

function of any government. This is a question worthy of the attention of agricultural educators and leaders. Survey should precede settlement, from the forestry and agricultural standpoint, and the Provincial Government is doing well to preserve from settlement certain absolute forest lands in New Ontario.

Beet-sugar Progress at Wallaceburg.

To the Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

We have your favor of the 25th. During the campaign just closed we harvested a little over 53,000 tons of beets, which averaged about ten tons per acre. Many of the better class of farmers raised from 14 to 18 tons per acre. While the tonnage was fairly good, the sugar per cent. was lower than usual, owing to the very warm nights and days we experienced during October and November. During these months we had practically no frosts at night, which is most unusual for this climate, and many of the beets took a second growth, which reduced their sugar per cent., so that the average this year was 14.2. Last year we produced 7,806,000 pounds of sugar, whereas this year we produced about 12,250,000 pounds, which makes a very creditable increase in production over 1904.

Up to the present time we have contracted for the coming year 3,500 acres, and expect to double this quantity before planting time.

Generally speaking, the farmers have had much better success with the beet crop than any other, as it has brought them in greater returns, considering the labor involved. The difficulties formerly experienced by growers are fast disappearing, and the fact of farmers being able to employ labor a longer period each year, and also being able to pay them good wages, is of great importance, as it also ensures ample labor at a reasonable cost during the harvest time, when the help is usually so scarce. A much larger quantity of beets will be grown within ten miles of the factory the coming year than ever before.

THE WALLACEBURG SUGAR CO., LTD.
D. A. GORDON, Manager.

When to Apply Manure.

To the Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I see some of your correspondents have gain taken up the oft-debated subject of when and how to spread manure. I will describe my method of handling manure. First, I draw manure fresh from the stables and pile it in a heap, mixing hog, horse and cow manure. I pile it as high as can be done easily, keeping all dry or coarse manure near the outside of heap, keeping the center of the heap for any liquid which I may have to dispose of. In the spring, as soon as I can work the manure-spreader on the land, I begin to spread from this heap. I spread all I can before I begin to seed or plow, as the case may be. What is left I spread on the land already prepared for corn. If any still remains in the yard, I spread it on any poor meadow. By this system of handling manure it escapes considerable leaching by the winter and early spring rains, and I have the use of it at the earliest possible date. I would like to draw out as lively a discussion on this subject as we had some months ago on the failure of farmers' sons to marry. I think there is more waste in most ways of handling this one by-product of the farm than most people have any idea of. I may say that for a number of years I did as some of your correspondents are doing; that is, I spread my manure on the frozen land in the winter, sometimes on so much snow one couldn't see where the land was covered, or spread on from day to day, some being covered twice and some getting none, and one could not see the difference till the snow went off then you could tell by the absence of snow where there was no manure. Now, you will see what I am aiming at—the manure holds both snow and frost if it is spread on top in the winter, also the manure is thawed out first, and a great amount of it is washed off the land into the ditches and creeks before the frost is out in the spring. There are many ways of handling manure that are wasteful besides the one noted. W. A. THOMSON.
Leeds Co., Ont.

Big Reward for Small Effort.

Accept thanks for the premiums, Reading Glass and Harmonica. They arrived in good condition, and are, I consider, a large gift for obtaining one new subscriber. Wishing "The Farmer's Advocate" good success. ARTHUR J. WALKER.
Oxford Co., Ont.

To the Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Sir, I receive several papers, but none are so eagerly looked for or read so carefully as "The Farmer's Advocate," as its topics are spicy and to the point, and endeavors to impress upon farmers that farming is a science, and requires as much ability and perhaps more than any of the other professions. Enclosed you will find postal note for \$1.50, for my renewal for 1906.
Carleton Co., Ont. GEO. R. BRADLEY.

The Selection of Our Farm Seeds.

This is a question of paramount importance to the farmer; but how many farmers give it the consideration that is due? True, some look upon this question as not worthy of thought, thinking that if they sow the seed in a fairly well prepared soil their responsibility has ended; that one variety was as good as another, and it there was any difference it would be too slight to be worth while.

First of all, let me say a word regarding the old-time habit of changing seed. I say habit, because I believe it is a habit, as I never met any man who could give a good sound reason for so doing, other than that his father had always changed seed, and that he thought it was a good practice. Of course, if you can exchange poor seed for good seed, do so by all means; but the old-time theory that the change of seed from one soil to another was a step in advancement has been exploded, and no scientific or practical man, who has given the subject due consideration, believes in it at the present day.

Let us see, for a moment, the good that can come from a change of seed. Firstly, it is a good thing for the seedsmen who has seed to sell; secondly, it is of material advantage to the party who changes to get the big end of the deal. But let us enumerate the disadvantages of the system. By changing seed we forfeit any advancement we have made in breeding up a strain of good seed. What breeder of pure-bred live stock would change his herd every three or four years? If he did, what advancement would he make? How much stock would he be able to sell at fancy prices? I venture to say there is no breeder of stock who would be so foolhardy. And yet it has been proven time and again that the same principles hold good in the breeding of grain as in animals. How is it that on the experiment plots at Guelph they obtain such phenomenal yields of some varieties of grain? How is it that they get sixty bushels of Dawson's Golden Chaff wheat on the experimental plots, whereas the average yield over Ontario is only 23 bushels? It is because the very best seed has been hand-selected from a plot and sown, and the very best seed selected from this crop and sown again; and this process has been carried on for a number of years. Thus they have built up a high-yielding strain. True, we cannot hope to get such yields over the farms of Ontario as they have on the experimental plots. But can we not, by careful selection of our own seed year after year, build up a strain that will eclipse anything we have at present?

Then the question of what variety to sow confronts us, and it is not in the province of this article to say what are the best varieties, but merely to show that there is a wide difference between good and indifferent varieties. Take, for instance, barley. The Mandschuri variety has been proven to yield from ten to fifteen bushels of grain more per acre than the common six-rowed barley—the variety which is now so extensively grown over Ontario. Think for a moment, if you will, what an increase of 10 bushels of barley per acre, or even 5 bushels, would mean in good hard cash, over the farms of our own fair Province. Therefore, it behooves us to read up reports of experiment stations and find out what are the leading varieties, and to see that we grow them.

The ideal time to select our seed is in the field at harvest time, as at this point we can pick out the best part of the field, where the straw is the straightest and the grain plumpest, saving and threshing this part by itself, and selecting the best grain from it. But as we cannot do this for this year, we can select the very best seed from what we have, and the time to do this is right now, when every farmer has plenty of seed around, and is not rushed for time—not leaving it till the day before next seeding, and then running it through the mill at a rate which allows of only very imperfect cleaning.

Experimental-station results show that large, plump seed gave 7 bushels of grain more per acre than small plump seed, and small, plump seed 6.5 bushels more than shrunken seed. From this we can see the great importance of selecting large, plump seed, and that any extra time spent in obtaining this large seed is an investment that pays large dividends.

We cannot be too careful about sowing weed seeds with our grain. The busy farmer too often thinks it is not worth while to reclean seed because there are only a few weed seeds in it, and oftentimes does not even stop to examine if there are foul seeds present. The great error of such a policy is only too evident when we see the great struggle that is carried on year after year against weeds, a great many of which came on our own farms in just such a manner—insignificant at first, but, with their great powers of production soon spreading everywhere.

The question of buying seed is a problem that practically all farmers have to face every year.

Too often he is misled as to the value of the seed he purchases by the price asked for it. Especially is this so in clover and grass seeds. The merchant probably has a sample of clover seed which he offers for \$5.00, and another which he offers for \$7.00 per bushel. The farmer, coming along to buy his seed, is frequently attracted by the \$5.00 sample. True, on taking a casual glance at the two samples, there does not seem to be much difference; the \$5.00 lot is probably a little lighter in color, and contains a few seeds other than clover; so the purchaser, after considering it for a moment, takes the cheaper lot. Now, had that man examined those samples closely and tested them for vitality, he would likely have found the \$5.00 sample to contain a startling percentage of fowl seeds, and undoubtedly low in vitality; whereas the \$7.00 sample was practically free from fowl seed, and standing high in vitality—the seed which it would have paid him many times over to have purchased. "Whatsoever we sow, that shall we also reap." I. C. Brant Co., Ont.

Taxation of the Farm Wood-lot.

It appears to me there can be no two sides to the question of the necessity of conserving our forests. Apart from the advantage to the country as a whole, by conserving moisture and retarding floods, the wood-lot, at this season of the year, may be made a profitable place for the farmer to spend the few hours in the middle of the day that he can spare from his live stock while gathering the fuel supply for the year. Exemption from taxation, however, it seems to me is quite another question. I have had some ten years' experience as assessor in this township, and am strongly convinced that exemptions are an evil and not a benefit. In the first place, exemptions are abused. By the laws of Nova Scotia, a man over sixty years of age is exempt from road tax up to \$1,000 worth of property, and I have known scores of cases where the farm really belonged to the son, but was still kept in the father's name so as to claim the exemption; the exemption to widows and maiden ladies is fully as much abused. I have thought it right to assess the farm wood-lot at as low a rate as possible, and my opinion is that timberland generally throughout this Province is assessed very much lower in proportion to its real value than other farm property. Then, again, the exemption of say 50 or 100 acres of wood-lot, which is now assessed at \$1 or \$2, or, perhaps in some cases \$5, an acre, would only lower the farmer's taxes about \$1, and that would not be a very strong inducement if honestly followed out. In the third place, I am opposed to exemptions and public favors, from principle. It seems to me when we farmers go before the Tariff Commission and ask for a lower tariff we are not asking any favors; we are practically saying, "all we ask is a fair field and no favors," and I believe that is the only sound principle any business can stand upon; and any business that cannot succeed on this principle is no loss to the community if it goes to the wall. C. H. BLACK.
Cumberland Co., N. S.

Mr. Downey's Exemption Bill Again.

To the Editor "The Farmer's Advocate": In the note on Mr. Downey's Bill, published in the January 25th issue of "The Farmer's Advocate," the omission of a word quite reversed the intention of a statement. I did not intend to say that the kinds of trees named in the Bill are not desirable for Southern Ontario; indeed, they are the most desirable, but the list does not comprise ALL the desirable kinds.

In further justification of using taxes to encourage forest preservation, may I add a thought that arises in comparing legislative opportunities and duties in this country and the neighboring Republic. Many of the States of the Union are separated by artificial lines, and hence the sources of a State's most precious water privileges may be situated in adjoining States. The latter naturally decline the burden of reforestation for the benefit of neighboring commonwealths. Dr. Hale points out, for example, that the preservation of the conditions furnishing the water-power of Holyoke, which is second in value to only one other on the continent, lies far less within its own State's jurisdiction than in that of New Hampshire. He argues that, since the whole nation is interested in the products of the Holyoke mills, which indirectly owe their efficiency to the New Hampshire forests, the preservation of these is a national rather than a State obligation. The Canadian Provinces that have forests to preserve are, unlike the States above referred to, separated by natural boundaries, and hence no one of them need be deterred by the indifference or selfishness of its neighbors, nor need it wait for or depend upon Federal assistance in the matter of the preservation and extension of its forest areas. JOHN DEARNESS.