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Succeed."

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EDITORIAL.

It is easily within the mark—understating the case, in fact—to say that ten acres of good apple orchard, properly cared for, will yield more net profit per annum than fifty acres devoted to the production of grain for sale.

It has been a poor spring for good-roads agitation, so far, at least, as Western Ontario is concerned. Good-roads enthusiasm reaches fever-heat when the going is at its worst. "We never miss the water till the well runs dry."

That Manitoba farmers are earnestly talking live stock, particularly sheep, as a means of maintaining soil fertility and combating weeds, is the reassuring assertion of John Campbell, lately returned from the Brandon Winter Fair.

Nine dollars per hundredweight for a twelve-months-old baby-beef steer, bought in Toronto for the Easter trade! Suppose he weighed 800 pounds, which he might easily have done, if he did not (and without much whole milk, either). That would bring his value to \$72, or more than many a two-year-old has been sold for.

An object-lesson in the principles of road maintenance is furnished by those districts where a dry autumn, followed by a heavy snowfall, and succeeded in turn by a dry spring, combined to defeat the usual havoc of the Frost King. Once more it calls to mind D. Ward King's epigram that most roads "will be all right in the spring if we don't put a lot of mud into cold-storage in the fall."

Will increasing cost of living compel us to return to the simple life? Or will common sense, supplemented by the knowledge that nutrients, in the form of cereal, milk and vegetable products, can be purchased for about one-fifth to a tenth what they would cost in the form of animal foods, lead people back to it from choice? The fact that less meat would mean, in many cases, better health, may help. This is not to say that we shall dispense wholly with meat, but the most expert testimony is that most of us eat more than is good for us. Less meat, of better quality, would be a boon.

Most of us have hindsight, but the best prizes go usually to those with foresight. Foresight assures us that, of all the farm crops produced on our land, good timber is going to be one of the most remunerative in ultimate net profits per acre, particularly for rough land, as well as being one of the most pleasant and easy to raise. The average wood-lot asks only to be left alone. Fence it off, keep stock out, and in ten years' time, or less, what was a thin and scattering sod-bound lot will be thick with lusty young saplings. These may need thinning and culling, but that can be done with comparative ease. This thick young growth will soon smother out grass (that arch enemy of the farm wood-lot), thus improving conditions for the larger trees. Careful observation of cross-sections of trees has shown that the annual layer of growth increased perceptibly after the grass had been thus expelled by upspringing young saplings, which also serve to hold the forest leaves for a natural cover and mulch. Bush pasture is poor and scanty, at the best. Keep stock out of it for some years, at least, that the trees may get a chance to reproduce.

Canadian Clover-seed Trade.

During the month of February the wholesale clover-seed trade was dead. Those who follow our market reports will have noticed that our Toronto market correspondent for a few weeks would not give any quotations for clover seed. Wholesalers, he said, had bought as much as they expected to need, and did not care to invest in more, except at a price they could afford to pay for seed for export, or to be held over. So trade was dull, and prices nominal.

It is not likely, however, that retail buyers of seed will be able to notice anything specially favorable to them in the prices they have to pay this season, but probably there will be more clover seed held over than usual.

Canada exports clover seed every year. This may seem absurd to many who remember the shortage in such seed, and its high price for the past few years. But, though the amounts exported are greater in some years than others, yet even in the scarcest years they are very considerable. The returns for the past five years show an average yearly export of over 140,000 bushels, valued approximately at \$1,000,000. The United States has taken nearly half of this yearly export of red clover and alsike seed, but investigation shows that little of it is used in that country. The most of it finds its way ultimately to European countries. Great Britain is the next heaviest buyer of our seeds, and the price that is paid shows that the British farmer takes our best quality of clover seeds. The values per bushel of clover seed exported in 1908 were as follows: Great Britain, \$9.71; United States, \$7.26; other countries, \$8.25.

This export trade virtually controls the Canadian prices for clover seed until about the tenth or 15th of February in each year. After that date, Canadian and American seed merchants have to reckon with the demand for our home trade only. The lull in the trade which occurred last February is not singular to this year, but is a sort of between-seasons slackness which usually prevails at the same period in most years. Prices strengthen or weaken afterwards, in accordance with the supply and demand.

Speed Versus Horse.

In the powerful effort made by the turf interests to defeat the Miller Bill, aimed against race-track gambling, the argument has been freely used that racing blood is the necessary concomitant of horse-improvement. That contention is dealt with by T. B. Macaulay, whose evidence the Parliamentary Committee have before them, as outlined in our Horse Department of this issue. He does not take the extreme position that an infusion of the blood of desirable members of the Thoroughbred family is devoid of advantage. The prepotency of the great running horse, or ability to transmit his own individual characteristics, good or bad, to his offspring, is conceded. Once it was a sort of historical pastime to trace to Imported Messenger the spirit and stamina of the Standardbred trotter, the race-track machine of America; and long ago, out of a combination of Thoroughbred and Norfolk Trotter, grew the Hackney, whose get from ordinary mares in Canada is not lacking either in style, spirit, or salableness. But, as Mr. Macaulay puts it, the Hackney is well able to stand on his own feet. It can hardly be claimed that the race-horse is the sole repository of stamina and endurance, for the draft breeds also possess these traits, and they did not acquire them from the Thoroughbred. In many great breeding studs of the latter, extreme speed has been the desideratum, not beauty or utility. Undesirable traits are condoned if the horse can win

on the track "by a neck." United States horse-men evolved the greyhound type of trotting horse. Consequently, as Mr. Macaulay states, out of the necessity and desire for A HORSE, rather than speed, has come the Hunter Improvement Society of Great Britain, and the efforts of Government and private enterprise in the United States to revive the Morgan type of horse, or a decent driver or carriage horse, by combining Hackney with Standard blood, or otherwise. As speed increased, and more horses "got in the list," beauty and utility disappeared. It is not suggested by anybody that farmers should take to rearing race-horses. In Canada, the big stables that produce the turf horses of note, like King's-Plate winners, can be counted, probably, on half a dozen fingers, and they will look after that business. It is unfortunate that the saddle has no general vogue in America, like the carriage, single or double; so, next to the draft horse, which by all odds is the safest and most profitable for farmers to raise, the handsome driving horse is the one in most popular demand. When up to weight, the Thoroughbred cross makes an ideal army horse, but Boer Wars are not a certain contingency to breed for. When buyers are falling over each other to secure drafters, and, to a considerable extent, tractable, showy drivers, at almost any price that farmers feel like putting on them, it is surely the part of wisdom to stick to types, the rearing of which from suitable sires is well understood. If in any district a Thoroughbred of good temper, substance and conformation is available, that has proven himself a carriage-horse-getter, by all means use him. The curse of many districts has been the multiplicity of breeds and types. "Why take the chances of a 'dash of hot blood' out of a racing horse to further multiply them?" farmers naturally ask themselves, when the classes of farm-bred horses referred to cannot be produced fast enough to meet the demand. Interference with horse-breeding is not the real logic of the opposition to the Miller Bill.

U. S. - Canadian Trade Relations.

The horns of the tariff dilemma, resulting from the inelastic provision of the U. S. Payne-Aldrich tariff law, which required that, after March 31st, a maximum schedule exceeding the minimum by 25 per cent. ad valorem would be levied on the products of all foreign nations which President Taft could not absolve from the charge of being unduly discriminatory against Uncle Sam's exports, have been avoided by a few unimportant concessions on Canada's part. Actuated though he undoubtedly was by a spirit of friendliness toward Canada, supplemented by political exigencies, the President was at a loss how to interpret the law so as to declare that Canada's French treaty did not constitute undue discrimination. Of course, the onus of the situation rested upon the framers of the Payne-Aldrich law, but, as this could not be changed in time to avert a tariff war, Canada has played the part of magnanimity, and granted Uncle Sam reduced rates on about forty articles, representing an annual trade of some five million dollars. Inasmuch as no Canadian interest will suffer seriously, while consumers will get the benefit of reduced prices, Canada cannot be said to have sacrificed anything but a nominal point in principle, and if this should lead to a fair and well-guarded reciprocal trade agreement on the broader and more liberal lines which should obtain between countries so closely related geographically and racially, as indicated by the President in his recent utterances, and by the exchange of notes between Secretary Knox and Hon. W. S. Fielding, the tariff difficulty will have served a good purpose.