

The Canadian Dairyman AND Farming World

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

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THE CANADIAN DAIRYMAN AND FARMING WORLD
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STOP FRAUDULENT FRUIT TRANSACTIONS

There is food for grave reflection in the history of the export apple trade of the past winter. Instead of our reputation for high grade fruit being enhanced by the season's business, it has been retarded. The reports of fraudulently packed fruit that has come across the water the past six months, have been more numerous than for any season since the Fruit Marks Act came into force. Not only have cases of fraudulently packed fruit been frequently reported, but there has been deception in other ways not at all creditable to the Canadian exporter. Only the other day the Canadian Trade Commissioner at Birmingham reported the case of a dealer in that city who contracted for 1,000 barrels of russets, 75 per cent. to be No. 1 grade, and the balance No. 2. He cabled a credit to Montreal, and cash was paid on presentation of the invoices and bills of lading. On the arrival of the first shipment of 160 barrels, only 20 barrels were according to invoice. Out of another lot of 105 barrels, invoiced as

russets, only 24 barrels were of that variety.

Commenting on this transaction the commissioner at Birmingham says:

"Although Canadian apples are of higher quality than those of any other country, the market is being injured by the shipment of fruit, which, for the credit of the country, should have been thrown into the St. Lawrence. This sort of thing is unfair to other shippers whose brands are as good as gold. If shippers would pay more attention to quality and less to quantity, they would make more money."

This is sound advice and apple packers and shippers should profit by it. All said and done the fraudulent packing and shipping of fruit is confined to comparatively few of those in the trade. But these few keep at it and by their deceptive practices are bringing lasting discredit on our fruit trade. The minister of agriculture's request to make the fruit marks act more drastic cannot be granted any too soon. Urgent measures are needed. Nothing short of imprisonment for the second or third offence will bring some of these offenders to time. Canada's fruit trade is a growing and important one. It must not be allowed to be jeopardized by the persistent breaking of the law by a few unscrupulous individuals.

CROP ROTATION

Many farmers have mapped out for themselves the system of crop rotation they purpose introducing this coming seed time. Many others already have in working order, a successful plan of rotation, which has been the means of annually increasing the returns from their farms. There are still others, however, who practice no rotation at all.

Crop rotation is the very foundation of future success in agriculture. But, someone asks, "What has it done in the past? It is results we are looking for." Results are in evidence on every side. In a large number of localities are to be found farms that a few years ago were the poorest in the neighborhood. To-day, they are among the best. This did not happen by chance. It was due to the ability of some enterprising farmer, who happening along, recognized his opportunity, bought the farm and then, by an intelligent system of crop rotation, together with live stock, brought the farm to its present high state of productiveness.

Crop rotation aids directly in the production of crops. It requires thought to lay out and direct a rotation. It invariably happens that at the same time, more brains are thrown into other branches of farm work. System is introduced thereby into all farm practice and the whole is put upon a business basis.

It has been said of farmers that "they put no business into their business." This, unfortunately, is true with many. It behooves us, therefore, if we are to make a success of our calling, to make more of a business of it than we have heretofore. Nowhere can a better start be made than by working out a system of crop rotation that will best adapt itself to the special conditions

of the case. A rotation, good in itself, is by no means applicable to all conditions. It must be moulded to fit individual conditions.

WILL WHEY BUTTER PAY?

There is one thing those who contemplate making whey butter should bear in mind. Butter prices are high now, but may not continue so. Should values get back to normal or below normal as they are likely to do at any time, in what condition would the market for whey butter be. There would practically be no profitable market for it and factorymen who have gone to the expense of putting in equipment for its manufacture would find their investment a total loss. No one would buy whey butter if he could get the genuine article at a moderate price. This is one reason why factorymen should go "slow" on the whey butter question.

There is another reason. To safeguard our butter trade it may become necessary for the government to enact legislation compelling the branding of this product as whey butter. If this were done the price would drop immediately. The consumer would not buy it in place of the genuine article. Its sale would depend largely upon the demand for it for cooking or confectionery purposes and here it would have to compete with the cheap grades of dairy butter, of which there is usually a large supply on the market. Brought down to this level the manufacture of whey butter could not be made profitable at least for the average cheese factory.

There there is the question of its effect upon our regular butter trade. This trade is as yet in its infancy. It is capable of wide expansion if handled in the proper way. But any movement that would injure the reputation of Canadian butter, both at home and abroad, as those in the trade claim the manufacture of whey butter would, should be guarded against by our dairymen. At best the making of whey butter, even if largely practiced, would be only an insignificant side line, as compared with our cheese and butter trade. If it would in any way hamper the development of our regular lines of dairy products for which Canada has obtained an enviable reputation, its manufacture would be a loss rather than a gain to our dairymen. They should look into the whey butter question carefully before taking action and ask themselves: "Is the game worth the candle?"

DO NOT NEGLECT THE SOIL

Proper soil cultivation is of the greatest importance in securing good crops. It is poor business to sow good seed on badly prepared land. All land should be in the best condition of tilth possible before sowing. This helps in retaining the moisture in the soil; it aids the plant in obtaining nourishment, and in many ways ensures better crops.

Many farmers in a hurry to complete seeding operations give the land scant cultivating. This is a mistake.

It will pay to delay sowing several days, rather than have the seed put in, in unprepared land. A couple of days extra spent now in preparing the seed bed will be well worth while.

The future crop depends largely upon the start it gets in the spring time. Seed sown on well tilled land will germinate quicker, all things considered, and grow better, than the same quality of seed sown on land not thoroughly cultivated.

Do not, therefore, sow the seed until the land is ready for it. Do not begin cultivating the land before conditions are favorable for its cultivation. Soil cultivated when too wet will be lumpy. Wait until it dries off. It will work better and can be put into the fine tilth desired quicker.

DON'T USE FROZEN OATS FOR SEED

A great many oats from the Canadian Northwest are coming into Ontario for feeding purposes. A large percentage of these are frozen, and are quoted on the market as rejected. While just as valuable for feeding purposes as the good stuff they are of no use for seed. Some of them will not germinate more than 10 per cent.

Farmers should not attempt to use these oats for seed. If they were suitable for this purpose the Dominion government would not have to loan \$3,000,000 to the West to purchase seed oats and other grains this spring. Only seed of strong vitality should be sown. And to make sure that it is good make a germinating test.

Our editorial on "The associations and milk inspection," has brought a reply from the president and secretary of The Dairywomen's Association of Western Ontario. This is published elsewhere in this issue. In the editorial complained of, the Dairywomen's Associations were commended for having appointed officials to detect and prosecute patrons who water their milk. When we referred to the statement that there is no money in the milk inspection business, there was no intention to imply that the Dairywomen's Associations were trying to make a profit out of the work. Our thought was simply to point out that the revenue derived through fines, makes this work practically self-sustaining. The letter of the president of the Western Ontario Dairywomen's Association, published elsewhere in this issue, proves this to be the case. We have no desire to discourage this line of work, as long as it is necessary. The convictions that were secured last year show that it is necessary. There would be less need for it, however, were more of our factories to pay for their milk by the test.

The appointment of Mr. Justice Mayhew to succeed the late Chief Justice Killam, as chairman of the Railway Commission seems to meet with general approval. The increased powers recently given to the commission increased its responsibility to the public and to that extent the new head lies a more onerous task than his predecessor, though the adding of two new members as the Government propose doing, will doubtless relieve the situation somewhat.