Where Money is Lost

A striking example of the money that is lost by farmers who send good milk to factories where the cheese makers accept inferior milk, was furnished by Chief Dairy Instructor G. G. Publow, at a meeting of dairymen held in Peterboro recently. "Last year," said Mr. Publow, "one of our dairy instructors conducted a test in a cheese factory to find how much money is lost where bad milk is accepted at the factory.

"This instructor went to the factory on July 31st. On that day all the milk that was delivered by the patrons was accepted. In all 9,795 lbs. of milk were received, from which 791 lbs. of cheese were made. It took 12.38 lbs. of milk to make a pound of cheese.

"The following day, August 1st, all the milk that was not in good condition was refused. The milk that was accepted weighed 9,281 lbs. From it 841 lbs. of cheese were made. Thus, it required only 11.03 lbs. of this better milk to make a pound of cheese. Fifty lbs. more cheese were made although 514 lbs. less milk was used. Had all the milk accepted on July 31st been as good as the milk that was accepted on the following day, 96 lbs. more cheese might have been made. Valued at 12c. a lb., it means that the patrons of that factory lost $11.52 that day because poor milk was accepted.

"These figures show how necessary it is that cheese makers shall refuse poor milk when it is delivered at the factory. They also show that farmers who deliver good milk at the factory should back up their cheese maker in refusing bad milk. One can of bad milk, when mixed with the good milk delivered by the other patrons of a factory, is liable to cause a loss of many dollars to the best patrons of the factory."

Sow Pure and well Selected Seed

T. G. Raynor, B.S.A., Seed Branch, Ottawa

The season for putting in cereal grains is becoming very late, hence the necessity for a word of caution about the seeds we sow, for the Good Book tells us that, "Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap." This is not only true in our own lives, but it is abundantly true in farm practice. Has not most of the weed life on our farms come from sowing dirty seed grain and more especially foul clover and grass seed? There is little or no excuse for sowing dirty oats, barley, wheat or peas; but there may be some excuse for sowing small seeds with more or less weed seeds in them, as many weed seeds are rather hard to detect especially in clover and alsike seeds. Nevertheless for our mistakes or ignorance we have to suffer in this regard as much as though it were a wilful act.

Now while we are waiting for the land to dry, would it not pay us to take another very careful look at the seeds we are going to sow? They should not only be well selected, but as pure as it is possible to get them. By putting seeds through a good fanning mill three or four times with plenty of wind and over good screens, most of the light and small seeds will be eliminated and we will have only the large plump seeds such as will produce strong vigorous plants. Such plants may be able to make up for lost time in their growth owing to the late season.

HAND PICKING

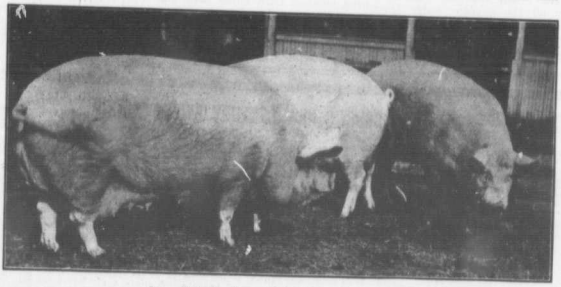
Where one is compelled to sow seed grain that contains some wild oats would it not pay him to spend time enough to hand pick over a few bushels, at least, from which he could keep his seed for another year if he could sow them on a piece of land uninfested with wild oats, or so handled that the wild oats would not mature in the crop? Wild tares, wild mustard, purple cockle and other foul seeds could be eliminated at the same time. If this hand picked seed were sown on a piece of clover sod or hoe crop ground that had been well cultivated during the past year and had not been plowed so deep as to bring up the sleeping weed seeds, then a man could reasonably expect to harvest pure seeds, and thus purify his grain crops. Where pure oats, or other grain crops were desired, the other varieties of grain could be eliminated at the same time.

If users of small seeds do not feel themselves competent to make a critical examination of the small seeds for weed seeds, they should send one ounce samples down to the Seed Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. Such work is done there free of charge and not even the price of a postage stamp is required to send the sample and get a purity report on the seeds to be sown.

BLADDER CAMPION

In the Peterboro district there is great danger of getting bladder campion seed in locally grown seeds, as much of that most pernicious weed is prevalent throughout the district. I have examined seeds offered by seedsmen and have found quite large quantities of this seed in it. While the Seed Control Act does not blacklist it among the 23 others, I would consider that a dealer who would knowingly sell me clover seed with that foul seed in it, could not do me a much greater injury. If I found it out, he wouldn't get a second chance. Where one farmer buys of another farmer in a district where such weeds grow he is in great danger of getting such weeds unless he is a good judge.

Among other weed seeds to look out for are catchfly or sticky cockle, ribgrass or buckhorn, ragweed, wild mustard, false flax, etc. If you do not already know what these weeds look like consult the Farm Weeds Bulletin in your School or Public Library at once. If the bulletin isn't there, see that one is provided forthwith by the Seed Branch, Ottawa.



Large Yorkshire Sows of the Approved Bacon Type

Experiment stations and practical farmers have demonstrated conclusively that the bacon hog can be produced as economically as hogs of the fat type. The ability of a particular hog to make economical gains is a matter of individuality rather than of breed. The sows illustrated took first prize at Toronto, 1908, and were owned by Mr. D. C. Flatt, of Wentworth Co., Ont.

How to Transplant a Tree or Shrub

W. T. Macoun, Horticulturist, C.E.F., Ottawa

When trees die after planting, it is usually due to carelessness in transplanting. Some kinds of trees transplant much easier than others, and some of those that are planted more commonly than others, such as the hard maple and American elm, are among the easiest to transplant, hence one is likely to become careless. Trees and shrubs should be dug as carefully as possible so as to retain a large proportion of the roots. The more roots there are the surer one is of getting the tree to live. The roots should not be allowed to become dry from the time of digging until the trees are in the ground again. They may be prevented from drying in transit by protecting them with wet moss or wet sacking. If the roots of evergreens, especially pines, become dry even for a short time the trees are almost sure to die.

A hole should be dug large enough so that the roots may be spread out and not crowded or doubled up, and deep enough so that the tree or shrub when planted will be from one to two inches deeper than it was in the woods or nursery. By planting a little deeper than it was before, provision will be made for a little heaving which often takes place in the winter, but too deep planting is almost as bad as planting too shallow. It is important to have the tree at least as deep as it was before and, as stated, best to have it a little deeper. The soil when thrown out of the hole should be put in two separate heaps, the surface or good soil in one and the subsoil in another. If the soil is all poor, to get the best results sufficient good soil should be brought to fill the hole. The tree is now placed in an upright position and the good soil is thrown or sifted in at first about the roots of the tree. As it is important for the soil to come in close contact with the roots it should be pressed against the tree with the foot, when thrown in. If there is not enough good soil available to fill the hole the poorer soil may be placed on top of the good. Manure should not be put in the hole with the soil as it may burn the roots and make the soil so loose that it will dry out easily. Better apply the manure to the surface of the ground in the autumn and dig in the shortest of it the following spring into the surface soil.

After planting, the tree or shrub should be headed in well, the amount of heading in depending upon the amount of roots. If a large proportion of the roots are cut off a large proportion of the top should be removed, otherwise the large leaf surface will transpire so much moisture that the tree will dry up before the roots begin to take in more. This is why shade trees are cut back so severely when planted, but it is not necessary to reduce the trees to mere poles as is too frequently done, causing a bad crotch in the tree later on where the stub dies back and where rot sets in.

Evergreens are not headed back like deciduous trees as it would disfigure them too much and they have usually a fair supply of roots.

Before leaving the tree the surface soil should be loosened again so as to leave a thin mulch of loose soil on top which will prevent the moisture evaporating from the soil so rapidly as it would do if it were left hard. The surface soil should be kept loose throughout the summer and the best growth will be obtained by keeping a circle of from two to three feet or more in diameter around the tree free of grass, where the soil will be kept loose and the rain and air find a ready entrance. If trees and shrubs are transplanted with care they should usually live. Early in the spring is the best time to transplant most kinds of trees and shrubs, evergreens included. Evergreens may be transplanted in summer, but greater precaution must be taken to do it successfully, and we do not recommend it. Both evergreens and deciduous trees may also be planted in the autumn successfully, but on the whole they do not do so well as if planted in the spring.—Extract from evidence given before committee on agriculture.