

breeding plot of Compton's Early. This year, compared with last year, it was showing a decided improvement in growth and amount of ears. Mr. Hutton was going to take up bean improvement in a similar way, and this in a section where the seed for hoe crops is usually brought from outside points, excepting potatoes.

Mr. Trinder, Norfolk Co., had a plot of eight rows of corn across the field alongside of his other corn, and which was given the same cultivation and was the same variety, only the corn on the eight rows was selected as the very best out of the seed corn he had saved. He said he could scarcely have believed it would have made so much difference, but he had noticed that the eight rows had done better from the very first, and, only for the very dry weather, it gave promise of a good yield of corn.

Mr. Paye, St. Catharines, had a breeding plot, at one side of which stood rather a large tree. It did not take half an eye to see the effect of that tree, especially this year, on his breeding plot. For fully a rod or more in all directions it had been draining the soil of moisture, until the corn had become very stunted and sickly. No breeding plots should be handicapped in that way if it could be avoided.

In Mr. J. W. Clark's plot, in Brant Co., an interesting lesson was taught in the effect of a heavy rain on the mechanical condition of the soil at the time of planting. The plot had been fully prepared, and half the plot had been planted when the rain stopped them. As soon as the clay soil had dried enough, in three of four days, the rest was planted. Afterwards the same cultivation was given. The first-planted corn was much better in growth and promise of ear, and I have since learned that it turned out so in the crop.

Still another corn plot, Mr. Vansickle's, in the Grand River Valley, afforded a valuable lesson in the prevalence of smut and its distribution. In his corn plot of Whitecap Dent, which was on light, sandy, rich soil, a great deal of corn smut or bunt existed in both the tassel and ear, and affected even some of the joints of the stalk. In a field of 22 acres, on the other side of his barn buildings, was his silage-corn field, planted with his improved seed of the previous year, and with the same variety. There was a variation of soil in this field, and one could trace it by the prevalence of smut. On the heaviest soil the corn was comparatively free from smut, on the clay loams a little more, and on the sandy loam similar to the soil of the breeding plot it luxuriated. Whether it was due to the corn naturally going deeper in the loose loamy soil or not, I could not conclude, but the conditions were there as I have described them.

The visiting of other plots was very interesting, but the lessons, such as I have enumerated above, were not quite so striking. The general effects of good cultivation, with a plentiful supply of ready-available plant food, of course, was frequently noted.

I am more than ever convinced that it will pay farmers to take a little extra time, if necessary, to improve the quality and yields of their field crops according to the methods outlined by the Canadian Seed-growers' Association.

T. G. RAYNOR,

Ontario Representative of Seed Branch, Dept. Agriculture.

The Exportation of Electricity.

An important bill to regulate the exportation of electric power, also such fluids as petroleum and natural gas, is to be introduced for the consideration of Parliament at an early date by the Hon. Mr. Aylesworth, Minister of Justice. By the bill no person shall export any power or fluid without a license, distinctly specifying the amount to be exported. Persons engaged in the lawful exportation of power or fluid prior to the passing of the act shall not, however, be subject to its provisions until three months after it has gone into force, it being stipulated that their exportation during this period shall not exceed the amount they were exporting before the act was passed. All licenses granted by the Minister shall be revocable as he sees fit, and any license may provide that the quantity to be exported shall be limited to the surplus after the customers of the licensees in Canada have been supplied to the extent defined by the license, and in accordance with the conditions prescribed by the Governor-in-Council.

For infringement of the act a penalty of not less than \$1,000, and not more than \$5,000, for each day in which the act was violated shall be imposed, together with the forfeiture of any line or pipe which may have been laid for exportation purposes without license for construction.

It also lies with the Governor-in-Council to impose duties, not exceeding \$10 per horse-power, upon power exported from Canada, and to grant exemption from the payment of such duties to such persons as comply with the direction of the Minister with regard to the quantity of power or fluid to be supplied for distribution to customers for use in Canada.

Effect of Sheep on Pastures.

"That sheep crop pastures too closely and foul it for other stock," was the subject of an address by H. S. Arkell, O. A. C., Guelph, at the Ontario Winter Fair.

The subject that is assigned me, said Mr. Arkell in opening, is rather a difficult one to deal with. It recalls the warfare that used to exist between the sheep-herders and the cowboys of the Western ranches. The cowboys were accustomed to accuse the sheep men of leading their flocks to the best pasture on the ranches, making it practically useless for the cattle that they followed, and we have read of how the cowboys drove their horses through the flocks of sheep, killing them right and left, and sometimes drove them over a precipice.

Some time ago sheep were kept in large numbers in Eastern Ontario, but now they have given place to dairy cattle. Travelling through there, I asked the farmers how it was they had given up sheep, and they said they could not manage dairy cattle and sheep at the same time.

There are two cases, probably, where the sheep may be accused of cropping the pasture too closely. I do not know that the sheep are any more to blame than the other class of stock. I think that the fault lies with the farmer most, in turning out animals too early in the spring, before the pastures have had a chance to get well started, and to get so firmly established that the animals do not injure it by tramping over it. If the animals were retained in the stable for a couple of weeks longer, you would have far less trouble.

We aim to get the sheep out in the spring as early as possible, and we usually put them in some pasture where we do not mind injury to the grass. Another case where the sheep will make use of the pasture, at the expense of the other stock, is where the farm is overstocked. Sheep crop the pasture a little too closely, and leave little for the other stock, and, therefore, I think we should aim to keep the number of animals that the farm will maintain throughout the year. It is best to keep sheep moving from one pasture to another. During June we find little trouble, because it is the time when pastures are most luxuriant. When it goes to the latter part of July, we find that the pastures have failed a little bit, and then we must look around for something to supplement what we have provided for them, and our practice is to let them on the second growth of clover. We cut clover early enough, so that the lambs can go immediately into the second growth.

We do not let them run over the whole field; we run a line of hurdles across the field and divide it in that way, but on half of the ten-acre field we can run a number of lambs. If the lambs have been weaned, the ewes will do best on the dry pasture. We like to check their milk flow as soon as possible. Ewes do not need a great deal of feed for a month or two after the lambs have been weaned, and we allow them to run on the stubble, or any place where they can pick up weeds, and that is the time when the ewe flock on the farm do most for the farmer by eating down the weeds. We plant a field of rape about the middle of June, so as to have the rape for the fall pasture for the lambs; that will keep them in good health, and there will be less danger from disease.

There are two or three things that farmers might keep in mind in sheep management. First of all, that sheep do assist the farmer in clearing his ground of weeds, and, therefore, a few sheep should be kept on their farms. Another point is, that we must not overstock the farm with any class of animals, and we must, if possible, keep the number of sheep on the farm relative to the amount of land we have. We do not keep sheep on the same old pasture year after year, because, if they are so kept, they will develop disease. You should keep them moving as much as possible, and every two or three years have them on a different part of the farm. Clover is best for the lambs, and rape pasture in the fall.

Q.—Did you ever try sowing rape with the spring grain?

A.—We have done that, but discarded the practice, because it was more difficult to cure the grain. Shoots of the rape appeared in the sheaves, and we did not find that the growth of rape paid for the trouble that was taken in sowing, and the lambs rubbed the wool off their necks badly in the stubble, and that spoiled the looks of the lambs.

Q.—What would be a good profit on 14 or 15 sheep?

A.—A good average is 6 to 7 pounds of wool. You will get from 16c. to 18c. a pound for the wool—that will be \$1.50—you should average \$5.00 for the lamb, that makes \$7.50, and \$1.50 more makes \$9.00, and you should get fairly within that figure every year.

Q.—When you sell your lambs for the Easter trade, have you any trouble with the ewes getting too fat, and not breeding the next year?

A.—Sometimes they become overfat, and do not breed; ewes forward in condition we breed earlier.

Q.—Don't you think it is better to breed with an aged male?

A.—Certainly, if you can pay the price for the aged male, but I think with a small flock of ewes you will get very good results from a lamb.

Q.—Your lambs won't be so strong as from a four-year-old?

A.—Not quite perhaps, but the question is, whether it may not be just as profitable when you have a small flock to use a lamb.

Owners of the Land.

The man who stands upon his own soil, who feels that, by the law of the land in which he lives, he is the rightful and exclusive owner of the land which he tills, feels more strongly than another the character of a man as the lord of an inanimate world. Of this great and wonderful sphere, which, fashioned by the hand of God, and upheld by His power, is rolling through the heavens, a part is his—his from the center to the sky! It is the space on which the generation before moved in its round of duties, and he feels himself connected by a visible link with those who follow him, and to whom he is to transmit a home.

Perhaps his farm has come down to him from his fathers. They have gone to their last home; but he can trace their footsteps over the scenes of his daily labors. The roof which shelters him was reared by those to whom he owes his being. Some interesting domestic tradition is connected with every inclosure. The favorite fruit tree was planted by his father's hand. He sported in boyhood beside the brook which still winds through the meadow. Through the field lies the path to the village school of earlier days. He still hears from the window the voice of the Sabbath bell, which calls his fathers to the house of God; near at hand is the spot where his parents lay down to rest, and where, when his time has come, he shall be laid by his children.

These are the feelings of the owners of the soil. Words cannot paint them—gold cannot buy them; they flow out of the deepest fountains of the heart; they are the very life-springs of a fresh, healthy and generous national character.

EDWARD EVERETT.

Insurance Against Loss Through Dogs.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

From time to time there are articles appearing in your valuable paper regarding sheep and their protection from dogs, and in your last issue there is quite a lengthy article, being part of a lecture given by Mr. John Campbell at the late Winter Fair held in Guelph. In reading those different articles one cannot fail to see that the prevailing idea is that dogs should be taxed, and that said taxes should be used as a fund to pay in whole or in part for sheep killed or worried by dogs.

I may say that I fully agree with the idea that dogs should be taxed, as that will help to limit the number of dogs kept, but as to the idea of using said taxes to pay for sheep destroyed by dogs, I wholly disagree, on account of its unfairness. In following such a course, everyone keeping a dog pays into the fund the same amount, irrespective of the number of sheep that each may possess. Now I ask, is it fair that a man owning, say, fifty sheep, should have them insured for the same amount as the man that owns perhaps only five, or, it may be, none? Quite a few of my neighbors have no sheep, but they have a dog, and of course would be paying as much into the fund as the man who might own one hundred sheep or more. My plan (to put it in as few words as possible) would be to tax one dog \$1.00; if more than one is kept, double for every extra dog; let the taxes for dogs go into the general fund of the municipality, and start an insurance company for our sheep, and let each one who becomes a member of said company, if any loss occurs to any member, contribute to said loss in proportion to the amount that he or she has insured. In my opinion it is very unfair that a man who has no sheep should be expected, nay, more, forced, to pay into a fund from which he would derive no benefit.

Wishing your valuable paper all success, and hoping this may encourage further discussion.

Wellington Co., Ont.

ALEX. McCAIG.

Live-stock Association Secretaryships.

The death of the late Henry Wade will ere long involve several changes in the secretaryship of a number of live-stock organizations. As a temporary arrangement, Mr. A. P. Westervelt, Director of the Live-stock Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, has been appointed Acting Secretary-Treasurer of the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association. He is also acting in the same capacity for the Clydesdale Breeders' Association, in order to facilitate matters in connection with these associations until they have an opportunity to make permanent appointments. The suggestion has been made that these associations may appoint some person, possibly interested in the breed, to act as secretary, while details in connection with the memberships can be dealt with in the National Record Office, together with the records. This would relieve the secretary of much detail work, and whatever time would be at his disposal would be devoted to pushing the interests of the breed.

As already announced in these columns, Mr. G. de W. Green has been appointed Secretary of the Canadian Horsemen's Association, previously known as the Canadian Horse Breeders' Association, of which Mr. Wade was Secretary. A new Ontario Horse Breeders' Association has been organized, under the act passed at the last session of the Legislature, of which Mr. Westervelt has been appointed Secretary-Treasurer. We are not aware that any arrangement has been made regarding the smaller associations of which Mr. Wade was Secretary. These, as well as those of the Shorthorn and Clydesdale Associations, will probably be arranged at the time of their annual meetings.