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## AGRICULTURE

### THE FARMER AT LAST ENTERING INTO HIS KINGDOM

Spread of Scientific Education Now the Chief Requisite, if the Real Importance of Agriculture is to be Recognized.

Science, we all know, has been making rapid strides in recent years. The natural world is gradually yielding up its secrets, and the knowledge gained is being applied to the promotion of the industries and the extension of man's powers for good or evil. Much, however, remains to be done before man can be said to have entered fully into his kingdom. He must go further in his mastery of natural powers and in the utilization of natural resources.

In a survey of the progress of science and its applications it must, however, be noted that Agriculture has not received the same attention as many other industries, but it must be acknowledged that the greatest scientific discoveries do not belong to the domain of Agriculture. However, we may explain this comparative neglect of Agriculture we believe we are correct in saying that the application of the discoveries yet to be made in this industry will be of transcendent value to humanity in view of the fact that over a large part of the earth the land fails to yield its proper increase on account of lack of knowledge of both the soil and the plant.

When it is realized that agriculture is the basis of all the great industries; that it feeds and clothes the people; that it gives employment to millions in transporting its products by land and sea, and to millions more in converting the raw products into

manufactured articles; it may seem strange that governments have done so little to assist this industry in the way of encouraging scientific research with the direct object of increasing the production of farm products. In some countries a few far-seeing minds have seen the Vision Beautiful, and have given of their talents and money to persuade the legislatures and the culture in the study of agricultural schools, the value of scientific discoveries and their application to the country.

The lack of proper interest in agriculture by legislators and educators has permitted many abuses to arise with regard to the utilization of the great natural resources. The "soil-skinners" have converted large areas of our richest soil into unprofitable land, and the lumber king has stripped the forests which regulate the water supply of the farming lands in the valleys below. Happily, however, for the welfare of our civilization, the world is now being taken to conserve by intelligent use the natural resources for the future, and to prevent the wasteful practices of the past.

There are indications that the farmer will soon enter more fully into his kingdom. This can be done only by the spread of scientific education when boys and girls in the rural schools learn the elementary facts

about soils, plants, and animals; when the larger boys and girls spend two or more years at higher agricultural schools and colleges, learning scientific facts in the laboratories and the applications of these facts to better farming; when the Governments maintain a large force of scientists in every Department or the express purpose of solving the problems of agriculture and when bureaus are established for carrying this New Agriculture to every farmer. The agricultural schools are at work training the young men and women to greater efficiency, but more and better work could be done if they had more money at their disposal. The Governments should do greatly more to help along every worthy agency that is working in the interests of agriculture. We understand, however, that at the present moment the Federal Government is contemplating the appropriation of a large sum of money annually for the benefit of agriculture in the Dominion. We trust this is but the beginning of an expansion in every branch of scientific and practical farming.

With a re-direction of the courses of studies in our rural schools along the lines we have frequently described in these columns, and with the operation of all the agencies already named, we may with confidence look forward to the time in the near future when the farmer will have entered into his kingdom.

### WHY SOME POTATOES ARE FOUND TO BE HOLLOW

During the past season there have been a good many complaints from potato growers that, although the yield has been good, many of the largest and finest tubers are found, on cutting, to be hollow. This is an occurrence which is not uncommon in seasons which have favored the rapid growth of the tuber, and for a similar reason it is found more commonly in large tubers than in those of small or medium size. A potato grows by the addition of new layers of tissue slightly below the skin. The cells composing this tissue are at first small and rapidly expand to their full size, and in so doing set up a state of

tension. The layers of cells towards the outside, being young, are capable of dividing and expanding in a similar way so that an external cracking or splitting is avoided. It is different, however, with the tissue in the interior. This is composed of mature cells no longer in a state of growth, and the tension becomes too great a testing or rupture of the tissue will result, followed by degeneration and the formation of a cavity.

The causes of this nature of much less serious than injuries on the outside of the tubers, since the latter permit of the entrance of numerous organisms of various kinds which

causing rotting. They do, however, necessitate increased trouble in preparing potatoes for the table since the discolored surface of the hollow potatoes is cut away. Hollow potatoes are also particularly objectionable for baking. However, the factor of rapid growth which is liable to bring about this condition is in the main one necessary to the securing of a large yield, and most farmers will probably prefer to so stimulate growth by cultivation and fertilizers as to attain this end and take the risk of a certain proportion of tubers becoming hollow.—Division of Botany, C. E. F. Ottawa.

### THE CULTURE OF ROSES—THE QUEEN OF FLOWERS

The rose may well be considered the queen of flowers, but unfortunately there are many parts of Canada where only a limited number of the hardiest varieties can be successfully cultivated. For this reason many who would grow roses are deterred from doing so because of a lack of knowledge of which are the most hardy sorts, and the treatment that should be given them. To supply this information in readily available form, the Dominion Horticulturist, Mr. W. T. Macoun, has prepared a pamphlet of a dozen pages entitled "Hardy Rose Culture in Canada." It is designated Pamphlet No. 9 of the Experimental

Farm and may be had free by applying to the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. The pamphlet divides the roses usually cultivated in Canada into four groups according to the degree of hardiness possessed by each. The hardiest group includes Rosa rugosa and hybrids, Austrian briar, Provence or Cabbage rose, Damask roses and Moss roses; next comes Hybrid Perpetuals, climbing roses and dwarf Polyantha roses; then Hybrid Tea roses, and last of all Tea roses. It is stated that roses of the first group with little or no protection.

The pamphlet treats in a very practical manner the culture of roses under the following heads: site and soil, plants and planting, cultivation and watering, manuring, pruning, winter protection, insects and fungus enemies and how to treat them. Then follow lists of the best varieties of the various classes with a brief description of each as regards form, color and fragrance. In the preparation of this treatise the conditions in all parts of Canada were kept in view so that prospective rose growers in every province may receive valuable information from its pages.

### KNOWLEDGE MEANS GOOD FARMING

Very few of us like to be called poor farmers. We must acknowledge, however, that some of our neighbors make more money out of their farms than others, and sometimes we are able to point out the reasons for their greater success. Our own failures we attribute to bad luck or something of that sort.

In reality all of us would be better farmers if we understood our business better, and by business we mean not only the growing of crops and the feeding of animals but also the management of all the interests of the farm. Many a good farm we all know goes to ruin by bad management.

Learning, however, that we are good managers, utilizing the labor of horses and men to the best advantage, marketing our produce so as to get

the very highest returns, buying only useful machines and caring for it properly, has much to do with success regarding pure farming operations. Someone has said that when a man gets to the point where he thinks he knows all there is to be known about farming he is just about as hopeless a case as can be imagined.

The supreme test of good farming is the ability to make soil produce and keep up its fertility. To do this a knowledge of the soil and its management is absolutely necessary. Many a man blames his failure on the failure of the soil, whereas the real cause of his failure is the poor treatment given the soil. How many of us know the properties of the different kinds of soils, and the effect of plowing and things on them under all conditions of weather and previous cropping? Do we fully un-

derstand the significance of a good rotation of crops in the maintenance of fertility, and why one rotation may be better than another? Do we fully realize the importance of humus in the soil, and know the most profitable method of keeping it up?

To these questions the farmer should find answers in order that he may work intelligently and manage properly. But how may a farmer acquaint himself with these important matters? By attending the Short Courses offered by the Agriculture Branch, by experimenting on a small scale on his own farm, by conference with his neighbors, by reading bulletins and special books on the subject, by a careful study of the best agricultural papers such as the "Journal of Agriculture," and by sending his sons to an agricultural college.

### TOBACCO GROWING EXPERIMENTS IN QUEBEC.

The Quebec tobacco growers often experience difficulty in the spring in rearing good healthy tobacco seedlings. In bulletin No. A-13 of the Tobacco Division, entitled: "Quebec Tobacco Experimental Stations—Season 1911," Mr. Chevalier sets forth the advantages of the "warm bed" he has been using for the last three years at the St. Jacques l'Achigan station. This bed is more economical than the "hot bed" as it does not require manure. It is not so damp, and enables

the young plants to be kept in a much healthier atmosphere than is more favorable to their normal development.

This bulletin also contains an account of the work carried on at the St. Jacques l'Achigan and St. Cesaire stations. The results obtained at these stations show the importance of a rotation of crops, and the advantages of the use of chemical fertilizers to supplement the inadequate applications of manure generally made in the province of Quebec. Particular attention

has been given to the growing of seed plants. Any of this publication will be supplied free to any one who applies for it to the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

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### SUPREME COURT.

Hearing was had before Mr. Justice McLeod yesterday morning in the case of Sanson et al. vs. Richards et al. on application of H. A. Powell, K.C., for the plaintiffs, to amend by adding the executors of the late William Richards as co-defendants. The action arises out of a dispute over \$17,000, originally the proceeds of life insurance on the life of William Richards, deceased, and involves the construction of a will and other intricate complications. The court considered: M. O. Toed, K.C., and P. J. Hughes of Fredericton, appeared for the defendants.

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