

The Farming World

And Canadian Farm and Home

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Welcome Spring

FARMERS generally will welcome the arrival of spring, though it means hard work and a busy season. The winter just closing has been a most trying one, the worst, perhaps, in the experience of anyone now living in this province. The depth of snow has been great. This in itself could have been endured very well had it remained evenly distributed. But along with the snow came the wind, piling it into drifts mountains high, impeding railway traffic and making the cross-roads and concessions in many a locality almost impassable.

People living in cities where snow is cleaned off the sidewalks shortly after its arrival, can hardly appreciate what the farmer in the back township has had to endure during the past few months. In many cases he has been completely isolated for days from his fellows, and has found it difficult to care for his family and his stock with any degree of comfort. Instances are reported where it was practically impossible to get fire wood from the bush and consequently fences and even orchards had to be sacrificed to maintain warmth in the home. Business has been at a standstill and the marketing of last year's crops has had to remain in abeyance. All this will mean additional work now, or as soon as the roads become passable, which in many districts will not be for a week or two yet. There is the consolation, however, that this enforced confinement to his home has not afforded opportunities for spending that otherwise would have occurred. But this will hardly compensate for the hardships and difficulties that many an isolated farmer in the northern counties has had to endure.

Spring will, therefore, be doubly welcome. It will be an agreeable change from a most trying winter, and will give the farmer a chance to put his latent energy to work in doing things. To the successful farmer work is a pleasure when it can be put to good account in changing the cold, bleak country side into fields green with growing crops and bright with prospects for an abundant harvest.

Look after the Seed

Three things are necessary to secure good crops—good fertile soil, good cultivation and good clean seed. It should be every farmer's aim to bring these together in the spring time. A good fertile soil cannot be secured at once. It takes time to get it, but by adopting right methods it can be had. Good cultivation can be had any time, and there is really no excuse for the farmer who sows good seed on land not properly cultivated. Even if there is a delay

in getting the seed in it is better to have this delay than sow on badly prepared land.

When the soil is well cultivated sow only good clean seed. One of the great defects in the seeds of this country is the large number of injurious weed seeds mixed with them. These foreign seeds are usually so small in size as to pass unnoticed, and consequently many a farmer, who thinks he is sowing pure seeds, is deceived, and is seeding his farm with all kinds of injurious weeds. One cannot be too careful about this, and it will pay to go 50 cents per cwt. higher in price in order to get guaranteed pure seed.

Not only should seed be pure, but it should be plump and large. It should

Dairy Number

* On May 2nd our annual dairy *
* number will appear. In keeping *
* with previous issues of this kind *
* this number will be full of good *
* practical matter for dairymen. It *
* will be well illustrated and have *
* several new and important features. *
* Those who have not yet replied *
* to our dairy census questions *
* should do so at once. Your an- *
* swers will be in time if mailed *
* immediately. See questions on *
* page 245 of last issue. *
* Advertisers will find this special *
* number of particular value in *
* reaching a good class of cus- *
* tomers. Applications for space *
* should be sent in early. *
* *****

also be bright in color and dry. It is not always a good plan to try new varieties that are little known, or that have not been thoroughly tested in one's own district. It is usually a much safer plan to use the best seed of the recognized standard varieties, and thus by selection secure a better quality of these varieties.

Generally speaking it is not good practice to sow too many varieties. They are hard to keep separate at harvest time and it is more difficult to keep the seed pure. Select the best quality of seed of some variety that has done well in the neighborhood and in nine cases out of ten better results will be obtained than in taking up any new variety reported by seedsmen and others to yield enormously, and which has not been well tested in the district.

Education in Forestry

A large deputation of the graduates and friends of Toronto University from all parts of the province waited upon the Ontario Government last week to ask for financial aid for a new physical laboratory, and incidentally for the establishment of a forestry teaching de-

partment at the University. Premier Ross in his reply did not give the deputation any encouragement that either of its requests would be granted at the present time. In regard to forestry he stated that the time had not come for the establishment of a forestry department at the University. More effective work could be done by taking up the work in connection with the Agricultural College and in preparing speakers to deliver addresses on forestry at farmers' institute meetings. To get the quickest returns, graduates of the University and of the Agricultural College might be sent to Europe or to the United States at the expense of the Province, to learn forestry. These, on their return, could educate the farmer how to care for his trees and grow new ones, and likewise render assistance to the Crown Lands Department in replenishing and preserving the timber lands of the North.

From a practical standpoint, and one that will bring the quickest and best results, the Premier's view is the better one. A forestry department at the provincial university would be of little practical value, especially to the farming community. Something more than theory is necessary in order to interest the farmer in the work of replenishing and preserving his wood lot. The subject must be brought right home to him and he must be shown the need of giving attention to this subject. If any teaching of forestry is necessary, the Agricultural College is the place where it should be given and not at the University. At the former, experimental work in tree growing as well as teaching can be carried on and the student can receive a more valuable training than he would by sitting at the feet of some learned professor while he discourses on the history and economics of tree growing. If the forestry question is to be taken hold of in this country, and we believe it should be, it must be brought right down to the farmer in a practical way, and the way to do it is through the Agricultural College, which is, in more ways than one, the farmers' university.

From the farmer's standpoint the need of education and training in forestry is great. It will help him to preserve his wood lot and at the same time aid him in replacing the timber so wantonly destroyed during the past twenty-five years. By a judicious system of re-foresting he will not only increase his timber wealth but help to conserve and increase the moisture content in his land, and at the same time improve the climatic conditions of the country. Let every effort, therefore, be made to provide the farmer with practical instruction on this important subject.