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EDITORIAL.

The Turnip Crop.

To thoughtful stock-raisers, the tendency in many parts of Canada to abandon the growing of turnips and other root crops, or at least to reduce the area devoted to those crops, is a regrettable circumstance. With many stock-farmers, and especially dairymen, in late years corn ensilage has largely been adopted as a substitute for roots; but while it provides an abundant and cheap succulent food, it certainly does not, and never will, take the place of roots as a wholesome and growth-producing portion of the winter rations for properly developing young stock or producing the largest possible flow of milk. Ensilage from well-matured corn makes a cheap and valuable food for stock, and from experience and observation we feel safe in recommending those who have not adopted it to do so, and the sooner the better; but we are confident that to the growing and feeding of roots more than to any other factor in the treatment of our stock, Great Britain and Canada owe their pre-eminence in the production of high-class cattle and sheep, and we are fully persuaded that to abandon their use would be to retrograde in the production of healthy, vigorous and prepotent breeding stock carrying the best quality of flesh. If, then, it be desirable that Canada continue to hold her place of precedence on this continent as a stock-breeding country, it is important that our breeders stand by the root crop.

We are aware it is not so easy to secure a good crop of turnips on the average farm, and especially on clay lands, in old Canada as it was in the former days when the land was newer and full of vegetable matter, but the fact that some men yet make a success of the crop in almost every district proves that it is possible for others, if not for all farmers, to do likewise, and that it is more a matter of management than of conditions of climate or soil or location. The writer, from an experience of over 30 years on a clay farm, can recall only three years in that time in which a fair crop was not secured, and in several seasons as high as 1,000 to 1,200 bushels of turnips per acre were harvested, though 600 to 800 bushels is considered a fair crop. While the maximum yield depends upon a rich and well-fertilized soil, a good average crop may be counted on from a fairly fertile field, the crop depending largely upon frequent and judicious tillage. Much depends upon a good start for the plants, and in order to secure this the seed-bed must be made exceedingly fine by repeated use of cultivator, roller and harrows. Early sowing, as a rule, is not to be recommended, as even if a good start is made, the early-sown crop is more liable to suffer from plant lice in a dry time, and quickly-grown roots are generally of better quality; while early-sown turnips are also more likely to be taken by the fly, which seldom proves troublesome after the 20th of June. About the middle of June is the favorite time for sowing with the majority of turnip-growers in Ontario.

A correspondent in an article on this subject in another column of this issue recommends flat culture to ensure a catch and success in growing the crop. While that is the general practice in England, where turnip-growing is most generally successful, and while in our own experience some of our best crops were obtained by that method, we are inclined to the opinion that, as a rule, the extra labor in cleaning and thinning the crop will more than offset the advantages. We are of opinion that a compromise method might advantageously be adopted by raising the ridges less than is done in common practice, so as to give the advantage of a slight depression between the rows, into which the plants cut out in thinning and any weeds which may be present may be drawn. There is this, however, to be said in favor of flat culture, that where the land has been manured and plowed the previous autumn, spring plowing is not really necessary, but

by frequent surface cultivation the land may be kept clean and the moisture in the soil retained, so that rapid germination and growth would be most certain if the season prove dry. Much depends upon sowing while there is moisture in the soil, and upon early cultivation when the plants are young, with a wheel hoe or similar implement, to break the crust to admit the air and to destroy weeds while in their incipient stage, as well as to conserve moisture in the soil and hasten the growth of the crop from the first so that it may never get checked. The subsequent tillage necessary to success is two or three hand hoeings and frequent use of the horse hoe, especially soon after each rain, and weekly, if possible, even in the driest weather.

The Dairymen's Outlook.

The Canadian farmers who make a specialty of dairying have had an exceptionally good season during the last six months, and especially so in those districts in which the supply of home-grown stock food was abundant. In those sections which suffered from drought last summer, necessitating early drafts upon the supply of winter fodder and the use of purchased foods to a considerable extent, dairymen failed to reap as great a benefit from the steady run of good prices for butter and cheese, but on the whole the situation has been favorable, and the prospects for continued strong prices are certainly encouraging. Cheese continues to rule high as the result of a short supply with a strong demand, and the outlook for that product has not for years been more roseate. The market for good butter has maintained a steady run at fairly good prices, and though for a few weeks during the flush of the pastures it may be expected that values will decline to some extent, yet the experience of buttermakers in the last few years has shown that as a rule the flush is for but a short period, and that the cheese factories and the city trade absorb so large a proportion of the milk supply that good butter seldom goes begging for buyers at a fair price even in the summer months. The unusual buoyancy of the cheese market the present season will naturally react in favor of the buttermakers, and a survey of the whole field would appear to justify dairymen in putting on full sail in anticipation of a good time coming.

The breeders of cattle of the dairy breeds are finding an active demand for good stock, and report numerous sales at satisfactory prices, while the increased attention being given to the character and quality of the cows kept, as well as to the best methods of feeding with a view to economy of cost and development of capacity for producing milk and butter at a profit, is, we believe, steadily raising the standard of the dairy cows of the country. It is true there is yet much room for improvement in this regard, both by weeding out unprofitable cows and by better feeding, as well as by breeding from selected sires of approved type, descended from proved stock of superior capacity. There is no more intelligent or progressive class of stockmen in the country than the breeders of dairy cattle of the various breeds, and none who are doing a safer or more profitable business. They have, as a rule, set their ideals high, and are working with a steady purpose towards improvement, in which they are making steady progress. Breeders are coming to a more general agreement as to the ideal type of dairy conformation in that class of cattle, a type in which utility and beauty may be happily combined with a strong constitution, which goes far towards ensuring capacity for profitable production. We confidently anticipate a distinct revival in the demand for good bulls of all the dairy breeds the present season, and an advance in values of the better class of both males and females. The present number of the *ADVOCATE* presents an unusually interesting bill of fare for dairy farmers

in the many excellent articles on various phases of the industry, in the stock and dairy departments, to which attention is invited.

Grow More Corn.

The partial failure of the clover crop in many parts of Ontario, owing to the severe drought after harvest last year, and in some districts from the frost this spring, will leave many farmers short of that valuable winter fodder for stock, and they will need to consider what is the best substitute that can be provided. We are firmly of the opinion that corn offers the readiest and most economical solution of the problem. It is one of the surest crops that can be sown, and produces the greatest bulk and weight of palatable and nutritious food for cattle especially, while it is also suitable to some extent for other stock as well, and requires no particular skill in its cultivation or care. The farmer who has a good supply of cured corn or ensilage in store may smile at the most inclement winter weather, and with the addition of roots and well-saved straw and a little bran and meal can produce meat and milk profitably, and make manure to maintain the fertility of the farm. The farmer who has not a silo or cannot see his way to build one should not allow that excuse to prevent him from growing corn the present season, as thousands of farmers throughout the country have for years proved it profitable and economical to store the cured corn in their barns, and cut it up during the winter months for stock food. The silo is, however, the ideal means of storing and keeping corn, as a few days' work and one handling secures it ready for feeding and convenient to the stock, where it is safe, even if more is stored than is required for the winter, and can be drawn upon in a time of summer drought when pastures fail. With a little good management, a silo can be built at very moderate cost, and we feel safe in advising all who can at all see their way to it to count on having a silo before another winter comes, and in the meantime to plant corn and attend to it well. The crop will delight you and give you satisfaction.

The Winter Fair Building Site Chosen.

The Winter Fair Committee on the selection of the site for the proposed building at Guelph for the holding of the Provincial Fat Stock, Dairy and Poultry Show met in that city recently, and decided in favor of the Haymarket site, lying between the City Hall and Wilson street. The City Council, we learn from the *Mercury*, at a special meeting on the afternoon of the same day, adopted the clause of its special committee recommending the Haymarket site.

The building proposed will be in the shape of a T, with the top along Wilson street, and the stem stretching to the City Hall. It will be about 100 feet wide, with a length in all of 400 feet. It is proposed to make the part across to the City Hall of two stories, the poultry exhibit to take the upper story. The site chosen is an ideal one, a switch siding from the railway to the building having been provided for; and we are sure exhibitors and the public will be highly pleased with the choice, which could not have been better for the convenience of all concerned. As the building can be used by the city for market or exhibition purposes, or may be let for the holding of public sales or meetings at any time during the year except the week of the Winter Fair, and as the site is a prominent one, it will be in the interest of the city to erect a building creditable in appearance as well as substantial and suitable for the several purposes indicated.

We Lead.

There is no agricultural paper published in America the equal in amount of general information of a practical character with that of the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*, published at London, Canada. — *The Dorset Courier, Washington, Pa.*