

FEB.



The Canadian Thresherman and Farmer

CANADA'S FARM MACHINERY MAGAZINE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
E. H. HEATH COMPANY
LIMITED

WINNIPEG - CANADA

Members Western Canada Press
Association

Authorized by the Postmaster General,
Ottawa, Canada, for transmission as
Second Class Matter.



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"Everything begins and ends with the soil."

1910



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Postage prepaid,
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Advertising copy in
order to secure good
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month preceding date
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Advertising rate
furnished on applica-
tion.

IN another place in this issue will be found an article by Mr. A. O. Fox on the Standardization of Farm Machinery. Mr. Fox is an authority when it comes to farm machinery, having passed through the positions of a successful farmer and a successful manufacturer. He therefore, knows both sides of the proposition.

There is more to this Standardization of Farm machinery than what appears upon the surface. The farmer today who goes out to purchase an equipment of farm implements is confronted with the most mystifying proposition imaginable. He sees plows and harrows and drills and all sorts of implements in all sorts of shapes and styles and unless he has studied the subject pretty carefully he is quite likely to become very much confused when it comes to buying the proper implement.

There are no standards to which he can tie. If a farmer buys a bushel of wheat today he buys it by grade and knows just what he is getting, but when he buys a farm implement he has absolutely no idea of whether or not it conforms to any standard that he may rely upon. It is true that most of the older manufacturers have established standards for themselves and upon these standards they have built their reputation, but new implements are being put upon the market by new concerns every day and the farmer in the majority of cases is used as the experimental to determine whether or not these implements will do the work that they were designed for.

The American Society of Agricultural Engineers has started out to establish a set of standards for farm implements. It is a long and tedious task which may take years to perfect, but it is something in which the farmer is or should be vitally interested.

Beginning the latter part of January and extending well on into March the different provinces will hold a series of Winter Fairs. These Winter Fairs are becoming quite a popular thing and when combined with Fat Stock Shows furnish expositions that in a great many cases do not have to take off its hat to our Mid-summer Fairs. There is, of course, not the dash and the flaunting of colors that there is in the Summer Fair, but they come in at the time when the farmer's mind is easy, when he is troubled by few of the cares of farm work and when he is in a position to grasp things in their wider sense.

The Winter Fair at Regina, the short course at the Manitoba Agricultural College, the Manitoba Winter Fair and Fat Stock Show and the Alberta Fat Stock Show are all things that each and every farmer who is within a reasonable travelling distance should take advantage of. These Winter Fairs are gotten up for him alone and upon his attendance depends their success.

There are a great many farms in this country, but the ideal farm is yet to be. Look the different provinces over; in almost any one of these one might pick out more than one farm home, the possession of which as he thinks of it now, would make him supremely happy, and yet there are better things in store for the farmers of Western Canada than any yet know.

What will these farms be like when we reach them? These farms will have good comfortable buildings for man and beast. They will be equipped with all modern improvements for the enjoyment of those who occupy them and for the performance of the work to be done in them. They will have good fences, meadows and pastures free from weeds and bearing the best possible crops. They will yield a fair rate of profit on the money invested in them; but none of these things, nor all of them, will make them ideal farms. Money will not give us the best farm, neither will extended acreage or great crops. What then will the ideal farm be?

The ideal farm will have all we have described above and more. It will be a farm on which every creature is happy because he, she or it is doing the very best possible; not merely the best as a money getter, not alone because every thing heart could wish for is at hand, but because there is peace in the soul. That is what makes any man successful in the highest sense of the word and nothing else will. To feel that one is filling just the right place in life, that he is a true and faithful citizen, but his boys and girls are coming up to be men

and women respected and loved, that he is making the most of himself and his family and lifting at the wheel of the life above him: this makes the ideal farmer and his home cannot help being the ideal farm.

This farm is going to be with us some day. It is on its way now, and The Canadian Thresherman and Farmer hopes to help bring that ideal state of things to pass. It should be the ambition of every farmer to hasten its coming and in the hastening remember the big farmer is not necessarily the one who owns a big farm, but the one who thinks big thoughts, plans big things and does them.

One of the worst things the farmers of this country have to contend with is weeds. In both our January and February issues we have given quite a lengthy discussion of farm weeds and we trust that our readers will read these articles carefully. They were prepared under the direction of Government Experts and they contain a great deal of information regarding weeds and their extermination.

It seems to be almost impossible at the present time to get pure seed. No matter how careful the farmer is about buying, pay as high a price as he will, he will find that after he has sown the seeds and it has come up, he has scattered his farm over a little more thickly with foul stuff that is fit for no animal to eat, and which will make his future farm operations so much the harder.

Most of the provinces have laws of one sort or another governing weeds, but who ever heard of these laws being rigidly enforced? The nearest we ever come to it is when once a year or so the brush and stuff are cut along the side of the road. What a bit of nonsense that is, when upon looking over the fence we see acres and acres of weeds going to seed.

But what can we do to put a stop to this imposition of seed business to the farmers of this country. In the first place, it ought to be a serious offence for any man or firm to send out seed which has weed seed in it. This is no reflection upon the various seed concerns doing business in this country as they themselves are often fooled. All seed houses should be compelled to put in machinery of the best approved pattern to take the foul stuff out of the seed they handle. This can be done, for some houses are already putting upon the market seed that is practically clean and free from adulteration. With such a law in effect there should be a severe penalty for such a firm that sends out unclean seed and no farmer should buy seed from a seed house unless on an absolute guarantee to the effect that if the seed contains adulteration the seed house or farmer, which furnishes it for him, should pay for the damages occasioned by the weeds that grow of these seeds on his farm and then farmers ought to be ready, and most of them would be ready, to pay well for the sake of procuring seed free from weeds.

One thing which has kept the dealers in impure seed in business is from the fact that so many farmers have been short-sighted enough to think they are saving money by buying cheap seed. That is the most foolish and costly thing that he can do. The best is always not only the cheapest, but it is the only thing worth paying money for.

The farmers have it in their power of bringing about all these changes. Why not enter on a campaign to do it.

What is the farmer's most valuable asset? Money, no; the farm, no; stock, tools, timber, family, no. These are all good and valuable but the most valuable asset the farmer has is his health. That gone, he is done. His days of usefulness are over, so a word of advice is offered today when the farmers of this country are coming face to face with the real hard work of the season.

Don't be in a hurry, work hard, make things move, but don't wear yourself out by hurrying. Dry axels are bad on wagons, mowers and on all kinds of machines; not less so on human bodies chafed with haste.

Then keep from worrying. Worry is worse than hurry. It puts grit in the bearings of the machinery and cuts the steel of life out without giving any return. If you must worry put it off till tomorrow and do your worrying then.

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