep	1,920	7,684	9,604
Calves	102	819	921
Horses	—	15	15

The combined receipts of live stock at the two yards for the past week, show an increase of 314 cars, 9,820 cattle, 613 calves, and 67 horses; but a decrease of 3,515 hogs and 1,719 sheep and lambs, compared with the corresponding week of 1912.

Receipts of live stock at Toronto were again large, but not as large as for the previous week. There was an active trade in all classes of cattle, and, for that matter, in all classes of live stock. There were many new buyers from many parts of the United States, especially from Chicago, Buffalo, and New York. Competition was keen, and prices as high, if not higher, in all classes, especially choice butcher cattle and choice, well-bred feeders and stockers. Choice yearling steers for feeding purposes, sold up to \$5.90 and \$6.15, which was the highest ever reached on the Toronto markets for steers of that age. Sheep, lambs, and calves, held firm, at about steady prices. Hog receipts being light, prices advanced until they reached the \$9 mark for those

fed and watered at the market. This was contrary to the expectations of the packers, who were looking for lower prices.

Exporters.—There were no cattle bought for export, but cattle of export weight and quality sold at \$7.50 to \$7.75, and had there been some of choice quality, such as command high prices at Chicago, Chicago prices would have been paid for them, as several American buyers who were on the market informed us that prices were as high on the Toronto market as they were on the Buffalo or Chicago markets, when quality and incidental expenses are considered. The farmers of Ontario never had such an opportunity as they have now to be well paid for producing the right quality of beef.

Butchers'.—Choice butchers' sold at \$7 to \$7.35; good butchers', \$6.50 to \$6.75; medium, \$6 to \$6.40; common, \$5.25 to \$5.75; choice cows, \$5.75 to \$6.50; good cows, \$5.25 to \$5.50; common cows, \$4 to \$4.75; butcher bulls, \$5 to \$5.40; hologna bulls, \$4 to \$4.75.

Stockers and Feeders.—At no stage of the game has there been a better market, or higher prices paid for stockers and feeders than during the past week. Choice feeders, 1,000 to 1,100 lbs., sold at \$6.60 to \$6.75; steers, 900 to 1,000 lbs., \$5.60 to \$6; steers, 700 to 800 lbs., \$5.25 to \$6; Eastern stock heifers, \$4.50 to \$4.90.

Milkers and Springers.—Never in the history of the Toronto live-stock markets have milkers and springers sold at such high prices; that is, on an average. Milkers and springers sold from \$50 to \$110 each during the week, the bulk bringing from \$70 to \$75 each. There were more cows sold at \$100 and over this week than ever before.

Veal Calves.—Receipts were moderate all week, consequently prices were very firm. Choice veals sold at \$9 to \$10; good veals, \$8 to \$9; medium veals, \$7 to \$7.50; common veal calves, \$5.50 to \$6.50; rough, eastern calves, ill-bred and ill-fed quality, \$4.50 to \$5, and then, too dear.

Sheep and Lambs.—The sheep and lamb market ruled fairly steady all week. Sheep—Ewes sold at \$4.25 to \$5.25; culls and rams, \$2.75 to \$3.75. Lambs—Ewes and wethers, \$7.40 to \$7.85, and 75c. per head less for bucks.

Hogs.—Prices advanced for hogs until the ruling price was \$9 for selects fed and watered, and \$8.65 f. o. b. cars, and \$9.25 for those weighed off cars.

Horses.—There was a little more activity exhibited on the Horse Exchange, Union Stock-yards, during the past week. Receipts were larger, and amongst these were two carloads of the finest drafters, 1,600 to 1,850 lbs. each, that have been seen on any market this season; but these were not sold at the time of writing. The manager of these stables re-