

## FARM AND DAIRY AND RURAL HOME

Published by The Rural Publishing Company, Limited.



FARM AND DAIRY is published every Thursday. It is the official organ of the British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario and Western Ontario, and Bedford District, Quebec, Dairywomen's Associations, and of the Canadian Holstein, Ayrshire and Jersey Cattle Breeders' Associations.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, \$1.00 a year, strictly in advance. Great Britain, \$1.25 a year. For all countries, except Canada and Great Britain, add 50c for postage. A year's subscription free for a club of two new subscribers.

REMITTANCES should be made by Post Office or Money Order, or Registered Letter. Postage stamps accepted for amounts less than \$1.00. On all checks add 20 cents for exchange fee required at the banks.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—When a change of address is ordered, both the old and new addresses must be given.

ADVERTISING RATES quoted on application. Copy received up to the Friday preceding the following week's issue.

WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles.

### CIRCULATION STATEMENT

The paid subscriptions to Farm and Dairy exceed 5,500. The actual circulation of each issue, including copies of the paper sent subscribers who are but slightly in arrears, and sample copies, varies from 5,000 to 10,000 copies. No subscriptions are accepted at less than full subscription rates. Thus our mailing lists do not contain any dead circulation.

Sworn detailed statements of the circulation of the paper, showing its distribution by countries and provinces, will be mailed free on request.

### OUR PROTECTIVE POLICY

We want the readers of Farm and Dairy to feel that they can deal with our advertisers with our assurance of our verities reliability. We try to admit to our columns only the most reliable advertisers. Should any subscriber have doubts to be dissatisfied with the treatment be receives from any of our advertisers, we will investigate the circumstances fully. Should we find reason to believe that any of our advertisers are unreliable, even in the slightest degree, we will discontinue immediately the publication of their advertisements. Should the circumstances warrant, we will expose them through the columns of the paper. Thus we will not only protect our readers, but our reputable advertisers as well. All that is necessary to entitle you to the benefits of this Protective Policy is that you include in any four letters to our advertisers the words, "I saw your ad. in Farm and Dairy." Complaints should be sent to us as soon as possible after reason for dissatisfaction has been found.

## FARM AND DAIRY PETERBORO, ONT.

### CONSTITUTION OF FIRST-CLASS SEED

What constitutes first-class seed? There is a great difference in seeds, even those classed as No. 1. We cannot be too careful therefore in making selections from samples from which we will ultimately secure a supply for the spring seeding.

In the eyes of the law, No. 1 seed may be defined first as being comparatively free from noxious weeds—those black-listed by the Seed Control Act, 26 in number. As much as one noxious weed seed is allowed to every 1,500 of the good seeds. This figures out for red clover 12 weed seeds per ounce or 192 a pound. This rating is fixed by the Governor-in-Council and is liable to be changed at any time. This allowance is termed "a margin of tolerance," and is more for the protection of the seed dealer than to act as standard.

No. 1 seed should be absolutely pure. It has become possible to get such seed in limited quantities from farmers who sow pure seed and weed out the

crop when it is growing in the field. Seed merchants with their up-to-date machinery can extract from fairly clean lots the weed seed impurities and make such seed, from the purity standpoint, first-class.

Another requirement of first-class or No. 1 seed, so far as the law is concerned, is that 99 seeds in every 100 shall produce useful plants. If seeds of foxtail, trefoil or lady's-thumb, often found in red clover, constitute, along with other weed seeds more than one per cent., such seed is barred from grading No. 1. Ninety per cent. of the seed should grow. If the clover seed be fresh and it does not contain too many shrunken discolored brown seeds, it is most likely to give a germination of 90 per cent.

Points other than those mentioned should also be considered. No. 1 seed should be uniform, large and well colored, indicating maturity. It should be as far as possible free from other kinds of seeds. For instance, red clover seed which contains more or less timothy and alsike should not be considered as good as seed all red clover. One should not pay red clover prices for timothy seed, not to mention weed seeds.

All points considered, provided the price is not too high, No. 1 seed will be found to be the cheapest grade on the market. It is the grade to buy. Even with the best grade it is well to have an analysis made in order to make certain that one may not unwittingly introduce noxious weeds upon his farm. In this connection remember that the Seed Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, will test seeds free of charge and that samples may be sent there by mail free of postage. Don't hesitate to take advantage of this service.

### LABOR—FARM VS. CITY

The farm labor problem so far as the laborer is concerned is dependent much upon the point of view. It depends upon his idea of what constitutes success. If the prime object of a man's life is pleasure, such pleasure as comes from idle hours, then the farm, under ordinary circumstances, ill compares with the brighter side of life in cities. If one seeks pleasure, that kind derived from the satisfaction of work well done, from health, from a good living and from what in years turns out to be a competence—property and a substantial income, then the farm stands peer above all callings.

The labor problem discussed unfairly by "Subscriber" in Farm and Dairy, March 3rd, is well answered this week by "Countryman." Any one not firm in his own mind as to the comparative opportunities of farm and city workers should ponder well the points raised by "Countryman." The farm rightly managed has in the past upheld its own. Prospects for farming were never brighter than they are to-day. A brilliant future awaits young farmers. With proper application of the information that is available pertaining to their work and life, the chances are all in favor of successful realization of their ideals.

### THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE

The need for an organization, national in character and representing the farmers of the Dominion, has at last led to the formation of such a body. It is called the National Council of Agriculture. The project was discussed and endorsed a few months ago at the annual meeting of the Dominion Grange held in Toronto. The United Farmers of Alberta have lately endorsed the project, thereby completing the organization.

Hitherto, our farmers have been organized on different lines in the various provinces or have been without organization of any kind. Each provincial organization where such has existed, has felt the need for a national body. The New National Council of Agriculture is composed of the Dominion Grange, which is really the Ontario Grange, the United Farmers of Alberta, the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association, and the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association. While each of these provincial organizations will retain its present character they are all linked in the National Council of Agriculture. This is going to make it possible for the farmers of the four provinces to unite in making their views known on national questions.

The farmers in each province must now set to work to strengthen their local organizations. Those provinces that still lack a provincial organization should organize as speedily as possible. In Ontario there is great need for the strengthening of the Grange. Our farmers' clubs might well unite with the Grange. As organized at present they lack independence and the cohesion that affiliation with the Grange would give. The National Council of Agriculture has many difficulties to overcome before it can become as strong as it must be if it is to represent our interests as farmers effectively. We will have only ourselves to blame if we fail to do our part by supporting our provincial organizations.

### THE POPULARITY OF ALFALFA

Alfalfa is said to be one of the oldest plants known to man. It has come down through the ages, yet strange to say only in isolated cases has it become thoroughly appreciated and understood save in recent years. Alfalfa has become the great forage plant of various states of the American Union. It is now enjoying an increased popularity in Canada. Last year, it would appear that it was more widely grown in this country than ever before and this coming season bids fair for an increased acreage to be devoted to alfalfa.

The name "Alfalfa" is from an Arabic word meaning "The Best Fodder." Those who know it best accord it first place among fodders. Chemical analysis of prime alfalfa hay shows 11 pounds of it to equal 10 pounds of bran. With bran selling at or above \$20 a ton, one need not be much of an arithmetician to be convinced that alfalfa is a most profitable crop to

grow; it yielding in favorable seasons three cuttings and an average for the season of four, five, or more tons to the acre.

So much for theory, how does it work out in practice? Those who follow the most approved cultural methods realize to the full all that is claimed for alfalfa. Others who fail to observe even the minor points essential for its successful culture, come short of realizing a full crop, and with some it fails completely.

Soil conditions should be the first consideration if one would grow alfalfa. It must have rolling, well drained soil on which water will not stand. The success of alfalfa is enhanced through inoculation with nitro-culture, which supplies the bacteria so necessary to its welfare. It may be sown with or without a nurse crop. These points have been and are dealt with from time to time in Farm and Dairy by men of practical experience.

Alfalfa is not a crop that any one can grow. It is useless to sow it on flat low land. Where there is a possibility of its succeeding, a trial plot a few acres in extent should be seeded. Alfalfa being such a valuable crop where it will succeed, considerable effort is warranted in getting it established. After having given it trial on a small acreage, one is in a position to judge of the area that can be devoted to it with advantage.

### AUTO DRIVERS MAY BE CURBED

The Ontario Legislature may rest assured that they have the backing of their farmer constituents on the bill to regulate automobile traffic that was before the house last week. Drastic legislation against reckless driving is necessary. Chauffeurs must be brought to understand that their right to the road is altogether secondary to that of the pedestrian and the horse driver.

It is fortunate that this bill for which Mr. Valentine Stock (Terth) is sponsor, received sympathetic support from both sides of the house. It may become law. The bill was approved by the Legislature on its second reading and passed on to the committee. The bill when it becomes law, as it should, will give those with horse driven vehicles, in a measure, the protection they have so long needed.

The farmers in a number of constituencies are arranging for the holding of public meetings during the Easter vacation when their members in the House of Commons will be called upon to explain the navy proposals. This is a wise move. Similar meeting might well be held throughout the country. There are a good many members in the House of Commons who would soon find themselves in deep water if they tried to argue their stand on this question. They have followed their leaders blindly and know but little about where the proposed expenditures may lead to and what proportion of the burden will have to be borne by our farmers.

Why not see your neighbors and get them to join in with you and form a cow testing association?