

The Canadian Dairyman AND Farming World

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THE CANADIAN DAIRYMAN AND FARMING WORLD
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TAKE CARE OF THE WEEDS

This has been a remarkable season for the growth of weeds. In many places, spring crops were puddled-in in the mud. Some crops that were in early were drowned out in the low places by the excessive moisture, and to-day they are inhabited by weeds of a more or less noxious character. Aside from these places, the season has been an ideal one for the advancement of weeds on all parts of the farm. Many of the weeds have already gone to seed. Many more will go to seed if they are not looked after at once. Endless toil will be required to exterminate the plants that will ultimately grow from these seeds.

Go where we will, and invariably the roadsides are covered with in-

numerable varieties of weeds, which are now seeding down the adjoining fields with their kind. In several provinces laws exist that are intended to see that weeds are properly cared for. But of what use is the law, if it is not enforced? We should not wait for the law to take its course, as we will be doing much for ourselves if we take the law in our own hands and see that the weeds are properly cut. It does not take much time, and such time expended returns large dividends.

In our corn fields are to be seen weeds which the cultivator has missed, or which we did not have time to get after with the hoe. These are the weeds that will provide work for us in the years to come. These are the ones that year after year will keep us everlastingly at it to cope with the weed problem. Where such weeds exist in our corn or root fields, they can be expeditiously pulled by hand. It is wonderful the amount of ground that can be gotten over in a short time hand pulling stray weeds. If left to themselves they seed profusely, consequently all that are plucked out now will mean much work saved in years to come. By getting rid of these weeds, you will not only save yourself much work later on, but will vastly improve the present appearance of your farm. Hack all weeds down some way. Get after all of them in fence corners, on roadsides, and in hood crops, and do not allow your stubble fields, from which you have taken the grain crop, to be a breeding ground this fall for these pests. Time spent in after-harvest cultivation brings large profits.

DON'T RUSH IN AND OUT

"Hog Raising Does Not Pay," is a heading that has appeared in several publications of late. Farmers are reported as giving up the hog industry, which, it is stated, is ceasing to pay owing to the high prices of feeding material, particularly of grain, and the low prices ruling for pork. It is to be regretted that this statement has an element of truth in it. However, hogs are not ceasing to pay, and farmers are not everywhere giving out of the hog industry, as is evidenced by those who year after year stay closely by the production of pork. These farmers are being well repaid for their efforts.

There is no kick coming, at least but little, from those who have stayed by the hog producing business year after year. The racket is all being raised by those shifters who go in to hogs when prices are up, and who go out again as quickly when the prices fall. Such men are not making money out of hog breeding, and they are right in their contention that hog raising, after their fashion, does not pay. It is a poor time to stock up heavily with hogs, when prices are at their highest, especially at this season of the year. There is bound to be a reaction before long, and a greatly reduced price will be taken by the time those hogs are ready for market. Those who stocked up with hogs last spring, when prices were at a low ebb, are not re-

gretting it now. Those who have stayed faithfully by the hog are the ones to-day who are singing its praises. They are the ones who have made the money, and they are the ones who deserve it.

If one can raise hogs successfully, there should be no just reason why there should be no do likewise. The prospects are that coarse grains will bring a fair price again this year. What hogs will be, no one can tell, at least not we poor mortals outside of the packing business. However, one thing is sure, a limited number of hogs, properly managed, on the dairy farm, cannot very well help but pay. One should not hope to produce hogs by feeding them upon grain exclusively. Cheaper feeds must be utilized. Pastures, soiling crops, roots and skim milk, and other by-products of the dairy, must be made use of, if we would reap profitable returns from hog feeding. It has been proven time and again by experiment stations, co-operative experiments, and by individuals, who have carefully thought and figured the matter out for themselves, that hogs can be produced for from four to five cents a pound. If this be true, and there is but little reason to doubt that it is, there is profit in hogs at their present selling price. The action on the part of many farmers, indicates that there is.

Just now in many places there is a scramble to obtain breeding stock. Would-be buyers are not content to take just breeding stock; they want sows heavily with pig, or they want young ones ready to be put into the pens to be forced off. It is more than likely that such will bite the dust again, and take a lower price for their finished product. Again, we will hear the cry, "There is no money in raising hogs." It seems as if even experience cannot teach us. When will we learn to stay by the hog industry that means so much to the individual dairy farmer, as well as to the country at large?

FARMERS WILL REAP THE BENEFIT

We should not allow ourselves to be deceived by those people who have raised the cry that the proposed horse breeding legislation is destined to help the stallion owners at the expense of the farmers. The reverse is the case. It is urged that we should have legislation that will make it impossible for breeders to travel around stallions. Who will be benefitted by such legislation? Surely not the stallion owners.

Very few farmers are able to detect many of the worst forms of hereditary unsoundness in stallions. This has made it possible for scores and scores of such animals to be travelled each year. In Ontario, during 1906, over 18,000 mares were bred to unsound stallions. The farmers who owned the mares would not have used those stallions had they known that they were defective. Something, therefore, needs to be done to protect our farmers from those breeders who continue to travel stallions even after they know them to be unsound. This can be

accomplished best by the enactment of legislation that will prevent the use of such stallions. Our farmers and not the stallion owners will reap the greatest benefit from such legislation.

SELECTION OF SEED

It is generally recognized that production of grain can be increased by the use of seed that has been specially selected for its high productive qualities. Yet, year after year, some of us continue to sow grain just as it comes from the thrasher, and that is taken from any part of the field that is the most convenient. We could make no greater mistake, and we could not very well do more to hinder our own advancement, as well as hold back the agricultural wealth of our country than to continue in such a practice.

The time to select our seed is in the harvest field. As like begets like, we then have some means of knowing what we may expect from the grain we sow the following year. On all farms, and in practically all fields, some part of the crop in much better than others. This is the part we should reserve for our seed the following year. It will take a little extra time, it is true, to save such portions by themselves, but if we can thereby increase our yields by several bushels an acre, is it not worth while? Where the best is saved separately, carefully threshed and afterwards thoroughly cleaned, only the best of what is obtained being sown, increased yields are sure to follow. This process, if carried on for a number of years, would result in bringing our total yields to a much higher average, thereby increasing our profit for our labor.

Where clean farms exist, much greater returns are possible by growing grain for seed. Thoroughly clean seed of improved strains, always has a ready market. The demand for such far exceeds the supply. As year by year goes by, the demand is bound to increase. We are coming to realize more and more the value of improved seed, and there is no time like the present for embarking in the business of producing such seed. Why not plan now to take up this work next year? If you have not such seed to start with, a small quantity can be readily obtained from some one who is already in the business. If your farm is not suitable for producing such grain, being too badly over-run with weeds, there is no time like the present for putting it into shape for seed grain production, by preventing all weeds from seeding. If you sow fall wheat, why not get an improved strain to sow this fall, and thereby be in shape to take advantage of any increased price which you might obtain from your harvest next year? Even should you not make a sale at an enhanced price for seed, you could not stand to lose, as the increased return you would receive would more than pay for any extra cost or trouble in securing the original seed.

A greater interest in seed grain production has a wholesome effect upon the whole farm, and the operations of those running it. Greater in-