

## Seed Corn Testing.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—I have just read an article in your March 30th issue, on seed corn, by Mr. L. H. Newman. His note of warning with regard to the condition of seed corn is timely and to the point; but his method of testing seed corn, to my mind, is quite too intricate, and quite unnecessary. Farmers, by all means test your seed corn. Even if you have saved your own seed and have it hanging up in the corn-barn or kitchen, TEST IT.

In the first place, if you are buying seed corn, BUY IT IN THE EAR, even if you pay twice as much per bushel for it. You will then have some idea of what you are buying; when shelled, you have no idea. Half of the ears from which this shelled corn came may have been only nubbins; it is not at all likely it has been from selected ears. Then, if there are any ears that do not suit, you can throw them out and feed to hogs or chickens. Don't be afraid to do a little culling if not up to the mark. When you have got your one, two or three bushels of ears selected, then pick out 12 or 15 average ears—20 if you like—shell these and mix thoroughly, and then count out 100 grains in duplicate and put them to test, as described by Mr. Newman, or in a pan with three inches of good soil kept moist and warm. To keep moist cover pan with a moist woollen cloth. If kept warm at 60 to 70 degrees, it will germinate in four or five days. The sounder the corn the quicker it will start. When germinated, count out the number of good germinating grains out of the 100. You then have the per cent. of germination. If the first test is not satisfactory make a second test. I have known a second test to give entirely different and better results than the first. Don't take anybody's word as to the germinating quality of any corn. Don't leave this work till a few days before planting; do it now. Don't think you can test by the appearance of the corn, even on the ear, as to how it will grow; you can't tell anything about it, especially the product of such seasons as the past two or three years. During my tour last winter attending Farmers' Institute meetings, I did not meet a single farmer who had taken the trouble to test his seed corn, but I met any number who had planted twice and then got no crop. I also was shown many samples of shelled seed corn that I would not plant upon any consideration. In my humble opinion they sow nothing more than good crib corn, shovelled into a corn sheller and then bagged up. There has been thousands of bushels of corn sold for seed in this country that was nothing more or less than good elevator corn. If some fellow came along and bought a cow from you for \$50, and he handed you a roll of bills, saying there is your \$50, would you put this in your pocket and not count it for two or three weeks? You are doing this, practically, when you buy your seed corn. Take it home, and plant without testing. TEST YOUR CORN. J. S. PEARCE.

## Mr. Beith's Hackney Sale.

The dispersion sale, on March 29th, of the Waverley Stud of Hackney horses, belonging to Mr. Robert Beith, at Bowmanville, Ont., brought together a very large and appreciative company of admirers of this grand class of harness horses. The weather was delightful, the horses were an exceedingly attractive offering, and Mr. Beith's sound judgment and commendable enterprise was rewarded by the presence of liberal buyers from many parts of the Dominion and the United States. No expense was spared in making the visitors comfortable, a large tent being erected, decorated with the Union Jack and Stars and Stripes, for use as a sale pavilion in case of unfavorable weather, and a sumptuous luncheon provided. With the sale-ring and surroundings well covered with shavings, and the horses brought out in the pink of condition, nothing was wanting to ensure the success of the sale, as buyers were there with no narrow notions of the value of this splendid class of carriage horses. The only regret is that so many of the best were bought to leave the Dominion, our American friends proving as usual stayers in the bidding when the stuff suits. The grand Canadian-bred five-year-old stallion, Saxon—97—641, winner of the grand championship at St. Louis and Chicago last year, topped the sale, at the sensational price of \$5,500, going to the bid of Mr. J. H. Godfrey, of New York. The four-year-old horse, Imp. Royal DREWTON, was taken by Mr. J. T. Walker, Clarksville, Mo., at \$2,800. Prof. M. Cumming, of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, secured a snap in the three-year-old Chffe Rosador (Imp.) (8418), at \$1,050. If there was another snap it was the purchase by Mr. John Duncan, of Riverview, Grey Co., Ont., of the three-year-old St. David (Imp.)—216—, at \$1,175. Mr. L. W. Cochran, of Crawfordsville, Indiana, was one of the largest buyers, securing some six head of good ones, wisely selected. The highest price for a mare was \$1,625, paid by Mr. Jay, of New York, for the fine four-year-old Minona, by Robin Adair 2nd. The average realized for the 39 Hackneys sold was \$655 each. The harness and saddle horses brought from \$130 to \$360 each. Following is the sale list of the breeding stock:

## STALLIONS.

Saxon; J. H. Godfrey, New York	\$5,500
Royal DREWTON (Imp.); J. T. Walker, Clarksville, Mo.	2,300
Ivanhoe; Mr. Woodruff, St. Catharines	1,850
St. David (Imp.); John Duncan, Riverview	1,175
Chffe Rosador (Imp.); Prof. Cumming, Truro, N. S.	1,050
Lord Meltonby (2 years); L. W. Cochran, Crawfordsville, Ind.	1,100
Wadsworth Squire (Imp.); Mr. Galbraith, New-castle	850
Terrington Bellerophon (Imp.); J. H. McKinnon, Bethany	700
Mr. Dooley (2 years); L. W. Cochran	400
Royal Gannymede (2 years); W. C. Jay, New York	310
Sir Wilfrid (1 year); L. W. Cochran	325
Vanguard (1 year); Telfer Bros., Milton	100

## MARES.

Minona; W. C. Jay, New York	\$1,625
Priscilla; Dr. Bruce, Toronto	825
Rickell's Heiress	650
Terrington Bonniel (Imp.); W. C. Jay	725
Gaudy Kitty (Imp.); W. C. Jay	725
Canadian Queen; H. Yates, Buffalo, N. Y.	600
Lady Brookfield; Geo. Mitchell, Clark	425
Melody; S. H. Knox, Buffalo, N. Y.	575
Lady Aberdeen and foal; W. C. Jay	500
Mona's Queen; Herbert Wells, Palmerston	300
Cherry Ripe; C. A. Webster, Yarmouth, N. S.	195
Portia; H. Yates	180
Wild Mint; W. C. Jay	280
Thelma; W. C. Jay	290
Doris; T. Bennett, Newcastle, N. Y.	165
Wild Cherry; Hodgkinson & Tisdale, Beaverton	230
Floradora; Geo. Rountree, Toronto	205
Lady Minto 2nd; Geo. Mitchell, Newcastle, Ont.	105
Olga 2nd; W. E. Jewel, Bowmanville	185
Rosalie; L. W. Cochran	300
Wild Violet	310
Waverley Belle	225
Waverley Queen; L. W. Cochran	105
Wild Clover (1 year); L. W. Cochran	200
Waverley Enchantress (1 year); Geo. Mitchell	175
Waverley Winnie	260
Coquette; Dr. Bruce	250
Pickwick and Waverley Kate (carriage pair)	600
Peverill (Imp.); Clyde stallion; H. Yates, Buffalo	380

## Kerosene Treatment for Pea Weevil.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Six years ago I had decided to give up sowing peas on account of the pea weevil, but experimented by putting 1½ bushels in a barrel, pouring 1 quart kerosene over them, and carefully stirring it through them. I cannot find to-day a sign of a worm or egg. I think it was in February or early March I tried the treatment. JAS. R. CAMPBELL.

Stormont Co., Ont.

## President of the British Board of Agriculture.

Our English correspondent writes that the appointment of Mr. Allwyn Fellowes, as President of the Board of Agriculture, has not occasioned any surprise, as he has acted in the House of Commons as Lord Onslow's representative with great ability. His appointment, moreover, meets the demands of the Chamber of Agriculture for a Minister who has a seat in the Lower House. Mr. Fellowes is a land-owner, and, therefore, should be in sympathy with agriculturists, but, unfortunately, he is a strong opponent of the movement for repealing the act which keeps out live cattle from Canada.

## Western Dairy School (Strathroy) Graduates.

General proficiency and per cent. of total marks.—D. Menzies, 83 per cent.; D. H. Walker, 82; L. Chilverton, 81; Wm. Scott, 80; M. Jackson, 79; Wm. Inch, 78; Geo. Gunn, 78; E. H. Bell, 76; Geo. Beck, 72; M. Box, 69; E. Wilson, 61.

Specialists, buttermaking.—J. B. Payne, 76 per cent.; J. K. McAlpine, 64.

Specialists in cheesemaking.—Geo. Stanley, 62 per cent.

Home Dairy.—Miss Estella Harris, 80 per cent.; Miss L. R. Pound, 79.

## NEWS OF THE DAY.

## Canadian.

Lord Strathcona is in Canada.

Meaford Bay is clear of ice, and ready for navigation.

Andrew Miscampbell, ex-M. P. P., the Conservative organizer, is dead.

The C. P. R. will build several new branches in Manitoba and the West.

The ice-breaker Montcalm is making good progress in clearing the St. Lawrence River.

The Government steamer Minto is off the rocks, and at the Georgetown, P.E.I., wharf.

Robert Quick, a farmer of Caradoc Township, near Strathroy, Ont., on March 25th strangled his younger brother Alfred, in a fit of insanity.

Four townships have been reserved for the half-breeds in Alberta, and an Industrial school will be erected for them. The land will be subdivided into 80-acre lots.

Victoria University, Toronto, has been made the recipient of two handsome donations, one of \$260,000, from the trustees of the Massey estate, and one of \$50,000, from Hon. G. A. Cox.

Power from Eugenia Falls, 33 miles south of Owen Sound, is to be utilized for manufacturing and lighting purposes by that town. The construction of a huge power plant will be started at the Falls immediately, and will be completed in a year.

The Royal Mail Steamer Parisian collided with the Hamburg-American Liner Albano, at the entrance of Halifax harbor on March 24th. Both vessels were damaged, and the Parisian had much difficulty in making her dock, where she sank a short time after landing her 700 passengers.

## British and Foreign

Seven thousand armed peasants, pillaging in Russia, routed a force of Cossacks.

A reign of terror has broken out in the Caucasus, and Poland may rise in rebellion.

Maxim Gorky, the Russian author, is to be tried on the charge of writing seditious proclamations.

General Grippenberg has been relieved from command of the second Manchurian army, but is permitted to retain his position of aide-de-camp to the Emperor.

Gessler Rosseau, the dynamiter, now under arrest in New York, says he made the machine that blew up the Maine, but that it was intended to destroy a Spanish vessel. What about the American casus belli?

Relations between Norway and Sweden have become strained. Norway accuses Sweden of disregarding the terms of the Treaty of Union, and should an amicable settlement not be arrived at, danger to the Union itself is threatened.

There are again rumors of turbulent socialist disturbances in St. Petersburg, where several of the largest manufacturers have recently closed down, with the result that 80,000 men are walking the streets idle and ready for any disturbance. Already the machinery in one of the big cotton mills has been wrecked, and the guard officers have been warned that their death warrant will be sealed the moment they again order the troops to fire on the people. It has also become a matter of public discussion, that sentence of death has been passed upon the Czar, the Dowager Empress, and thirty others high in authority. In Warsaw 80 bombs have been discovered in a brick grave in one of the cemeteries, and an attempt has been made upon the Chief of Police, who miraculously escaped with his life, though severely wounded by the effects of the bomb, which was exploded in his carriage. Upon the same day a bomb was thrown into the police station of Praga, one of the suburbs of the city, and six policemen were severely wounded, the furniture and walls of the room into which it fell being completely wrecked. The peasant movement in south and west Russia also continues to spread. Several landlords have been murdered, and in some sections the peasants have taken possession of estates and are offering resistance to the police.

The rushing of supplies to Vladivostok, the purchase of enormous numbers of railway cars by Russia from French builders, and the statements from Paris that all hope of immediate peace has been abandoned, presage a repetition at Vladivostok of the Port Arthur tragedy. Japan is said to be straining every nerve in preparation for the coming summer's campaign. Mukden and Tieling are but the prelude to a campaign commencing in May and involving the occupation of Harbin and investment of Vladivostok. Prospects for the season include the destruction of the Russian field forces in Manchuria, and the sinking or capture of the Baltic fleet. The Times' correspondent at St. Petersburg cables that alarmist reports of Japanese columns approaching Kirin and Betuna continue to be telegraphed by Russian correspondents, though the general staff anticipates nothing serious for several weeks. Prospects of internal peace, temporarily brightened by an expected convocation of the people, are again obscured by the lowering clouds of reaction and oppression. Reports from Manchuria show that the Russians are destroying the railway much more thoroughly than has been hitherto evident. The inference is that they do not contemplate recovering the situation.