

## The Canadian Dairyman AND Farming World

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### A TALK TO THE "BREEDER" OF CROPS

To get the biggest possible crops with the least financial outlay for labor and seed should be the aim of every farmer. You ask how can this best be done. The answer is by seed selection and testing the germinating power of seed before sowing same. Full information as to how to do this through the adoption of methods that are at the command of every farmer are given elsewhere in this issue.

The men who select their seed grain and sow only such as possess good vitality and germinating power as determined by the simple methods of seed testing described elsewhere in this issue are the men who are getting the most out of their farms to-day. Many of these men, by utilizing some of their spare time during the winter months in the testing of seeds are able to produce fifty, sixty or even more bushels of grain on

an acre, whereas the "hit or miss" farmer would produce but thirty bushels or perhaps less on the same acre. No more work is required to get the big crop. Probably, considerably less seed is sown. The vitality and productive power of the seed is known, however. Practically, every seed produces a plant. In the other case the productive power of the seed is unknown. Much of it is of a low vitality, so low in fact that it is unable to nourish a plant until it is large enough to become divorced from its embryo. Consequently it passes to the "great majority," many do, and the ultimate crop is a disappointment.

With all the means at the disposal of farmers to-day there is no occasion for crop failures because of poor seed. At the Ontario Agricultural College a great work is being done in the way of crop improvement. Crop yields, the reports of which some years ago would have been considered veritable fairy tales, are being produced solely through selection and breeding. This work is being conducted for the benefit of farmers. All have an equal chance to profit by it. Not only that, but results obtained should induce farmers to select on their own account.

Mr. R. J. Littlejohn, Leeds Co., writes us telling of what seed selections has done for him. He says: "I have been able to get greater crops with less seed through seed selection. I have been selecting my seed corn mostly before cutting by going through the corn while standing and selecting the best ears. Also I select the seed potatoes while digging and by so doing I have been able to increase my crop considerably. As for seed grain I select my seed from the best of my crops, then taking great care in cleaning by blowing out all light grain and screening out all small seeds and grains."

Mr. Joshua Knight, of Hastings Co., Ont., has been taking advantage of the seed experiments from the Ontario Agricultural College for twenty years and has greatly improved his crops thereby. He claims that the work is pleasant as well as profitable.

Many more letters have been received from farmers who have practiced seed selection and testing and taken advantage of the seed sent out by the College for experimenting purposes, and they secured considerably more out of their farms in consequence. This extra crop production more than compensates for the extra labor entailed.

Fellow farmers! Are you satisfied to continue conducting your farming operations on a lottery basis? That is practically what it amounts to when you sow seed that has not been tested or is not guaranteed. Not until harvesting time do you know what you will get. The cry of the times is to test your cows and strive to improve them by breeding and selection. It is equally important to follow similar lines in producing farm crops. Try buying good seed and testing this year. Then take note of your crop and compare it with that of former years. That is the best way to become convinced.

### BUY ONLY GOOD SEED

These are several things the buyer of seeds should observe. These may be summarized as follows: Buy only from reliable seedsmen; buy the best grade of seed; insist upon a statement of the percentage of seed which will germinate; test the seed yourself.

Do not expect, however, to get first-class seed at the price of poor stuff. The best and highest priced is none too good to put into your land after you have expended days of labor in preparing the seed bed. Poor and cheap grades of seed are really more costly than the best and highest priced. Some tests have shown that unclean seed especially in clovers and grasses may contain 20,000,000 or more weed seeds a bushel. Then poor seed may contain such a small percentage of germinable seed that a thin stand of crops is obtained. It may be necessary to buy 5 or 6 bushels of low grade seed in order to secure as much germinable seed as is contained in one bushel of good seed. You will, therefore, save time, money and labor by buying the best quality of seed and at the same time avoid seeding your farm to all kinds of weeds.

### REGULATING THE AUTOMOBILE

There are five bills before the Ontario Legislature having for their object the regulation of automobile traffic on country roads. This shows that the members of the Legislature are alive to the great need for effective legislation.

Of the five bills, two provide for keeping automobiles off the roads on certain days of the week and certain hours of the day, the third compels machines to stop when a funeral is approaching or to turn down a side lane; the fourth impounds machines that are driven too fast; and the fifth imprisons instead of fining a "chauffeur" guilty of breaking the speed limit or of otherwise contravening the regulations.

The first two are hardly workable. To define certain days on which no motoring would be allowed, would work unnecessary hardship upon the motorist and at the same time would not give the farmer who uses the roads more or less every day of the week the protection he requires. In the opinion of some it would be better to define certain roads through the country on which motoring would be allowed. These roads, they say, need not be numerous nor the best equipped roads, thus leaving a large number of public highways free from any motoring of any kind. The farmer, with horses trained to auto-mobiling could travel on these prescribed roads whenever he wished.

Of the bills outlined, the one imposing imprisonment without the option of a fine upon the "chauffeur" who breaks the law is worthy of some consideration. It would have a salutary effect in keeping in check the fellow, who deliberately and in mere bravado, puts all rules and regulations at defiance, and races with breakneck speed through the country

without any regard for life or property. He is the one who is doing the harm and bringing auto-mobiling in to disrepute in rural sections. Thirty or sixty days in "durance vile" would dampen his ardor somewhat and give him time for a little sober thinking upon the rights of others.

The automobile has come to stay. It is a factor in the life of to-day and is destined to become a greater factor in the future. Any legislation looking to its control must keep this in view. The owner of the automobile, however, must not be allowed to trample on the rights of others. The roads of this country were built largely for the people in the rural sections, and are maintained mainly by their efforts. They have, therefore, the first claim upon them. This the motorist must recognize. He should be the first in upholding and enforcing reasonable and effective legislation that will ensure to the farmer, without endangering his life or property, the full use of country roads when and where he wishes.

The Ontario government has been doing good work in enforcing the laws regulating the liquor traffic. Instead of relying upon local officials to see that the law was carried out, agents have been deputed to visit all parts of the province to see that the law was observed. Would it not be a good move were the present laws relating to the speed of automobiles enforced in the same way? Were a few provincial officers sent out, in high speed automobiles of their own, with instructions to watch some of the most travelled roads they would soon be able to capture some of the worst offenders. The trouble now is that when an automobile has been the cause of an accident its owner rushes off at such a high rate of speed his identity cannot be detected. Some means of running down those men, who exceed the speed limit, is required. Once a few arrests and prosecutions have been made and duly advertised through the press, the automobile nuisance will soon disappear.

In appointing a Liberal to act on the Board of Control of the Niagara District Experiment Station, to represent the vegetable interests, Hon. Mr. Monteith has offended some members of his party. He has, however, shown himself to be above party considerations in the management of his department and thus his stand cannot be too highly commended. Mr. J. L. Hilborne, who has received the appointment from Hon. Mr. Monteith, is not a member of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association. The Association was not consulted in regard to this appointment and, therefore, has reason to feel that it has been overlooked in this matter. Mr. Hilborne is, however, a successful and an extensive grower of a number of different varieties of vegetables, both in the greenhouse and in the open. As soon as he has had a chance to meet the officers of the Vegetable Growers' Association his fitness for the position will be admitted.