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EDITORIAL.

Grow Clover.

Successful farmers have long known from experience that good grain crops generally follow clover. They have not always felt sure they could explain why, but they knew it all the same, and continued to sow clover because experience had taught them that it was a first-class food for farm stock, and left the land in first-class condition for producing other crops. Now the scientists assure us that one of the secrets of its value is that clover has the power to attract and fix in itself the free nitrogen of the atmosphere, one of the most valuable fertilizing agencies known, costing when purchased in the form of a commercial fertilizer about fifteen cents per pound. This is not all used in the development of the clover itself, but being stored in the nodules of its roots is imparted to the soil, and when plowed down the decayed roots not only furnish suitable food for the plants of the following crops, but also supply humus or vegetable matter to keep the land friable and less liable to run together and bake under the influence of the sun after a heavy rain. Land having a good supply of humus suffers less from drouth; it loses less moisture through evaporation, and the plants are not hampered by a hard crust, preventing the admission and circulation of air, which is essential to healthy development in the vegetable as in the animal kingdom. Another benefit to the soil from clover is that its roots run deep into the subsoil from two to four feet, and draw from its depths mineral elements of fertility, such as potash and phosphorus, which not only feed the clover crop, but when these roots decay enrich the land for future crops. Clover is thus blessed in its death as well as in its life, and, moreover, its deep running roots act as subsoilers, aerating, draining and deepening the subsoil so that roots of other crops find there congenial conditions, and thrive accordingly.

The value of clover as a stock food is, we believe, far from being fully appreciated. It is in itself as pasture, or when cut early and well cured, the most complete food for animals grown on the farm, and is invaluable in that when fed with other feeds it makes them worth more than they would otherwise be. Corn silage, straw and timothy hay are deficient in the flesh-forming elements, and clover is necessary to a balanced ration, from which the best results in feeding can only be had. There is a danger, since corn silage is becoming so popular as a cheap and convenient stock food, of depending too much upon it. It needs the mixture of clover to render it most effective in the production of flesh, milk and butter.

We believe it pays to sow clover with nearly all spring crops, even if the land is to be plowed the coming fall, as the pasture it affords and the fertility it imparts when plowed down will well repay the cost of the seed, and where a catch is reasonably assured it is good practice to plow down after the first crop of hay has been taken off, as under this plan the supply of humus in the soil will be well maintained.

We are well aware of the difficulty of ensuring a catch in dry seasons on clay lands, and of the danger, when the catch is all right, of the plants being scorched to death by the sun after the nurse crop has been harvested. These difficulties can be best overcome by a light top dressing of manure in winter or early spring, especially on the high

places, by sowing liberally of clean, sound clover seed, sowing the grain not too thickly and where practicable, leaving the stubble a good height to shade the clover plants, and allowing no stock to pasture on it the first fall.

Sugar Beets in England.

In view of the rapid growth of the beet-sugar industry in the United States, and its establishment in Canada, our readers will be interested in a movement to make England a beet-sugar producing country. The London Daily Chronicle announces that the cultivation of sugar beets and their manufacture into sugar is now likely to take definite shape. Mr. Segmund Stein, of Liverpool, a sugar expert, long associated with the refining industry, says: "There is no doubt that sugar beets can be grown in this country (England), as well as and even better than on the continent. We have grown the beet in every county in England, Scotland and Ireland for years past, and we have obtained splendid results. The Central Chamber of Agriculture has also satisfied itself by experiment and analysis that the work can be done." Many members of the peerage and other land owners have conducted experiments in beet-growing, and are taking a keen interest in the undertaking, which Mr. Stein proposes to launch on an extensive scale.

Poultry and Fruit Farming.

One of our readers writes us that he can buy forty acres of sandy loam, forty-five miles from Toronto, Ontario, and one-half mile from the railway station. He has a very fair knowledge of fruit-growing and poultry-raising, and would like to know what we think his chances are for success in these branches of farming. This communication has all the ear-marks of a practical thinker and a careful manager. The proprietor will be his own manager and laborer. The income from his efforts will be undivided, and as far as human foresight can penetrate, we can see no serious objection to the enterprise.

The success of ventures such as this is largely dependent upon the man and the market. The man must understand his business, and be practical. Fruit-growing and poultry-raising look simple enough, but there is a legion of details in connection with each that one must be familiar with before he can consider himself well fitted to manage such business. The peculiar feature of such enterprises is that they seldom materialize just as they are figured out on paper. Some things quite unforeseen frequently occur to discount the prospect, but the man of resources and a little experience will eventually surmount such difficulties as may arise. In Canada to-day there are scores of men making a good living in just such a way as our correspondent contemplates. The market for such products as he intends to produce is good, and has every indication of improving. With the settlement of our Northwest there is bound to be developed an enormous market for fruit, and the industrial progress of older Canada is creating a good market for poultry and eggs; added to this there is the ever-increasing demand for fruit and fowl from Great Britain.

In going into this branch of farming there are several things to be avoided. Do not make a sentimental fad of any one particular breed, or class of fruit. On the other hand do not be too chary of any. Begin in a small way, and increase in those branches that promise the best returns. Do not build expensive houses for poultry

until the exact need is known. Do not get the idea that broilers, or winter eggs, or export poultry, alone are sufficient to make poultry-raising profitable, or that one class of fruit will in all cases ensure as good returns as a larger selection. In this age of intensive living, one must endeavor to crowd some profitable work into every day of the year; find out what class of work has been most profitable, and try to extend the period over which it can be followed. Study the requirements of the markets, and give people what they want, whether or not it is the best thing for them. The buyer considers himself the best judge of his own needs.

Where to Locate the Ontario Forestry School.

One of the most important questions with which Canada is face to face at the present time is the perpetuation, extension and proper management of its timber lands, both public and private. The annual sale of timber limits by Government goes merrily on, and the demand for wood seems to increase rather than diminish. The public domain is thus divested of its timber wealth, and in all the older settled portions of the country the way in which our private belts of bush are swept away by the timber buyer, either for lumber or fuel, is something appalling. It is high time that a halt was called and a policy of preservation and some systematic forestry policy adopted in all the Provinces, as well as upon the lands still under Federal control. The Provincial Minister of Agriculture for Ontario has done well to set apart at the Agricultural College, Guelph, an area where young trees suitable for planting will be grown. In very few years a distribution of these trees will begin, so that those who desire to re-forest can do so. At the recent annual meeting of the Canadian Forestry Association it was related how that for seventy years the family of Sir Henry Joly de Lotbiniere has derived a large income from a bush land estate. This was done by taking care that only mature trees were cut, and no damage done to the young and growing timber.

It would seem a foregone conclusion, that in the Province of Ontario a school or college of forestry is to be established. It is the branch of agriculture which has been most completely ignored, so far as educating the farmer of to-day or the agriculturist of the future is concerned.

The inauguration of such a school being decided upon, the next point is where shall it be located? The "Farmer's Advocate" has no axe to grind, and no local interest to serve in discussing this question, but we desire the future well-being of the proposed school to be secured, and the interests of agriculture, which contributes so large a share of the taxes in the Province of Ontario, respected. Fortunately, this is not a political party question, but there is a right and wrong about it which should be clearly recognized. Through the life work of Dr. Mills and others, the Ontario Agricultural College and farm have attained a position of commanding opportunity that is attracting more and more agricultural students to its doors every year, and diffusing more and greater influence abroad. From the ranks of the students of this institution will the foresters of the future be drawn. At it all the allied subjects, such as botany, entomology, geology, and so on, are made specialties. In fact, the whole course runs contemporaneously with that of forestry. Here then, is the proper and natural home for the new ally of agriculture, the School of Forestry, and