

The Farming World

and The Home

VOL. XXVI.

TORONTO, 15 MARCH, 1907.

No. 6.

The Spring Time

THE spring time is the busy time. When the snow disappears and the frost comes out of the ground, then the rush on the farm begins. The fields must be cultivated and put in shape for the seed, and the seed must be selected and put in shape for the soil. All this means work and the employment of every hour to the very best advantage. Before this stage has been reached, however, the skilful farmer will have selected his seed and will know what he will sow and where he will sow it. As to cultivation, no matter how urgent the work may be, it should be well and carefully done. It is a sheer waste of time and money to put good, clean, plump seed into poorly tilled and poorly prepared land. Better be a few days late in finishing seeding and have the work well done.

Spraying Co-operation and Cold Storage

The question of spraying was never of more importance to the farmer and fruit grower than it is to-day. Good salable fruit cannot be grown unless spraying is practiced regularly. The first application should be made before the buds start, and followed up at regular intervals during the season. It will pay every orchardist to do this. Why grow fruit at all, if when ripe it is worm-eaten and blighted by the ravages of some insect pest?

To the large fruit grower, or the one who makes fruit culture more or less of a specialty, no particular urging to spray is needed. He knows that if he does not spray his trees regularly his fruit crop will be of very inferior quality and a large portion of it practically unsaleable. He, therefore, sprays as a matter of business, and makes it part of the necessary work in connection with the care of his orchard. With the farmer to whom fruit growing is more or less of a side line, the question of spraying does not appeal with such force. A spraying outfit costs money, and it takes time to do the work of spraying properly, and as he has in the past made little or nothing from his trees, he is not easily convinced of the need of this work. And the ground he takes is, perhaps, not at all unreasonable, though, if an orchard is kept, whether large or small, it should be kept in such a way as to produce only good, clean fruit. Spraying is just as much a part of the work of orcharding as pruning and cultivating, and should be done regularly.

For the farmer, the co-operative movement in fruit growing furnishes a splendid means for getting his spray-

ing done cheaply and effectively. A power sprayer owned by a co-operative society can do the work of spraying in a large number of small orchards. Then, in addition, a co-operative society enables the grower not only to spray, but also to pack and market his fruit in the cheapest and best way. A uniform pack in one district of uniform quality of fruit will attract the buyer and get from him the highest market price.

This spraying question, however, has been given additional importance by the cold storage legislation recently passed at Ottawa. This legislation provides for a substantial bonus to any party or parties erecting cold storage warehouses in accordance with Government plans. The aim of this cold storage movement is to preserve perishable food products such as fruit for market and to regulate the supply so that the market

to-day produces eighteen per cent. per acre more than it did ten years ago. This statement evidently refers to the total output of our farms, including dairy and hog products, and not to any increase in the average product of the cultivated land itself, for a reference to the crop statistics for the past ten years shows that there has been but very little increase in yield on the average per acre in any of our crops. We have gained undoubtedly in the past ten years, but only because we have marketed our product in a manufactured condition, through the cow and the hog, instead of, as formerly, in its raw state, as grain or hay.

That we are not producing as much as is possible, or even anything near it, becomes quite evident when we compare the magnificent results attained by Prof. Zavitz himself with those attained by the average farmer under conditions which are common to both and that we are behind the most advanced agricultural countries is shown by a comparison of the average product of our land under all classes of cereals, with that of Great Britain or Germany. There is no good reason why this state of things should continue, for there is nothing in our soil, nor in our climatic conditions, to prevent our obtaining crops as large and of as good quality as can be grown anywhere in the world. Our farmers are certainly not deficient in mechanical skill or intelligence, nor are they lacking in effective implements, but they are seemingly lacking in the scientific knowledge required to enable them to apply their skill and implements to the best advantage.

Some better methods than those now existing must be devised whereby the knowledge possessed by Prof. Zavitz and others may be spread throughout the country, so that the average farmer will, in the near future, with the means already at his command, be able largely to increase the product of his land.

The Hired Man

Does a man become himself when he agrees to work for wages? Surely not. If he does, then are the vast majority of our people in the position—from the bank manager down to the fellow who cleans the gutter? Should the quality of his work change the attitude of the public towards him? We earnestly answer, No. No honest labor is degrading. The laborer has an asset in his ability to work whether at the desk or plow, and he offers it for sale. We have always admired the workman who, when he was urged to go from his work to please himself, answered with no

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will not be glutted at one season, with more or less of a scarcity the balance of the year. But this provision for saving the fruit will be of little avail unless the fruit put into cold storage is of first class quality. And it is just here where spraying becomes of prime importance. First class fruit cannot be grown in this country unless spraying is practiced regularly.

Modern Agriculture

Prof. C. A. Zavitz, of the O.A.C., Guelph, who has recently returned from a tour in Europe, where he has been studying modern methods of agriculture, in the course of an address delivered before the Orillia Canadian Club, reiterated to the marvellous results which have been obtained from experiments and the improvement of varieties, and stated that the average farm in Ontario