

or continually fought at very great expense for all future time; and whereas, certain persons are urging that the gas treatment, which is effective in a tight box or building for nursery stock, might be used with effect upon trees; and whereas, the cost of such treatment would reach not less than 50 cents for full-grown plum trees, and \$2 to \$4 for full-grown apple trees, and not being quite effectual in a canvas tent would have to be repeated annually; therefore, we respectfully urge upon the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture to lose no time, but put at once the amended San Jose Scale Act in force most vigorously and thoroughly, with the result, we believe, of effectually stamping out the pest, allowing the commission lately appointed to take evidence as to the best course to pursue in the future; further, we strongly urge the fairness of granting a remuneration of about two-thirds value to the owners of trees that are condemned to be cut down, although not infested, on account of their contiguity to infested trees, these trees being cut down for the public benefit."

It will be for the San Jose Scale Commission, having heard the evidence advanced in support of both views, to decide which will be the better course to follow. Whatever course is decided upon when the report is presented, there should be no delay in putting it into practice and the law should be carried out no matter what the views of any particular section may be. If the "stamp-it-out" policy is the one recommended it should be put into operation at once for delay would be dangerous. Our fruit interests are of too great importance for inaction or delay no matter what policy is decided upon and the feature of the commission which strongly commends itself to us is that there has been no delay whatever in its getting to work, and if its report is presented and acted upon at the earliest possible moment so much the better.

American vs. Canadian Horses

The following extract from one of our American exchanges is full of meaning for Canadian horse breeders and farmers:

"A Liverpool importer of Canadian and American horses explains why the demand for Canadian horses has fallen off so much, while that for United States horses is increasing. The Canadian horses are poor in quality because the farmers persist in breeding to cheap sires, inferior and unsound, and they are in poor condition, while the American horses are well selected and in prime condition. We think the Canadians do raise some fine horses, but their country to select from is much more limited, and our range of five hundred miles each way from Chicago, with several millions to select from, has kept up our supply; but the American dealers go out and select the best horses and fatten them up for market for three, six or eight months, and this accounts for our horses being in better condition, although our farmers generally sell their horses in thin condition to the dealer, and generally they are without training or education; the shipper must and does sell the horses at a good profit in order to pay expenses."

While it is sometimes "galling" to have others tell us of the fact, nevertheless the fact remains that there are a great many Canadian horses of poor quality. While Canada can boast of some as fine horses of nearly every breed as can be found anywhere, as a visit to the spring horse show or to the fall fair will show, yet it is only too true that there are a great many inferior animals throughout the country, and the intending purchaser, looking for good horses, is the one to find it out.

But there is a reason for this condition of things, and it lies just where our contemporary says it lies, namely, in the fact that many of our farmers persist in breeding to cheap, inferior and unsound sires. This has been the condition of affairs during the past few years, with the result that we

are over-stocked with inferior and unsound horses. There are signs, however, of a re-action in this respect, and we believe that the next five years will witness a marked improvement in the quality of the general run of horses produced in Canada.

As we have frequently pointed out in these columns, it will pay our farmers to give more attention to the class of sires they use on their breeding mares. If the mare is of a fairly good type there is everything to be gained by using only the best kind of sire. While, on the other hand, if an inferior sire is used, no improvement is made and the offspring will, ten chances to one, be very much inferior to its parents. Then the high price that a good horse will sell for, as compared with a poor one, makes it necessary that only the best animals should be used if horse-breeding is to be made to pay. The cost of raising a good horse well is no more than for a poor one, hence the necessity of having the foundation stock right.

A New Feature in Institute Work

The Farmers' Institute system of the State of Illinois has inaugurated what is known as a forward movement in this line of work. It is to secure the co-operation of every school teacher, school superintendent, and the women of the State in holding meetings during the winter at as many country school-houses as possible. These meetings will consist of one day each, and will be divided as follows: The morning session will be devoted to topics of special interest to men; the afternoon to be taken by the women, and the evening reserved for the young people. The interest of the rising generation will be enlisted by offering prize essay contests in each school on some subject connected with farm life, and the best essays written by a boy or girl respectively will be read at the evening session of the institute.

This seems like a move in the right direction, and will certainly serve the purpose of getting all classes in the community interested in the work. Something of this nature might be added to the good work which our Ontario institutes are doing. The more we can get the rising generation interested in the work the better.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Smooth Wire Fence All that is Needed

To the Editor of FARMING:

In reply to yours of June 9th:

(1) Large cedar logs with cross bunks are mostly used, but are being rapidly replaced by smooth wire with cross-bars—many sorts.

(2) The smooth wire, with plenty of cross bars, meets all the requirements of the farm fence.

(3) The snow does not drift in this section of country as it does in many others. After every snow-storm we roll the roads with a common land roller, which makes an excellent road.

(4) Every farmer should fence along the roadway, also his fields should be fenced in blocks to suit the amount of stock he keeps for pasturing.

This plain wire fencing can be made to keep in pigs large or small, also sheep, and will keep out dogs. It also makes a splendid horse or cattle fence.

J. FIXTER,

Foreman Central Experimental Farm.

Ottawa, Ont., June 15th, 1899.