

and attention the animals receive during the first year of their lives. It pays to give them a good start.

P. E. I.

MRS. A. RODD.

For the Defence.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—From time to time a number of harsh criticisms of Mr. F. W. Hodson's conduct have appeared in connection with the proposal to make a national exhibit of Canadian live stock at the St. Louis Exposition. So strong have these been that Mr. Hodson recently entered a defence in the press. But to my mind this seems unfair to Mr. Hodson, as those who attended the meeting of Nov. 11th in the Rossin House, should assume a good deal, if not all, of the responsibility of the result of that meeting. Although I have not before me the very opportune letters of Mr. Linton and Mr. Robt. Miller to the Dominion Minister of Agriculture, still there can be no doubt they were the immediate cause of the calling together of a number of leading representatives of the Canadian live-stock interests at the Rossin House on Nov. 11th, and if I understand anything, Mr. Wade and Mr. Westervelt were alone responsible for the names of those who attended, and the Live-stock Commissioner in no way dictated to them.

The names of those who attended that meeting were published at the time, and the greater number of them have the reputation of being the shrewdest business men in their particular breeds, and it seems hard to understand how we could all be hoodwinked by Mr. Hodson in the way attributed by Mr. Gibson, Mr. Edwards and others.

The resolution unanimously adopted at the close of the meeting, declaring against the proposed national exhibit, unless the exposition regulations were greatly modified, was after a most frank and free discussion, and I can't recall the Live-stock Commissioner in any way trying to lead or dictate any particular course. It is true some of the exposition regulations have been modified, but only after the officials had treated the Canadian representatives somewhat coolly, and belittled the importance of our exhibits.

Complaints have been made that the Rossin House meeting was a packed one, but surely every opportunity was granted at the live-stock meetings held in January and February for interested parties to air their grievances, but it appears they prefer a paper controversy to an open fight, where all could have taken a hand in it.

The more the matter is discussed, the more strongly do I feel that the resolution of November 11th was a wise one, and that the Live-stock Commissioner has pursued a very fair and judicious course.

WM. SMITH.

Ontario Co., Ont.

Canadian Stock at St. Louis.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—Considerable discussion has been aroused by the decision of the live-stock associations of Canada declining to make a national exhibit at the World's Fair at St. Louis, and repudiating Government assistance towards exhibitors. They gave as their reason for such decision the vexatious customs arrangements. But did they attempt to have these corrected? As far as I can learn, they did not, for they endeavored to have their grievances righted at St. Louis, instead of going to the United States Government for redress, as if the St. Louis people had made all the customs laws of the United States. Surely, our Commissioner and associations were very short-sighted in these matters. For, as I understand the customs regulations, they appear to me to be even more favorable than those in force for the Columbian and Pan-American Expositions. Moreover, it seems to me that the persons who run these Associations are not intending exhibitors at St. Louis, and that they formulated these decisions without consulting exhibitors, and through the agency of some official who fails to appreciate the prestige of Canadian live stock.

Again, I see that the Government has hit upon the egregious and novel plan that, as our live stock will not be exhibited at the World's Fair in reality, large oil paintings of Canadian animals shall be shown there in their stead. Surely, this is a remarkable idea, and must greatly enhance the reputation of our stock. Our American competitors will surely be greatly appalled, when they hear of this formidable exhibit that is to be sent against them. All the world will be awed when they hear of the honor Canadian live stock is to gain at St. Louis, although I am not quite certain whether it will be the painter or the breeder who will gain the honor.

Even though our Commissioner and associations have proclaimed that there shall be no national exhibit at St. Louis, I am certain, even though the horse and cattle men may not show, the sheep men will turn out en masse, and try to carry off the majority of the laurels, as they have done at previous international fairs on this continent. And I hope our Minister of Agriculture, when understanding and knowing the real voice of the breeders, will come to our aid and help us make the Canadian exhibit of live stock at St. Louis one of the greatest known in the history of this continent.

HENRY ARKELL.

FARM.

Summer-fallow not Needed for Sugar Beets.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—Regarding the point as to the advantage of preceding the sugar-beet crop by summer-fallow, I may say it is not economical, and would be regarded as an unprofitable rotation. The secret of a clean beet field lies in the practice of proper fall preparation, which, as has already been pointed out, consists in a very early surface cultivation to germinate all seeds, followed by late fall plowing. The spring preparation of the seed-bed, the planting and cultivation, are such under good management as to have beet plants grow in advance of any weeds and keep the surface thoroughly loosened to promote the growth of the beet. This method of cultivation, both fall and spring, gives the grower full control over weeds, preventing them from growing. It is perfectly apparent, therefore, that it is not necessary to lose a year's crop, as would be the case if preceded by a summer-fallow. Yours truly,

A. E. SHUTTLEWORTH,

Agricultural Superintendent Ont. Sugar Co. Waterloo Co., Ont.

Sow Early and Keep Clean.

I find that a rich, sandy, black loam is preferable for beets; it is easier to get a fine surface, and you are more apt to get an even start on it. Beets do well after corn, if the land is rich enough, for the ground is nearly always clean.

Any good, well-rotted stable manure, I think, would be best, put on before the corn was planted, say about twelve or fifteen loads per acre. I would like the land plowed the fall before, about ten inches deep. Cultivate well in the spring, as soon as it is dry enough; then plow about the first of May, about four inches deep, and keep it clean with a harrow till time to plant.

We sowed ours with a grain drill, but it is not a good thing; it is apt to put them too deep. We put the rows about twenty-four inches apart. Sow as soon as the ground is warm and dry enough, so they will have all the summer to mature. There is very little sugar in green beets. We sowed fifteen pounds to the acre. I think that is enough. Thin when about three or four leaves are on the plants. Don't let them get too big. We thinned with a hoe, leaving the beets from six to eight inches apart. Cultivate as soon as you can see the rows, with a very fine-toothed cultivator. Spike-teeth are the best. Don't cultivate deep, and the more frequently the better, say, about four times. The amount of land put in beets will depend on the help you have. We are planting about four acres this year; we had one last year.

Kent Co.

ROBT. MCGREGOR.

Fall Plowing Best for Sugar Beets.

In my judgment, clay loam is the best kind of soil for growing sugar beets. I find they do well after any grain crop where the ground is pretty free from weeds, and rich enough.

I would manure in the fall with barnyard manure, if the ground needs it. I believe fall plowing would be best, but where the ground has to be plowed in the spring, I would plow as early as possible and work it down with disk or cultivator; then let it lie for a short time; then work it again, so as to kill all the weeds possible, and keep on in this way until the 10th or 15th of May, or even later if the weather is not warm enough. By so doing you will have killed a lot of weeds, and your ground will be in good shape for sowing the beets.

I believe a beet drill is best for sowing, but they can be sowed with any grain drill, in rows from eighteen to twenty-one inches apart. About fifteen pounds to the acre of seed should be sowed, from 10th to 24th of May.

The thinning should be done when the plants are two to four inches high. First cut through with hoe about six inches long, then the thinning has to be done by hand. The plants should be left eight or nine inches apart. They can be cultivated with a small-tooth cultivator, and hoed with common hoes to keep clean from weeds until the beets cover the ground.

I would advise about two acres for the first year, and if they do fairly well you should have a good car-load.

WILLIAM LINTON.

Essex Co., Ont.

Five Acres Beets on 100-acre Farm.

Clay loam is preferable for sugar beets, which do best if planted after clover. I advise pig and cow manure, plowed in in the fall. In the spring, I harrow first, and then cultivate; roll, then plow with the large plow, and finally harrow down and roll again. I sow with a grain or turnip drill, in rows from eighteen to twenty-two inches apart, about the 10th of May, and use from fifteen to eighteen pounds of seed to the acre. When in the fourth leaf, I block out with the hoe, and then with the hands, from ten to twelve inches apart, cultivating about four times with a horse cultivator. About five acres is enough to put in beets on a 100-acre farm. JOHN A. HAYWARD.

Soil and Cultivation for Sugar Beets.

In writing on sugar-beet culture, I would like the reader to bear in mind that our land is the level land of Lambton County, as, in other districts, different methods might be better adopted.

A rich clay loam, more especially the low-land clay of blue clay, of a porous nature, through which roots can find their way downward easily, should produce a good crop. In mucky soil they prong out, instead of giving beets of the smooth, long, wedge-shape, so desirable in order to get a good tonnage to the acre. New land is not preferred on this account.

My favorite place for beets is after hay or pasture, that has not been seeded more than two years, mostly to clover. Haul the manure out in winter as it is made, spread evenly. Cut hay the following summer, and plow quite deep in the fall. Next best to this is a fall-wheat stubble, that has been manured previous to sowing wheat. Gang-plow as soon as wheat is off to start weeds, and plow well later. We have twelve acres of sod manured for next year's beets. Barnyard manure, applied as described above, I find best. I don't want any fresh applied manure on my beet land, as it interferes with working them.

As soon as the soil is in good order, harrow, so as to start spring weeds and warm the soil. After the weeds have started, cultivate with spring-tooth cultivator deep enough to make a good mellow surface, smooth down with a common harrow, and finish quite fine. I have no use for lumps on beet land, as they bother later on.

When sowing, use a drill made for that purpose, if available. If not, the shoe-drill is next best, the rows being made eighteen to twenty inches apart. We sowed some twenty-four inches apart last year, and some eighteen, and found out that we could work them at eighteen inches quite as well. Sow immediately after the grain is sowed, not less than fifteen pounds to the acre.

When the plants have four leaves on, and look quite healthy and strong, they may be thinned. We blocked some out with the common hoe last year, then hired some boys and girls to go along and pick out the rest. Later on we found out that a small hand-hoe was to be had, and let the weedeers clean up and block as they went, as our time was needed at other work.

Beets should be harrowed four days after sowing, then cultivated every week for five weeks. It seems necessary to do some hoeing to obtain best results. For cultivating, I use a regular beet cultivator. I like the one that the Wallaceburg firm advises to buy.

I should advise putting in from three to five acres the first year, then from ten to thirty, according to the help available.

Lambton Co.

EZRA NEWELL.

Most Profitable Crop.

I find that there is more money in raising sugar beets than any other crop at present, and it leaves the land in good shape for oats and barley. I saw the best crop of oats last season grown on sugar-beet land that I ever saw. And the way we have of harvesting the beets is very quick. The first year we had beets it was very slow. I think that a good clay loam soil is the best, as it gives a better per cent. of sugar than any other I have seen. I think that the next best land is black sandy loam. I find that sugar beets grow best after alsike clover, and that wheat stubble, fall plowed, makes fine land for beets. I would advise plowing manure under in the fall of the year. The best manure, I think, is manure that has been piled up in the summer, and then drawn out in the fall and scattered and plowed under. Then, in the spring, start to work the land early, and get the weeds to start with a good spring-tooth cultivator, then work the land good. Give the land a lot of harrowing—the more work done before seeding, the less work after the beets are up. The best way to plant is to have a regular two-horse sugar-beet drill that plants four rows at a time, twenty inches apart, and to plant them about the 10th of May. I would advise sowing fifteen pounds of seed to the acre, and no less, as you can block much faster when they are thick, and get better beets. I would advise blocking as soon as the beets are up so as you can see to cultivate them. The sooner the beets are thinned the better, as they thin much easier when small. I use six-inch hoe for blocking, so as to try and have a beet every eight inches. I think that beets should be cultivated often. I find that a one-horse cultivator that cultivates two rows at once is the best. I have the Deere cultivator. I think that a farmer that has one hundred acres of land can put in every year ten acres.

Kent Co.

J. C. PULLIN.

Profitable if Well Done.

Mr. W. H. Lee, of Norfolk County, in a letter on sugar-beet growing, recommends cultivating once a week after thinning, and says the area will depend just on what a man can put in and take care of properly, but not to go in too heavily until well acquainted with the business. The crop is profitable for a large acreage, providing you can get the labor.