

Among the Farmers.

[Now that crops are harvested and many being sold and rapidly delivered, brief, newsy statements on the results of the season's work are welcomed for this page. There is always more or less of interest in every section pertaining to live stock; notes of interest to stockmen and feeders will also be welcomed. Farmers' institutes, granges and clubs have now started in earnest, and short, pithy accounts of these meetings are always of interest. New ideas and short cuts in farm economy are always being sought out by hustling farmers; when you catch a new idea, write it out and send to the editor. We have room for jottings of this nature from every province.]

BETTER TIMES IN QUEBEC.

Farming in Stanstead Co is of the mixed variety. Timothy and clover are the principal grasses grown. This year's crop was an average one as regards quantity, but owing to wet weather was not cured and stored in as good condition as usual. The grain crop was harvested in good condition, the most of it having been threshed on an average clear, oats yielding about 60 bu p a, barley 45 and mixed from 60 to 70. Potatoes were a fair crop and very little rot.

The condition of farms and farmers has improved very much in the past 5 yrs, owing in a great measure to the improved methods of farming. This has been brought about by the reading of agricultural books and papers, which has awakened an interest and strife for improvement heretofore unknown. Corn for fodder is extensively grown and has proved of great benefit not alone as a fodder, but in bringing up the farm to a higher state of cultivation. The steady advance in the price of butter and cheese has encouraged the making of a superior article put up in a neat, attractive package, and put on the market in as good condition as when it leaves the factory.

Sheep raising is beginning to claim attention. A few years ago a buyer of lambs would select the best, leaving the farmer the inferior ones to breed from, so that in a few years the flock ran down and became unprofitable. This is now being reversed, the farmer first selecting the lambs he wishes to keep for breeding and selling the balance. Already a marked improvement in breeding horses and cattle for purposes for which they are intended was quite generally taken up some 4 or 5 yrs ago, and the results have been very encouraging. The price of land, which was depreciating or at a standstill, has taken an upward turn and is steadily advancing. The feeling of farmers in this section is very hopeful in regard to the future and they are looking forward to still greater prosperity and advancement, to which they, as hard working tillers of the soil, are entitled. [E. H. Heath.

BETTER HORSES NEEDED.

There are some fairly good horses in the country, but the general stock of horses are not what is demanded at present. In the early settling of this section the patient ox did all the heavy work and a small sized horse was all that was wanted, and there was good hardy stock of that kind, such as filled the bill and supplied the demand of the times very well. These could be kept in good working condition at small expense, which is very important in all farmers' teams.

Then there came a time, especially among the young men, when something fast was wanted and with small regard to size or form, anything that claimed to have speed was patronized by breeders. This stock soon filled the country with an inferior class of horses, lacking weight and many of them lacking speed and durability. Either from lack of economy and care in the teamster, or a defect in the constitution of the horse, the cost of feeding was much increased, needing more grain to perform the same labor as the pioneer's horse.

For the last few years a great change has come over the community in regard to the class of horses needed. A few still prize the sporting horse, but a large number of the more economical and intelligent are trying to raise a horse that will fill the demand of the market best, since the introduction of mowing machines, horse rakes, reapers, binders and seeders. The horse from 1000-1400 lbs is what is wanted on the farm. There is not much call for 800 or 900-lb horse at present. They seem to belong largely to a past age

and we are called upon to keep up with the age in which we live, in horses as well as implements, if we expect to be useful and independent members of society, and I think a large majority of our farmers are on the right track and hope they will follow the beat until each farmer can look on his team with pride and satisfaction and be able to do his farm work in good shape and be able to put his young and spare horses on the market with profit to himself and satisfaction to purchaser.—[J. McGeorge.

ROTATION OF CROPS PAYS.

A system of rotation of crops should be so arranged as to economize the natural supplies of fertility contained in the soil. Different crops feed upon different soil ingredients, or at least they require these ingredients in varying quantities. A proper succession of crops brings all the elements of plant food into use and hence prevents any of these from lying idle and being wasted, as for example, by being carried away by water in its constant percolation through the soil.

Rotation economizes applied manures by making use in due time of all their fertilizing ingredients. When fertilizers are applied to a soil, it will generally happen that any one kind of crop will not be able to make use of all the elements of plant food which they contain, and the more general these fertilizers are in their character the less will be the capacity of any single crop to use all their plant food components.

A rotation tends to enrich the surface soil. This is owing to the variety of modes in which plants obtain their food. Some plants draw large supplies of their food from the air, while others gather much plant food deep down in the subsoil. But by the decay of rootlets and their consequent change to soil and for the reason that much of the plant food contained in crops is returned to the soil again as manure, it follows that the surface soil, when under proper cultivation, is being constantly enriched.

A regular succession of crops is helpful in keeping the soil free from weeds. The rotation adopted usually embraces a hoed crop, which, if thoroughly cultivated and kept free from weeds, will aid very much in freeing the farm from that pest.

A rotation of crops improves the mechanical texture of the soil. When sod or green crops are turned under, an ameliorating effect on the soil is sure to follow.

The increase of destructive insects is hindered by a rotation of crops. When but one kind of crop is grown, the conditions favorable to the growth of the insects which feed upon that crop are continued unchanged from year to year. But when another crop is sown and cultivated, the conditions are changed. The insects which the former conditions favored are more or less destroyed.

Rotation is necessary for the economical feeding of live stock. In the keeping of live stock, it is necessary to feed them with a variety of crops, and it will be seen that these can be grown more cheaply when a proper rotation is observed than would be at all possible otherwise. The length of time required to complete a course of rotation is governed by the kind of crops grown and the amount of land used.—[L. J. Weld.

Ontario—Goderich, the county town of Huron Co, is located on the shore of Lake Huron and has a good harbor and two good elevators, which handle a large quantity of grain. A very fine farming country adjoins the town. The grain crop was very good this year; quite a number have reported 40 to 50 bu wheat p a, and one quite near town has grown 56 bu p a. Hay a fair average crop. Fruits were good, but our crop of winter shipping apples is the poorest we have had for many years. All kinds of stock bring good prices, and our farmers depend more on this product of their farms than on grain growing. Garden produce was very good. I had three squashes that weighed 343, 322 and 313 lbs each, and citron 36 lbs, egg plant 5 lbs; water-melons and musk-melons were very fine; tomatoes and corn were also very good. Grapes were extra good; I have 40 varieties fruiting and they all do well with a little winter protection. We are having the finest fall season that we have ever had. There had not been

frost enough to kill the hardier flowers up to Nov 5, chrysanthemums, asters, carnations and many others were in all their beauty, although they are usually killed in early Oct. Raspberries have a large amount of bloom on and berries nearly grown now.—[W. Warnock.

Nova Scotia—Potatoes and other roots were a good crop in Colchester Co, but too much rainy weather caused a loss of potatoes on flatland before being harvested. Fruit was a good crop, but sales have been dull. Late Oct and early Nov were fine weather, with a clear sunshine, giving a good opportunity to plow and do other farm work, which has been used to good advantage. Although the harvest was encroaching somewhat seriously on fall labor, a short time longer of fine weather and the fall work will be pretty well done up. The hay crop was good, being a full average and having favorable weather. It was housed in good condition. Grain was a very fair yield, the straw at least was up to a full average, but some of the grain is not turning out well at the thrasher. There was a great amount of rainy weather during late Sept and early Oct, which made it very hard to get the grain harvested. Some of the late grain was hurt by rain before being secured.

Helped by Gas Engine—My 5 h p gasoline engine, worth \$250, does the power work on the farm. I can get along now with one team less, because this engine does all my grinding, drives the ensilage cutter summer and winter, does the churning and the pumping. It is always ready to start and costs about 2c p hour to feed it. [H. C. Taylor, Elgin Co, Ont.

Will Represent Farmers—By the recent election at least one strong, able Canadian farmer will be sent to parliament, with the courage of his convictions. Running as an independent, in a district where party bossism had become rotten, Jabel Robinson carried the day against both liberal and conservative candidates. Although nominated late, Mr Robinson's strong personality, ability and high standing carried him through with but little electioneering. Mr Robinson made a strong speech in accepting his nomination and will work for several reforms so much needed by farmers. He has been actively identified with farmers' organizations from boyhood, and being a practical farmer as well understands their wants.

Rotation prolongs the producing power of the land. Grow wheat only, or corn, and the soil in time will become exhausted of its nitrogen content, but grow clover or some other legume in some kind of alternation with these crops, and the nitrogen depleted by the wheat or the corn is restored by the clover. Even though legumes should not be grown, when other crops alternate some of them draw more heavily on the nitrogen than others, others draw more heavily on its content of potash, hence, though there should be no attempt to restore the fertility of the land, it will take a considerably longer period to deplete the soil of its fertility than if only one crop were grown.

Dry Sawdust makes an excellent absorbent and will not injure the land unless too much of it is put on.—[T. B.


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