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It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.

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FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE, Descriptions of
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Following reports, pessimistic or otherwise, according as regarded from the seller's or buyer's standpoint, that the cement business was dull to the point of depression, owing to overproduction, large stocks in the mills, and consequent low prices, comes that not-too-welcome announcement that a 'thirty-million-dollar cement merger has been formed, embracing most of the leading cement mills in Canada, including several in each of three Provinces, Ontario, Quebec, and Alberta. Whether this latest combination will prove a blessing or a bane, depends upon the direction in which it may bend its energies. If concentrating effort upon a well-directed plan to economize cost of production and marketing, the merger might prove of advantage to its stockholders, with no disadvantage to the consumer. But, as with all other vast aggregations of capital, aiming at monopolistic control, this cement merger, in a protective country like Canada, is attended with large opportunities for mischief and extortion.

The import duty on cement coming into Canada is 8 cents per cwt. under the preferential tariff, and 12½ cents under the maximum schedule applying to imports from the United States, the same rate of duty applying to the containing sacks or packages. As a barrel of Portland cement weighs some 350 pounds, this figures out to a duty of 28 cents a barrel under the minimum or preferential rate, and 13½ cents on imports from the American mills. Assuming or anticipating complete control of the Canadian output, there would be nothing to hinder the Canadian combine from adding at least 28 cents to the free-trade price on every barrel of cement produced in their mills. Even prior to the securing of complete control, it might operate quite effectively to restrict output, and thus raise prices. As cement is a commodity of all but universal use, in country as well as in town, being employed in vast and growing quantities, the cement merger is a matter of vital concern to every citizen, and, therefore, to our statesmen. The new company, as well as the proposed steel merger, and

every other large combination of capital, should be carefully watched, and any possible disposition to take advantage of the consumer met with prompt and radical reduction of import duty, or bounty, as in the case of steel. Indeed, this might well be reduced, in any event, in common with lowering imposts on many other lines of goods. Freer trade is the lever to bring monopolists to time.

Next to "The Farmer's Advocate" itself, of which I have been a constant reader for some fifteen years, with increasing profit and pleasure, I prize the premium given for obtaining new subscribers. The Bagster's Teacher's Bible has for years been simply invaluable, and the Razor has given splendid satisfaction during three years' regular use, being exceptionally easy to keep in order. The Twentieth Century Dictionary, compiled by Dr. Davidson, I have now used steadily for six months, and find it an up-to-date treasure. I have yet to turn in vain to its pages for the meaning and spelling of any word. It is most complete in every respect, and just what we had wanted in our home for years, and, withal, a marvel of cheapness. I must congratulate you on bringing so many good things within our easy reach.

Essex Co., Ont.

O. H.

Several correspondents on the corn question make a specialty of selecting and saving seed corn for sale. Two of them, at least, grow Stowell's Evergreen for seed purposes, a variety that is one of the most difficult to dry sufficiently so that its germinating power may be strong. Any treatment by which seed of such a soft variety can be kept in good condition, would certainly be safe for harder sorts. One grower states that sweet corn for seed purposes should not be shocked, for fear of mold developing on the grain. His practice is to leave the corn uncut until grain begins to shrivel, then break off the ears and husk, leaving two or three of the husks on each ear, braid or tie with twine, and hang over poles in an airy barn or loft. Both correspondents refer to the importance of having no two ears touching each other as they hang, or there will be moldy corn. Some such plan might be pursued by anyone who wishes to save his own field-corn seed, with every assurance that seed would grow.

In selecting ears for seed, it is very important to have a typical ear in mind, and to keep only those that most nearly approach to it. An Essex County corn-grower mentions the fact that, in his neighborhood many farmers have kept the same variety of corn for forty years, each one each year keeping his own seed, until several distinct types have been evolved from the one original kind. There is no doubt that a certain type can be fixed, or that the strain can be improved by continual selection towards an ideal.

Most of the field-corn seed is picked out during the process of husking, and if some care is taken to observe not only the ear, but also the stalk on which it grows, with very good results.

A better plan, where but a small quantity is needed, and the only plan that is applicable where the whole crop is put into the silo, is to go through the crop before cutting starts and select and cut the best stalks having the best ears, set up in small shocks by themselves, and afterwards hush and re-select. Such a process does not take much time, and it would be well worth trying by many who now race around for seed in the spring. Of course, this assumes that a variety is grown that will mature in the particular locality, and that the silo is not filled until the crop is quite mature, as it should be, anyway. An alternative plan would be to grow each year a special seed corn plot, which might be handled independently of the silage crop.

corn is the storing of it, so that it may not fail to grow. In the southern counties of Ontario, where the crop ripens early and thoroughly, seed corn is not unusually stored in narrow cribs, with success. In most parts of the country, however, crib corn cannot be depended upon for seed, and some other method of keeping it must be adopted. The slatted bushel crates, which are being used a great deal by Essex Co. seed-growers, for both storing and shipping seed corn, are favorably mentioned by one correspondent. The one essential to insure the vitality of the germ is to thoroughly dry the grain, and then keep it dry. If such pains were taken as is taken by the specialists in sweet-corn seed, there would be no failure. One of our contributors makes a suggestion for those who wish to keep but their own seed, which can scarcely be improved upon. He advises plaiting or tying in bunches, and hanging to the ceiling or roof in the summer kitchen, and leaving it there until needed. The heat from the stove will thoroughly dry the corn before cold weather sets in, thus putting it in perfect condition. Any plan, however, by which the same result—thorough dryness—is obtained, can be safely adopted. If seed can be kept from the extreme severity of winter frost, so much the better.

"The Farmer's Advocate" has in the past recommended its readers to keep their own seed corn, and would repeat the advice, believing that it would be in the interests of purity of variety, excellence of type, and strength of seed, for them to do so.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I was readin' a letter lately in yer journal frae ane o' yer lady correspondents, criticising the farmer's daughter, an', I suppose, only iher mon's daughter, for pittin' ower muckle o' their faither's siller in dresses an' hats an' sic like unnecessary things. An' she gaes on to say that, "The woman wha feels sure o' hersel' doesn't hae to dress, an' gin ye see a wumman that does dress weel, it's mair nor likely she's daein' it tae try an' cover up her lack o' brains."

Noo, I'm no' o' in the habit o' disagreein' wi' the wumman-folks, for they'll aye hae the last word if it take their last breath; but gin oor wives an' daughters are gaein' tae get the idea that they dinna' need tae pit sae muckle time an' thoct on their appearance as they have been daein' in the past, I maun juist try an' show them their mistak'. In the first place, I dinna' ken juist where a' those lassies are that are rinnin' their parents into debt wi' dressmakers' bills an' so-forth. I hae seen aboot as mony o' the fair sex, as they ca' them, as ony ither auld chap wha has kept his eye open for that sort o' thing, an' for aye that I hae seen wastin' her father's money, I hae seen ten that couldna' squeeze enouch oot o' the auld mon tae buy a decent apron. They did their share o' wark, too, these lassies, late an' early, outside an' in, but aboot a' they got was their board an' washin', an' that last didna' amount to much. I warrant ye. Noo, from what I ken o' the young ladies, I believe its juist as natural for them tae want tae be well dressed an' bonnie-lookin' as it is for them tae talk. An' I want tae ask ye if this is no' richt? Na doot, a young mon disna' want tae marry a lassie wha will spend a' he earns on claithes for hersel', but at the same time he wad dae it twice before he wad marry ane o' these slipshod creatures that gae aboot dressed in what ye micht tak' for a bran sack rin through a threshing machine.

Mony's the time I hae wunnered what like a
shock some men maun get a few days aifter they
get marrit, when they see their wife transformed
intae somethin', they dinna' ken juist what. wi'
an auld pair o' slippers doon at the heel, an'
skirt likewise, to say naethin' o' haein' her hair
a' tied up wi' wee bits o' paper, an' a look on
her face that reminds ye o' yer mother-in-law.

I tell ye, ladies, a wumman who feels sure o' hersel' may not hae to dress, but gin' she wants tae feel sure o' her husband, she had better pay a wee bit o' attention to hersel', an' try and look about as weel as the Lord intended she should. There's mony a wumman gaein' aboot lamentin' the fact that her auld mon doesna' seem to think sae muckle o' her as he did in the days o' lang syne, wha, gin she wad spend the time tryin' tae mak' hersel' half as attractive as she was afore she hauled him in, woud sune see her troubles disappear. A mon doesna' change after he gets marrit. He will aye think as muckle o' a bonnie face an' a decent dress as ever he did, as na' doot mony a wumman kens to her sorrow.

I hae heard some women say the best way tae
keep yer hault on a mon's affections was tae "feed
the brute." Weel, this may be a' vera weel for
a time, gin it's a brute ye hae to deal wi', but he