

In storing seed corn I still stick to the good old fashioned way. That is, after gathering the seed, we tie, or braid it up in bunches of twelve to sixteen ears each and hang them in the sun for a few days to brighten up. Then I store it in the garret above the kitchen. This I consider an ideal place for storing seed corn. Slatas are nailed to the rafters and the braid is suspended from the slatas. In this way many bushels may be stored in a small space, and the seed is kept perfectly dry, and moderately warm, besides being away from the rats and mice.

#### GUARD AGAINST DAMPNESS

In the absence of a suitable garret, I would recommend hanging it in the barn in like manner. Precautions must be taken against dampness. Another method frequently used and highly recommended by those who grow seed corn commercially, is to husk the ears and store in ordinary bushel potato crates. These may be stacked one above the other in winter; then they are ready for immediate shipment. But the one drawback to this method is the crates are expensive.

In those sections where corn does not come to the proper stage of maturity for seeding purposes, I would strongly recommend growers to buy in the fall or early winter. Buy it on the cob. By doing this they can store in a suitable place and save the risk of it being spoiled by exposure. By buying on the cob one is more sure of getting varieties true to name, and he sees what he is buying. I would also advise buying direct from the grower. One can then generally get a superior article, and save money by cutting out the middle-man's profit.

#### The Weed Problem

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

Among the many problems which farmers have to face, there is none which gives him more concern than weeds. Not only is the man who has to put up a big fight with them to secure paying crops, concerned, but also the man who has comparatively clean land. It is to be regretted that there are very few weed free farms in the country. Not long since, in driving through the county of Waterloo, where German farmers abound and where they are putting up a big fight against weeds, I learned of a farmer whose mind became unbalanced over the struggle he was having to keep his farm clean. He suicided. It would be sad, indeed, if farmers, like the one referred to, would give up the battle and allow it to work on their minds in that manner, when victory is theirs if they will only persevere in the right way. Yet I cannot help thinking it would be well if there were a large class of farmers who would take the question more seriously than they do. It is the careless farmer who stands in the way of progress along these lines.

In this struggle against weeds there is much hope. As a better knowledge of weed life is obtained as to the plants and their nature of growth much more will be accomplished.

What is a weed? Some one says it is a plant out of place, i.e., where three plants are growing and there is room and plant food for only two, one of them is a weed. Rye in fall wheat, or timothy in alsike clover may be looked upon as weeds. However, it is the useless, or comparatively useless plants which are very hardy and which interfere with the growth of our crops, costing us time and labor, that we usually brand as weeds. Weeds are costing the farmers of this country thousands and thousands of dollars every year in increased cost of cultivation, as well as interference with the growing crops. In case of quack, couch or twitch grass for instance, and few are more persistent, it may be alleged that the extent of loss sustained from it can hardly be estimated. It has few equals, and perhaps none worse in many respects.

Is there any ray of hope for deliverance from these enemies of ours? Yes, I believe there is

abundant hope. What is needed is more definite knowledge of our weeds, and a persistent application of the best methods for their destruction. With good implements and horse force the most persistent weeds must give way. In the persistent and successful fight against weeds we are co-operating with nature in unlocking her abundant store house of plant food for the use of crops which will increase our yields of grain of good quality. Therefore, let no farmer be discouraged and let him remember that now is the time to fight for next year's crop.

#### Care of the Potato Crop

S. A. Northcott, Ontario Co., Ont.

The potato industry is an important money-making business when looked after properly. It has been neglected to a great extent in Ontario. The past few years the province has not produced sufficient potatoes to supply its own consumption. Car after car of potatoes come into our towns from the east to supply the demand. Many farmers scarcely grow enough for their own use. It is those who grow only a few rows, or less than an acre, that complain most about the potato business not being profitable. It is not to be wondered at when you consider the slipshod way they go at it. Help may be scarce and high priced. Bugs are sure to be present and blight and rot may come. By using up-to-date machinery, one man can look after a 10 acre field with little more labor than would be spent on one acre under the old fashioned method.

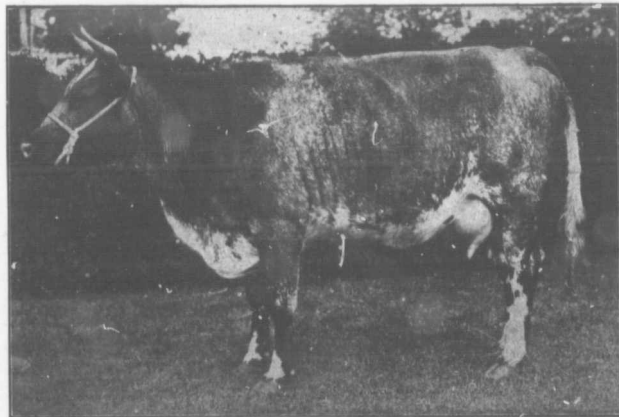
Unless the potato crop is properly attended to the results are not likely to be encouraging. Use the two horse cultivator, and ride, and do two rows at once. You will do it better than with the one horse affair which you have to walk be-

looked after in any case. Help can generally be found for haying and harvesting. Why not find a day to cultivate or spray the potatoes? It will pay ten times over. If the work is not done the potato patch will be practically left to take care of itself. In that case, the results will be satisfactory. The late blight, which is the most destructive, affects the tubers as well as the foliage. Spraying for it should commence about the middle of July. Keep a coating of Bordeaux on the vines till September. One thorough spraying when the blight makes its first appearance will often check the disastrous results which will otherwise follow. The vines can be sprayed four times at a cost of about \$3.50 to \$4.00 an acre. This includes labor, blue stone and lime.

When the crop is ready to harvest a good digger or potato plow will soon pay for itself. The "Hoover digger" or the Erie Iron Works Potato Plow may be used. Both are quite popular. With either of them a large crop may be dug at a small expense and in the minimum space of time. I again urge; "take time to look after your potato field."

#### Should we Raise our Calves?

Should we buy our cows or raise our own dairy calves? In our territory it will usually cost about \$60 to buy a good dairy cow. Sometimes I can go out and buy cows for \$35 and \$40. Cows that look to be all right, mature cows, in their prime, and by such dairy cow signs as I am conversant with they should be real good cows. Sometimes some of them are. Invariably however, many of them are not. What are they? Whence do they come? Why are they out in the commercial world hunting buyers? The very fact that they are kept moving on puts them under sus-



A Milking Shorthorn at Macdonald College, Que.

Rosaline 5th (imp.)—\$4500.—(Vol. 51, p. 892). Calved July 18, 1904; bred by Arch. Hutton, Cumberland, Eng. See article, "The English Dairy Shorthorn," on Page 10, of this issue.

hind and hold all day and which tires you before night.

It is an easy matter to deal with bugs and blight where a spray pump with attachments for spraying 4 rows at once is employed. The whole outfit can be purchased for \$25. It will pay for itself in one year, even if you only have one acre of potatoes. With it one man can spray a ten acre field in a day and do it easily. The same time would be spent on one acre in the old hand way and then the work would not be done as well. When the work is done by hand with a can of some description there is seldom any attempt made to combat blight. This disease should be

picion. Frequently they are 'rejects' some one has been weeding them out. Some breeder who has found that all the cows he raises are not good cows has set the disappointments afloat. They are direct, and many of them are 'not worth their salvage. Many of them, very many of them,—in fact perhaps all of them,—are embodied records of their breeder's mistakes. If these cows had been bred right and fed right, they would not now be driven from the pillar of one dairy to the post of the next one. They would have fixed places of fixed honor and profit, and from which no buyer's \$50, \$60 or \$75 would take them.—W. F. 8.