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Succeed."

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EDITORIAL.

Which is it to be this year—a lot of leafy, immature stuff, or strong, well-eared, near-ripened stalks of corn? If the latter, plant thin in rows three and a half feet apart, or, preferably, in hills. Four to six stalks to the hill is plenty.

Ready-made farms is Sir Thomas Shaughnessy's plan to attract the British tenant-farmer, who has been accustomed to carrying on operations with a foreman, and who might feel at a loss if set down single-handed on unbroken land.

A large proportion of the cheese factories in Western Ontario will pasteurize their whey this year, many additional factories having taken it up over the number pasteurizing last year. Where adopted, it has been rarely, if ever, discontinued.

While we complain of labor scarcity, thousands of men's time is being wasted to-day upon Canadian farms. They are doing work which other men might easily add to their share if they had the implements to do it with. Economy of labor is the true solution of the labor problem. This is the four-horse age.

Financial institutions in Eastern Canada are playing their part in the growth of the West. In order to meet the demands of Alberta farmers for borrowing funds, one of the strongest Ontario loan companies recently despatched one of its most experienced valuers permanently to that Province, where interest rates on farm mortgages rule at eight and nine per cent.

"The Pick of the Earth for Canada," was the inspired heading of an article published a few years ago in "The Farmer's Advocate." Since then it has become almost a slogan. "Selected Immigration" is an anonymous term. While we must not be unreasonably exacting, we shall do well to see that strong, healthy elements enter into the foundation of Canada's future citizenship.

A careful investigator has estimated that a bearing orchard removes, or should remove, from the soil each year, in the form of fruit harvested and leaves blown off, practically as much plant food as a twenty-five-bushel crop of wheat (both grain and straw), yet farmers who will summer-fallow for wheat, devoting two seasons' use of land to produce one crop of grain, often manuring well besides, will expect their orchards to bear fruit year after year, and a crop of pasture, grain or hay, besides. Usual result: A loss in quantity and quality of fruit several times greater than the net returns from the other crop.

It was not concern for the true interests of horse-breeding that strangled the Miller bill. That may have weighed with a few, but, for the most part, it was an excuse. The main, actuating influence behind the opposition was sport, coupled with the sordid motives of the beneficiaries of racing and gambling. Sporting influence is strong in Parliament, and the wonder is the bill mustered the strength it did there. This may be attributed to the revelation of sentiment throughout the country. There are arguments with some force that may be and have been conscientiously advanced against the Miller bill, but interference with horse-breeding is not one of any consequence. Deliver the horse from prostitution by his friends!

Are Weeds Getting Worse?

Men in the seed trade state that weeds appear to be getting more prevalent, and that clover seeds are more foul with noxious weed seeds than was the case a few years ago. If this be true, it is deplorable, and suggests the imperative need for more uncompromising warfare against these wasteful plant pests. A double plan of campaign must be waged: First, on the farm, weed destruction by effective methods of rotation, tillage, and the prevention of weeds going to seed; and, second, the protection of those who buy weeds for use from having weed seeds imposed upon them when they are paying for something else. The Seed Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, and the Provincial Departments, through the work of their officers in the press, on the platform, and otherwise, aim at furnishing the weapons of information to aid in the former crusade, and the Seed Control Act is to safeguard the seed supplies used in Canadian soil. Municipal councils ought to put more drastic vim into the administration of the weed laws this season.

The distribution of the volume, "Farm Weeds," in the public schools, and its circulation elsewhere, has proven of decided informational value, by putting old and young upon their guard as to what are weeds and their habits. To the same end, valuable service was rendered by sending out labelled cabinets of weed seeds. We are, therefore, disposed to believe that both farmers and seed dealers are able now to recognize more weeds and distinguish more weed seeds than they did, say, five years ago, and that conditions are really improving, as shown by the quality of the seed distributed in the trade. In response to inquiry, we find, taking individual farmer's lots as a basis, the Seed Branch records, showing that, up to 1905, when the Seed Control Act became law, only about 25 per cent. of lots in the average, including several districts where clover seeds are grown, could be graded No. 1. But last year the results show that 40 per cent. of the individual farmer's lots could easily be cleaned to grade No. 1. It is, of course, unfortunate that the seed from clean farms, and farms that are not, is too frequently bulked together by local buyers, and in that condition reaches the large cleaning plants. Many farmers' lots this season would be prohibited for sale, except for the purpose of being recleaned.

Work of the Seed Branch.

That the active work of the Dominion Seed Branch in testing for purity and vitality samples sent in by dealers and farmers, is increasing, is most reassuring. In 1904-5 the Seed Branch employed ten workers, and now there are thirty-three, including the Calgary Seed Laboratory. Each test, on the average, requires one hour's time on the part of one expert, and this season the staff have been able to mail reports on purity tests from the office within thirty-six hours from the time the seed sample was received. Unless received promptly, reports would be of little use to seed merchants during the busy trade season. To show that farmers and the seed trade are increasingly making use of this branch of the public service, we find that, while, in the year ending March, 1904-5, the number of samples tested for farmers and seed merchants was 617, during the year ending March 31st, 1908, the tests ran up to 13,924, more than one-half of which, however, were germination tests of frosted grain from the three Prairie Provinces; during the year ending March, 1909, there were 6,291 samples tested. Besides these, from 500 to 700 samples are collected and tested during the early summer months

for investigation purposes. From the middle of March to the first of May, a large proportion of the samples tested are from farmers. From September 1st, 1909, to March 31st, 1910, there were 4,110 samples tested for purity or germination, or both, and about 93 per cent. of these came from seed merchants. During the same period of 1908-09, the number of samples tested was 3,410. While large seed-houses have expert testing of their own, practically all the Canadian seed merchants who sell grass or clover seeds in quantity make use of the laboratory of the Seed Branch in the Canadian Building, at Ottawa. This year the great rush of work was between March 15th and April 15th, and the entire staff worked through the usual Easter-holiday period.

The Demand for Clean Seed.

As farmers, we can scarcely take this weed-seed question too seriously, and when one sees fertile fields, previously clean, bringing forth from one seedling a crop of ox-eye daisy, wild mustard and sow thistle, there ought to be something more than mere indignation for such an outrage. A restive feeling on the part of seed-users, and a desire for strengthening the Seed Control Act and its administration, as a check upon the unscrupulous, is one of the best signs of the times. With regard to grass and clover seeds, the Seed Branch ought, by this time, to be in a position, considering the crop now produced in so far as weed seeds are concerned, to define standards as No. 1, 2, 3, or "rejected," in case of any samples that might come to them for test. The American market having been practically closed against any low-grade Canadian seeds, a more explicit grading system, satisfactory to the trade, might well be put in operation that would assure better prices being paid to farmers in favor of seed grown on clean land. President Duke, of the Ontario Corn-growers' Association, stakes his reliance on the belief that quality is a recommendation, and that the Canadian farmer is willing to pay for the best, if satisfied that he receives what he is paying for. Most men like to buy as cheaply as they can, but the discriminating farmer knows that a few cents' difference in the cost of pure and clean seed grain may easily mean ten times as many dollars in the resulting crop. Reputable seedsmen of long standing know that a satisfied and successful customer is one of their best assets. They welcome the desire on the part of their patrons for high-class seeds, because it augurs well for future business and an improvement in the conditions on farms from which future supplies for the trade may be drawn. It is probable that, in the warfare against weeds, the most strenuous fight, after all, is upon the farms; and, while the Seed Control Act is strengthened in relation to the purely commercial aspects of the business, the time is doubtless approaching when its provisions may require more rigid application in the farm sale of seeds, as well as in their purchase.

Alarmed at the removal of over ninety-five thousand American settlers of the best type, carrying with them nearly a hundred million dollars of capital, to the Canadian West last year (ending March 31st), the United States authorities have contemplated efforts to check the emigration. The effort has been deferred too long. The tide cannot now well be stemmed, and even if it were, the Canadian West has reached a point where its continued progress is guaranteed. The land is there, the climate is there, the social, economic, judicial and Governmental conditions stand favorable comparison, and that region will attract immigrants from the congested districts of the continent as surely as water seeks its level.