

FARM.

Simplification of Government.

"Farmer's Advocate":
A stick horizontally in a door-
which a flock of sheep are passing
the first sheep has jumped over the
it, all the rest of the sheep will
place where the stick was. Carlyle
peculiarity and remarks that man-
manner. Very few individuals make
observations or do any original
continue to jump over the place
was, not observing that it is no

me that this is particularly true
our social institutions. Somebody
Ontario's public school system was
World, and thereafter, for many
ment continued to be believed in
one day someone was bold enough
statement in question, and straight-
from our delusion and discovered
had meanwhile changed, and that
systems had been brought into har-
ged conditions while ours had not.
ears ago I heard a man explaining
his devotion to the "Liberal"
exciting what great things the
one in getting "responsible govern-
several generations ago. That it
r "The Party" and social condi-
to change very materially in the
seem to occur to this "Liberal."
to jump over the place where there
ears ago, and only his grey hairs

are very fond of lauding "The
of responsible government by
ing that the very genius of the
tion is that it is unwritten, and
nging to suit changed conditions.
ly discredited Manitoba politicians
y emphatic in his declarations of
e "British System"; and I have
y heard politicians gain cheap
gratulating their hearers that we
British Institutions"; both speaker
ing apparently ignorant of what
ions really are. It is not the
ence to be so disdainful of other
re are unwilling to study them
adopt any good features which
ss.

things in mind I make bold to
gestions which, if adopted, would
greatly towards the simplification
ental machinery and the increase

there has been a good deal of
in what is known as the "com-
of Municipal government. The
large body of "representatives"
short term, and with no special
for their public work, to a smaller,
better paid and better qualified
in which the responsibilities are
upon certain individuals has been
much greater efficiency in govern-
only one serious objection to it
ratic standpoint, and that is the
be proper hesitation which electors
ing large powers to a few
many this difficulty has been
they have, therefore, been con-
the evils which they have, rather
risk of others that they know
the difficulty vanishes with the
Initiative, the Referendum and
Initiative provides for the direct
lation by the people, thus over-
er of sins of omission on the
representatives. The Referendum
lete and continuous check upon
overcoming the danger of sins
And the Recall enables the
ve any incompetent or dishonest
mbination of direct control by
a small body of well-qualified,
employed and well-paid experts,
me time efficiency and continuity
nd continuous popular control.

a may be extended to our pro-
al governments. Let the number
greatly reduced. Let them be
proportional plan in multiple
Let them be required to give
to the work of government, and
paid. And finally let them be
uous popular control through the
endum and Recall. If a man
a beautiful house he would not
e and heterogeneous crowd of
unlimited power to thwart their
luring a definite specified period.
employ a small and select body
provision that they should com-
n, evolve and discuss plans, and
effect only after their employer's
explicit or implicit. So in build-

ing the palace of state, the problem is to get a
select body of well-qualified men, truly represent-
ing the different views and opinions prevailing
among the electors, to place definite responsibil-
ities upon them, and to hold them constantly
under the supervision of the people themselves.
This problem can be solved in the way suggested.
Just so soon as the electors wish it, and we can
save ourselves the trouble of jumping over sticks
that are not there, and stumbling over sticks
only recently placed in our path.

In Ontario and some of the other provinces
we have a single-chambered system, whereas in
our Federal Government we have the two-chamber
system. The second chamber has been devised to
act as a sort of brake upon the first chamber,
as a committee to revise the proposals of the
latter. In these respects second chambers may
perform a useful function. They are wholly un-
necessary, however, if the people themselves claim
and use their just right of supervision and veto.
The Senate could be abolished much more easily
if we had a substitute for it, such as the popular
Referendum and if we had such confidence in the
House of Commons as a rational method of
electing representatives would give us. Under
present conditions, however, we are paying hand-
somerly for inefficiency, and apparently few see how
such a deplorable state of affairs can be remedied.
It cannot be remedied if the electors do not
awake, and cease to act as sheep. "What was
good enough for my father is good enough for
me" is, always untrue, because it implies an im-
possible condition of no change in the World
about us. We do not live in the same World
that existed 50 years ago, and the methods
suitable then are useless now.

Our governments can be simplified and purified
by the election of a smaller number of legislators,
on the proportional plan and by the subjection of
these to continuous popular control. It will be
done just as soon as the people really want it
and not sooner. Meanwhile we must suffer the
consequences of our own ignorance, folly and
apathy.

Brant Co., Ont.

W. C. GOOD.

Save for Seed.

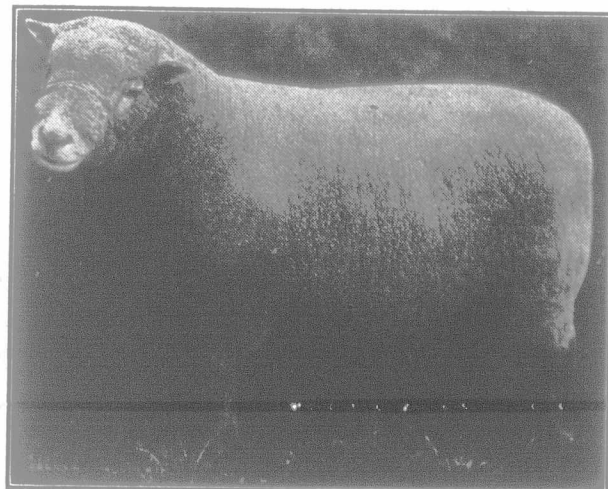
From looking over the large acreage of
damaged crop in Ontario we are more than ever
convinced that greater care than has heretofore
been given must be exercised in the
saving and treatment of seed grain for
the crop of another year. The wet
weather sprouted much of the wheat and some of
the barley and pounded the oat crop into the
ground so badly that it was with difficulty that
it was harvested at all. Much of the grain has
been drawn to the barn none too dry; some of it
will undoubtedly be threshed wet and may heat in
the bins unless particular care is taken to spread
it out and preserve it. Those farmers who have
saved a part of their crop in good condition
should take special care to keep the threshed
grain from that crop separate from that which
was badly injured by rain and storm. If more
grain is saved in good condition than is needed
for seed on the home farm take care of it any-
way for neighbors, as well as those living in other
parts will surely require a great deal of it. On some
farms nearly all the crop has been damaged and
these men will have to look elsewhere for seed
another spring. It will be folly to sow poor seed
when good seed will be available. It will pay in
every case for the farmer, at threshing time, to
take special care of any grain free from weeds,
dry, and well saved which will make good seed
grain for 1916.

Old-Time Practices.

When we see the hand-scythe or cradle at work
to harvest the beaten-down crops this season, we
can then realize in part the hardships of our
fathers in their pioneer days. To them, with
binders unknown, it was not so hard for they
were reared among such scenes, and they gloried
in being able to do such work and do it well.
On Ontario farms particularly the axe is dull, the
scythe is poorly hung, and the cradle, if ever
there was one, has been hanging many years in
the loft. Machinery has done away with the
old-time scythe whetting, and the characteristic
swing that carries the cradle through the grain
does not come so naturally to the boy of to-day.
However, exigencies have arisen that require the
farmer to do with implements by hand what he
cannot do with teams, and these circumstances,
though perhaps few in number, recall
word pictures of the past and scenes
that many of us still remember. The
art of binding grain after the cradle or
reaper is still known to many, but the younger
generation yet prefer to carry a ball of binder
twine or oncesused strings and tie up the
sheaves.

In newer portions of the Province it is cus-
tomary to mow with the hand-scythe and use the
cradle, for oft-times stumps still hold possession
of the land in part and present such an obstacle
to modern implements and teams as to consti-
tute a "no thoroughfare" condition. Especially

in New Ontario is this true, but in that part of
the Province it is also worthy of note that
modern implements are in such use as to astonish
parties who know little of the country except of
its agricultural youth. There are farms in
Timiskaming District which fifteen years ago were
in solid bush, and now are cleared and stocked
with a more complete line of farm machinery
than is to be found on holdings that are to-day
in the hands of the fourth generation upon the
same lands. These latter farmers have, perhaps,
been too conservative, while those in the new dis-
tricts often go to the other extreme. A manure
spreader on a farm where little stock is kept ap-
pears too much like a luxury, but if the returns
in crops and produce warrant the expenditure the
farmers cannot be criticized.



A Southdown Ram of the Right Kind.

The art and skill of our fathers should not
be allowed to disappear entirely. There are often
odd jobs about a farm that cannot be properly
attended to except with the strength of the arm
and turn of the wrist, and in the eminent execu-
tion of these the husbandman is distinguished as
knowing his business.

Kill the Smut Spores on Seed Wheat.

Just the other day we received another enquiry
as to the method or methods of treating grain
for smut, the enquirer desiring to treat his fall
wheat before sowing. The prevalence of smut in
the crops this year, particularly oats, should be
sufficient evidence that it pays to treat all grain
before sowing for smut and do it thoroughly.
Many oat fields have from 15 to 25 per cent.
smutted heads. Of course, the seed sown on these
fields was not treated, whereas fields grown from
seed carefully treated with formalin are practi-
cally free from the disease. Our oats at Weld-
wood are comparatively clean with the exception
of one strip of seed for which was not treated
and on this considerable smut is noticed. We
have had several complaints too of the prevalence
of stinking smut or bunt of wheat. This smut
is very easily controlled by the use of formalin
and for the benefit of our readers we are repeat-
ing again the method of treating.

There are really several methods of treating
grain for smut. In the past many farmers have
used bluestone with very good results but inves-
tigation has proven that it is more likely to in-
jure the germinating quality of the seed than is
formalin solution properly prepared and applied.
But for those who still pin their faith to blue-
stone the best treatment is to immerse the seed
in a solution of 1 lb. of bluestone to 25 gallons

of water for a period of 12 hours. The seed
should then be taken out of the barrel or vat
and spread thinly on the barn or granary floor
to dry. It should be sown as soon as dry. If
it is desired to sprinkle the seed instead of im-
mersing, the solution should be made of 1 lb. of
bluestone to 10 gallons of water and care should
be taken to thoroughly moisten all the seed by
turning over and over with a scoop shovel. We
may say, however, that we do not favor blue-
stone and would look for more uniform results
from the use of formalin.

As with the bluestone there are two formalin
treatments, namely immersing and sprinkling.
There is nothing difficult about either treatment
but thoroughness in the work is absolutely
essential. For immersing the seed a solution
should be made by adding 1 pint or 1 lb. of
formalin to 40 or 42 gallons of water and the
grain should be left in this for 20 minutes. As
a general thing the soaking is done in sacks, the
filled sack being immersed in the solution. After
treatment grain should be spread out to dry and
sown as soon as dry enough to run through the
drill readily. Some immerse the seed loose in
the barrel or vat and when this is done many of
the smut balls come to the top and may be
skimmed off. The seed is left in 20 minutes as in
the former case. A few favor leaving the seed in
the solution only 15 minutes and piling it for
two hours after bringing out and before it is
spread to dry. The main point is to be sure and
get some of the solution in contact with every
spore on the grain.

It is not necessary to immerse the seed. At
Weldwood we practice sprinkling it thoroughly.
We use formalin of the strength of 1 pint to 40
gallons and take special precautions to so
thoroughly moisten the seed that every kernel and
every part thereof is dampened with the solution.
To accomplish this it is necessary to turn and
re-turn the seed while the sprinkling is being done.
It is a wise precaution not to attempt to do too
big a pile at a time. After making sure that
every seed in the pile is thoroughly moist it
should be shovelled into a neat heap and closely
covered with canvas or old sacking for two hours,
after which it should be spread out on the barn
or granary floor to air and dry. As soon as dry,
sow.

We have found this a very successful method
and do not hesitate to pass it on to our readers.
However, some consider that where seed is taken
from badly smutted fields it should be immersed
rather than sprinkled.

The purchaser should be sure that the formalin
to be used is the proper strength. We have heard
of fields of grain being ruined by being treated
with too strong a solution. We have also heard
of cases where the formalin was too weak to do
the good it was intended to do and smut appeared
quite prevalent in fields the seed for which had
been so treated. Formalin is a 40 per cent.
solution of the aldehyde in water. A simple test
which any farmer can carry out is to get an
ounce of good formalin solution from a druggist
and known to be exactly the right strength and
expose a sample of this to the air in a shallow
vessel alongside a sample of the solution with
which the grain is to be treated. The solution of
the proper strength will solidify in a day or so;
if too weak it will not. Be careful on this
point as it is very important.

Another thing which should be looked after
carefully in treating seed grain for smut, is that
the bags, half bushel or bushel baskets and the
seed box on the drill are carefully disinfected be-
fore the treated seed is placed therein. There is
no use of treating grain and drying it after
treatment and then pouring it into bags covered
with smut spores or to grain boxes blackened
with these disease distributors.



Canadian Ayrshires at Pasture.