

FARM.

The War with Weeds.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Mr. Editor,—Perhaps few parts of Ontario excel rural East Middlesex in beauty of landscape in the balmy days of summer. The forest mantled in full foliage, orchards and wayside maples in holiday attire, seem to greet the traveller with a welcome as he passes by, while fantastically-trimmed evergreens, with floral beauties in gorgeous array, adorn the lawns in front of many a spacious farm dwelling, which, together with the new commodious barn in bold relief, indicate health, wealth, and the abode of a happy and contented people. If "hills o' heather braes o' braken, Howe's whar rows the gowden wave," be absent from the scene, eliminating romance, it is fully made up for by fields of waving grain, rich pastures, and herds of splendid dairy cows grazing contentedly.

We might ask the question: Is this picture complete? Is there no possible improvement that would add still to the beauty and utility of the landscape? We might answer the question, yes and no. An artist would depict the scene as near to nature as possible. The many noxious weeds that infest our roadsides, fields, fence-corners and woods, would be subject to his camera or brush as well as the favored beauties of lawn and garden. From the standpoint of the true and tasteful farmer, whose practical mind loves beauty and worth combined, the presence of noxious weeds, that cause him so much loss in capital and labor, is repulsive, and he would rather eliminate the weeds.

The results from the examination of samples of clover and grass seeds sold to farmers by dealers, as told in a recent issue of the "Farmer's Advocate," reveals a state of things so deplorable that it is marvellous that farms, as a rule, are as clean as they are.

In the rich, loamy lands of East Middlesex little clover or timothy seed is raised. Being almost exclusively a dairy district, great value is placed upon the clover crop for hay and the rich aftermath for pasture; consequently, the farmers of this part of the Province are almost wholly dependent on seed dealers for their supply. As a rule, the average farmer is not conversant with the family or order or scientific names of weeds; in fact, he is not well up in the common names of weeds that he knows well by sight, and to his loss. A few farmers are prone to purchase the cheapest seed, thinking they are saving money. This is a penny-wise-and-pound-foolish policy.

It is certainly imperative that farmers make a greater effort to get rid of weeds and keeping rid of them than they have been doing. The weed question, like prohibition, is a great question and a vexed one. There is an ethical curiosity involved in it not easy to explain. Why should men of good common sense, who are quite logical in other departments of business, need a statute to compel them to perform an act so much to their own benefit as the prevention of weeds seeding. The very idea of 400,000 weed seeds sown on an acre is astounding; 4,000,000 on a ten-acre field is sufficient cause to awaken a new era in producing clean seed. I would suggest that certain farms be selected and set apart and placed under the control of the agricultural department of the Provincial Government, for the exclusive purpose of raising pure clover and grass seeds, to be supplied to farmers at cost price.

I think, however, that the most practical means of getting rid of the weed nuisance is by the vigilance of farmers themselves. If they do not and will not realize the benefit of extirpating weeds, it is not only to their own loss as individual farmers, but a serious loss to the country at large. It is an incontrovertible fact that where weeds grow, no useful plant can occupy the same place. I do not mean to insinuate that all Ontario farmers, or even a majority of them, are supine in regard to keeping down weeds, but many are discouraged by the utter carelessness of their neighbors. Experience of many years has taught me that if the roads are not kept clean, the farms cannot be kept even moderately clean, except at the expenditure of vast labor and expense. A careful farmer may toil a lifetime and be little benefited by his labor when the roads and surrounding farms are a nursery of weeds. A farmer may vote Conservative or he may vote Grit, and boast of his loyalty, but his good citizenship is evinced by his fields and the roadsides along his farm. I have heard of men who would do little for good if the devil were dead, and the public roads and many farms in East Middlesex indicate that many farmers are in the same category.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

OLD FARMER.

Pea Weevil and Ox-eye Daisy.

In reply to your request in the "Farmer's Advocate" in regard to insects and weeds, would say that I think the pea weevil is the worst insect and is increasing in our district, with no effective remedy. I also think the ox-eye daisy is a most terrible weed, the worst we have to contend with, and no remedy, to my knowledge. I would like to know some way of cleaning it out of one of my fields. What can your readers suggest as a result of their experience?

Hastings Co., Ont.

W. G. WRIGHT.

Clover Midge Does Damage.

A great deal of complaint is heard from different quarters concerning the ravages of the clover seed midge (*Cecidomyia leguminicola*). This tiny little pest usually attacks the first crop, and renders it unfit for seed, but on account of the heavy rainfall during the early part of this summer, the progress of the insect was retarded. For the same reason the clover blossoms were not properly fertilized by the bumblebees and breezes, the consequence being a light crop of seed. Heretofore most farmers who aimed to produce red clover seed profitably have practised cutting early or pasturing for a time, and relying upon the second crop. Owing to the rapid growth this season after cutting for hay, several fields which ordinarily would have been pastured were left for seed, but the midge, unsatisfied, as in other years, with the early blossoms, comes on again, and has destroyed the second crop. In Peel Co., it is said, very little seed will be threshed, and from other sources come similar tidings. These insects pass the winter just below the surface, among the roots. As a means of ridding an affected area, fall plowing, or plowing just after cutting, and planting some crop the next year which admits of frequent stirring, is recommended by the best authorities.

Worst Insects and Weeds in Simcoe County.

In answer to your invitation of last issue of the "Farmer's Advocate," I will mention a few of our most troublesome insects and weeds:

First: Insects.—The codling moth, the horn fly and pea bug are our worst. Bandaging the trees is the only remedy tried here with any degree of success for the codling moth. There has been no successful remedy tried here for the horn fly, and as for the pea bug, the only remedy that has been tried is to stop growing peas.

Second: Weeds.—The weeds that are most dangerous in this locality are mustard, quack grass, ragweed, sour dock and wild carrots.

The successful methods for destroying these weeds here are: for mustard, pulling by hand; quack grass, plenty of cultivation in a dry time; dock and carrots, cutting or pulling so as to keep them from seeding for a few years. I know of no particular method being tried for ragweed.

Simcoe Co., Ont.

JAMES MALCOLM.

POULTRY.

Poultry at the Toronto Show.

The exhibit of poultry this year at the Industrial equaled, and in some classes far excelled any previous years, and we have never seen the birds in better plumage at a fall show. There were 3,939 entries of fowls, pigeons and pet stock. The number and quality of Plymouth Rocks, especially of the barred variety, was something grand, showing that the utility fowls are still to the front, and that the demand for both the Rock and the Wyandotte by the Canadian farmer is steadily increasing. The show of the Mediterranean classes was also very fine, and the different breeds of Leghorns, Minorcas, etc., cannot be surpassed as egg producers.

The exhibit of turkeys was not as large as we have seen, but some fine specimens of both Bronze and White were shown. A pair of young Bronze, shown by Ford, of Drumquin, were much admired, and also some very fine White specimens shown by W. H. Beattie, of Wilton Grove. McDougall, of Milton, had a magnificent specimen of a bronze hue, which deservedly got the red ticket. W. E. Wright, of Glanworth, had some very fine birds also, in any other variety class. Beattie, Luxton and Alexander were the principal exhibitors. In one coop of young Bronze we saw two very fine birds, but it struck us very forcibly, instead of a cockerel and pullet, as was intended by the exhibitor, there were two cockerels, but the judge, no doubt, saw it also.

The exhibit of geese and ducks was immense. The Bremen geese I never saw finer or in better plumage, white as snow, some of them. In this class, Colwell, Paris Station, and McDougall, Milton, carried off the bulk of the prizes. The Toulouse were also very fine. Bogue, of London, Colwell and W. C. Hodgson were the leading exhibitors. In Chinese geese, Colwell, Burn (Tilsonburg) and Luxton carried off the bulk of the prizes. Some of the finest geese we have ever seen, and which carried off the first prize at the Winter Fair at Guelph two years ago, were a cross between the Chinese and the Toulouse, shown by a Mr. Buchanan, Gourrock. They weighed, when dressed, 36 lbs. a pair.

In Pekin ducks, Bogue, of London, got the red ticket for both duck and drake. Colwell had heavier birds, but not in such good feather. E. H. Brown, Elora, had some good birds, also Mrs. W. E. H. Massey, Coleman P. O. Bogue and Colwell had some fine Aylesburys. The Rouen drakes were not in their usual elegant plumage, but some good specimens were shown by Colwell and Teale, of Guelph. Teale had some fine Cayuga ducks, also Hodgson, Myrtle, and Knight, of Guelph. For a table bird the Cayuga excels all others, so the breeders say. Any other variety ducks were shown by Coulson, Guelph; Farminger, St. Catharines, and Burn, Tilsonburg. The Indian Runner is a new variety, but is claimed to be an excellent layer and a grand table bird.

There was a good display of the grand old Light Brahma. Geo. A. Tosey, Hamilton, had some fine

birds and in good feather. Thorp and Scott, London, and Cameron, Brantford, had some good ones, and Wm. Walker, Guelph, got second prize for a very fine hen. The exhibit of Dark Brahmas was small. Thorp and Scott, Sage and Hayhurst carried off the prizes. The Cochin class was large and good. In Buffs, Hugh Wyatt and Stewart, of London, had the best. In Partridge, Oke, London, and Allan Bogue, Woodbank, were the prize-takers. In White Cochins, Latta Bros. were the only exhibitors. In Black Cochins, Latta Bros. carried the red tickets. There were some fine specimens of the old Dorking, and for a table fowl none be beat. John McNeil, London; Stewart & Son, Menie; I. Burrows & Son, Agincourt, and Bogue, London, carried off the red tickets. In White and Black Langshans, Teale, of Guelph, and McCurdy, London, had the finest specimens. The Orpingtons were good, and seem to be coming into favor, both as layers and good table fowls. J. R. Dunn & Co., Emery, and Farminger, St. Catharines, had good ones, also F. A. Powell, East Toronto. In Black Javas, Oke, Bogue and J. R. Dennis & Co. carried off everything. The White Wyandotte was next in numbers to the Barred Plymouth Rock, and a fine fowl they are for either eggs or table. L. H. Baldwin, Deer Park; T. F. Kingsmill, jr., R. B. Millard & Son and Kettlewell, London, had fine specimens of this breed. In Golden and Silver-laced Wyandottes, J. A. Carroll, Wray Bros., Barr, of Woodstock, and James Arthur, London (in Silver), carried off the prizes. The Barred Rocks were very fine specimens. Millard, McCosh & Co., and McKay, Hamilton, had bulk of the prizes. T. Rice, Whitby, had also some good birds. W. E. Wright, Glanworth, showed some very fine Red Caps, and G. W. Kinder, Strathroy, also Dennis & Co., Emery, had good specimens. The Black Minorcas were shown by J. H. Minthart, Brantford, and W. Fullerton, Toronto. Geo. Cook, Midland, had some good ones. The show of Black Spanish was small. Bogue, Strathroy, had the principal exhibit. The show of Games was good. Barber, of Toronto, seemed to have the bulk of the prizes. The Polands were a large class. Messrs. Bogue, McNeil and Oke were the leading exhibitors.

There was the largest show of canaries ever seen in Toronto. H. McKennan, Toronto, showed a very fine thrush, and J. W. Dutton a grand specimen of an English magpie. Mr. Donovan had English pheasants, also Golden and Silver Mandarin ducks, also some fine specimens of quail.

The dressed poultry and eggs were shown in the Dairy Building, and made an excellent display. W. J. Alexander, Ashgrove, got first for best dozen white eggs; also, Miss J. Campbell, Snelgrove, for dozen brown eggs; Miss J. Campbell, dozen Asiatics; Minnie Colwell, Paris, dozen Plymouth Rocks or Wyandottes; Mrs. Alexander, Ashgrove, and A. McDougall, Milton. The Daniels Incubator was much admired, three of them being in operation. There were four others, but not at work. Messrs. Jarvis, Butterfield and Sweet were the judges for fowls, etc.; Wagner and Johnston in pigeons and pet stock.

Fattening Chickens at the O. A. C.

Prof. Graham, of the Experimental Farm, Guelph, is fattening chickens on quite a large scale this fall. At present, the crates contain about 400, which are being finished for the Montreal market. While the ration has varied somewhat, according to the cost of the different materials, it has in general been as follows: 60 parts fine ground oats, 15 each of barley and corn meal, and 10 of bran. These have been mixed with water and fed with the crammer. From ten to fourteen days is generally sufficient to finish the stock purchased from farmers; but although these birds when brought in are worth eight cents per pound live weight, after being properly fattened, dressed and packed, thirteen is realized. This should be sufficient to convince anyone who has chickens roaming about the barnyard, of the necessity of at once placing all young members of the feathered family within crates or in pens, and aiming to realize on this year's hatch. All experiments with feeding in crates as compared with running in yards have demonstrated the folly of the latter. No person can secure the profits which to them belong unless the most up-to-date practices are observed in feeding.

Prof. Graham has just concluded a test of feeding all boiled food as against a ration wholly raw. Rolled oats, ground barley and corn were used. After feeding for a time those on the boiled food became deranged in their digestion, and had to be sold for what they would bring on the market. At the same time those on raw food went on and were fattened quite satisfactorily. Experiments have also been conducted to secure, if possible, some substitute for milk in mixing the meal, but so far no equivalent has been found. The nearest approach has been green rape, or a ten per cent. addition of animal meal.

October's Opportunity.

Thousands of "Farmer's Advocate" readers live far from cities and towns. These and others will welcome the offer of the T. Eaton Co., Toronto, Ont., elsewhere in this issue. The splendid reputation of that immense concern is pledged to the excellence of the \$9.85 watch they offer during October only. Read their statement and act promptly.