

Satisfied Carbolic Acid is Effective.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Replying to Dr. Atkinson's criticism (January 26th issue) of my letter in "The Farmer's Advocate" of January 12th, I will, with your permission, give Dr. Atkinson my reasons for believing the cows had contagious abortion. Early last spring I got the use of one of the finest Holsteins in the Province for three weeks. I had fourteen cows in calf to this bull; six aborted, and eight calved about Christmas and New Year's. In past years, when I had my own bull, there were no abortions, except the Jersey grade, and she was bred to some bull I don't know. I gave the cows carbolic acid after they aborted, some of them twice; all in calf; fifteen will calve in the spring; no abortions. Dr. Atkinson, I know, is not satisfied. I can't help it; I ought to be. He gave me a good scratching. I have no desire to cast reflection upon the veterinary profession as a profession. I am sure they are a grand army of jolly good fellows, and they do prevent and alleviate an enormous amount of untold suffering in this suffering world.

Now, as to the pregnant heifer referred to in connection with the heading, "Curative Measures," 70 drachms of carbolic acid was given in her feed, 17½ drachms was injected into the blood before she aborted. In the name of common sense, what else could the poor little thing do but abort or die from blood poison? Doctors prescribe strychnine in a great many cases. Where is the doctor who would dare inject strychnine into the blood? You give us a great many ideas—some of them mistaken ideas. The cow's tender and sensitive mouth was not poisoned, and I did taste the 1-in-15 before I gave it to the Jersey cow; it has a rather sweet and not unpleasant taste. The effect on the mouth is very little; on the brain, great, giving a heavy, sleepy and soothing feeling. Dr. Atkinson's last idea struck the keynote, and sounded the whole truth. Here it is: "In all probability, Mr. Medd's cows have received some poison acting on the generative organs, resulting in abortion." Yes, the bull was the guilty lad. It is well to have something that will transform a diseased and repulsive fetus into a beautiful and healthy calf. Don't try to strangle the good angel. One might as well try to cast his shadow on the sun.

WILLIAM MEDD.

New Westminster, B. C.

THE FARM.

Canadians Score at National Grain Exposition.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

It will doubtless be of interest to your readers to learn of the success of Western farmers who exhibited at the fourth annual National Grain Exposition, held this year at Columbus, Ohio, from January 30th to February 11th. In addition to other prizes and trophies, there was offered the Colorado Silver Trophy, valued at \$1,500, for the champion peck of oats, any variety. A number of Western farmers entered exhibits, and J. C. Hill & Sons, of Lakeside Farm, Lloydminster, Sask., won first prize and captured the trophy, a photograph of which is herewith enclosed. Norman Cherry, of Davis, Sask., took first prize on wheat. G. H. Hutton, of Lacombe, Alta., got second prize on both wheat and oats.

The Colorado oat trophy was presented by the State of Colorado, to be competed for during the five-year period, 1909-13, inclusive, at the annual National Grain Exposition, under the following conditions:

1. Competition to be open to the world, barring no State, Province, or nation.
2. Fifteen pounds of oats, to be grown by an individual exhibitor during the crop year in which the grain is exhibited.
3. The winner of trophy three times in five years to retain it permanently.

As the trophy will be competed for again at the end of this year, or the beginning of next, grain-growers interested in the competition are invited to keep in touch with the matter by writing to me. I will be pleased to inform those interested of the date of the next Exposition, and will also arrange about having exhibits placed in position, and looked after. W. W. SCOTT,
Ottawa. Superintendent of Immigration.

Driveway at Barn Door.

The earth at the driveway to our barn doors was every now and then settling down, and it also rotted the plank. So we dug out the earth about two feet deep and two feet wide, and then filled up with cement concrete and small stones, finishing nice and smooth and even with the plank of barn floor, and we find it a very great improvement. There is no far going in at the barn door with the loaded wagon, and the cement is always in its place. It is worth a good deal.

D. L.

A Farmer's Experiments.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

As you kindly published last year the results of our experiment in field selection of seed barley, which gave such splendid results, I would ask you again to give to your wide circle of readers some results from our last season's experimental plots. While our experimental farms are doing splendid work, and the results published we believe to be thoroughly reliable, yet there is room for all interested workers in that line, and the more, the better. Indeed, every farmer should have an experimental plot, to find out what varieties of grain and roots do best on his own farm. We recommend our plan, which is simple and practical, to your readers, and we promise them a lot of pleasure in the work, besides large profits from the knowledge obtained. Our plan is to leave a strip one rod wide the whole length of our root field, manured and plowed in the fall previous. It is then ready to be cultivated, harrowed and sown in the spring. Sow all the varieties of grain from one end, and the roots, corn, beans, etc., from the other end, leaving a 12-foot break between grain and roots for turning with the root scuttler. We leave a space of three feet between each variety experimented with. We sow all the grains in rows twelve inches apart, giving 15 rows to the rod, and the roots 35 inches, which gives five rows to the rod. Our reason for this is to cultivate the soil and to walk amongst the grain without breaking any down as we weed out any mixtures. One thing

selected 380 plump kernels of each, planting them about an inch apart in rows a rod long. At harvest we counted the heads of each, and found that the sandy-land seed produced 844 heads yielding 3 pounds ¼ ounce of grain, and the clay-land seed produced 970 heads, yielding 3 pounds 6 ounces. This, figured out, made a difference of 5.35 bushels per acre in favor of the clay-land seed.

Another experiment, in connection with the Experimental Union, was testing four varieties of corn for husking, 50 hills of each, occupying two square rods each. The varieties and yields were: Canada Yellow, 3,227 pounds dry fodder and 25 bushels shelled grain per acre; King Philip, 4,000 pounds fodder and 16.16 bushels grain; Little Dent, 2,400 pounds fodder and 24 bushels grain; Genesee Valley, 1,950 pounds fodder and 13 bushels grain. These yields are all poor. One reason for it was the cows got at it, and I was compelled to cut it too soon to save it. Our general crop was fully one-third better than the best, which shows how profitable even an inferior crop of corn is. Taking an average of two tons of dry fodder per acre, valuing it at half the price of timothy hay, will make it worth \$10. Then add the value of, say, 25 bushels of shelled corn, at 70 cents (the price here), that is \$17.50. This gives us a net value of \$27.50 per acre. We must also remember that this is a cleaning crop, and leaves the land in splendid condition for a barley crop and for seeding to clover. In this locality, where bad varieties of weeds have such a hold, this is a method of successfully fighting them by a crop that will pay all the expenses of the labor. By not plowing the land for the next crop, but simply cultivating to form a seed-bed, no fresh seeds are brought to the surface; then, if the land is seeded to clover, to stand for two years, millions of weed seeds will have perished; then, by growing roots again, or barley crop, it will be easy to hand weed the grain crop, and so get the upper hand. It has become a question now for many, Which is to be the master? The weeds must be subdued, or the farmer must get out. Simcoe Co., Ont. FOYSTON BROS.

Sow Clean Seed.

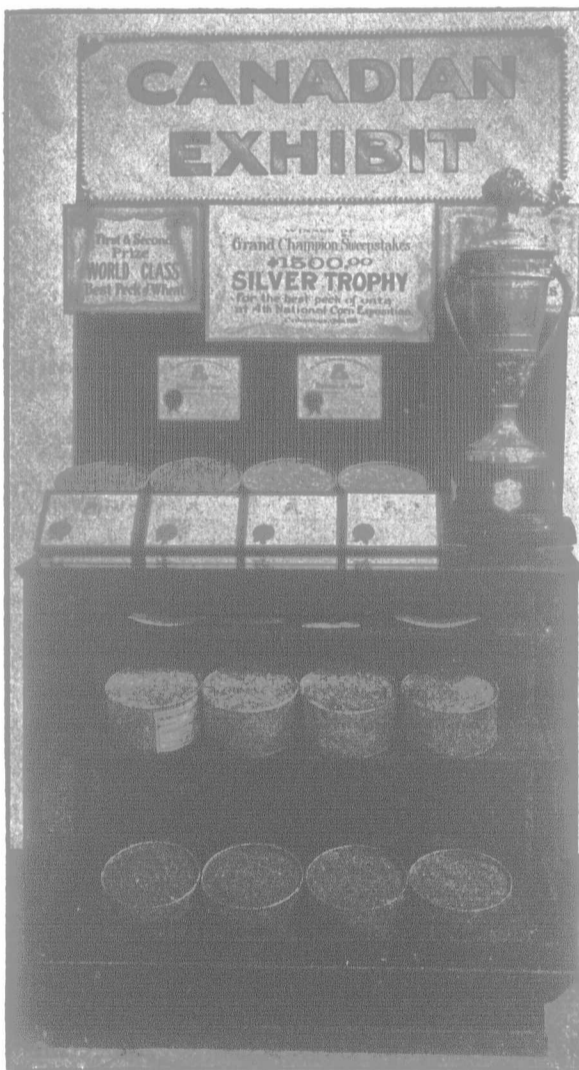
Farmers who are catering to supply pure seed grain should command at least 5 to 10 cents more than the market price for commercial seeds. There are some farmers whose seed has behind it the value of several years' selection, who are able to get almost double the price of commercial seed for what they offer for sale. No farmer who takes special pains in cleaning his seed grain for market, and keeps it pure not only from weed seeds, but other varieties of grain, should take less than 25 cents per bushel in advance of commercial prices. If he has done justice to his seed, he will have removed fully 20 per cent. to 25 per cent. as chaff, dirt, small seed, etc. It is a satisfaction to learn that from nearly all parts of the Dominion the demand for good pure seed is on the increase.

In the case of small seeds, most farmers have something to learn about their purity. So many are careless as to what they sow. In some localities where ribgrass and ragweed are common, many farmers are so accustomed to them that they really do not consider them as anything serious, and are willing to sow such weed seeds in quantity; and, what is more amazing, they are willing, unwittingly, it may be, to pay clover-seed prices for them in very many cases. This is true also of foxtail. For samples which might contain anywhere from 5 to 40 per cent. of fox-tail farmers often pay within 25 or 50 cents as much per bushel as for comparatively clean seed. When will we learn wisdom on these points? Pure, well-developed, plump seed is worth very much more per pound than seed with weed seeds in, and where more or less of the seed is brown, shrunken or dead-looking. Yet there is not often more difference than 1 cent per pound in price between them. In actual value, there is 5 cents per pound difference, at least. The best grades are the cheapest buying.

When a farmer is not a good judge of seeds, and cannot distinguish the weed-seed impurities, you would think he would avail himself of the opportunity which the Seed Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, provides him in testing his seeds free of charge. It need not even cost him the price of a postage stamp to send his ounce of representative small seed down for a purity report.

Where a farmer is growing seeds for the market, one would think he couldn't take too much care to see that his seed supply was pure to start with, and that the ground he was going to sow the seeds on was reasonably clean, as on hoe-crop ground, where the plow had not been allowed to disturb the weed seeds, which, so to speak, have gone to sleep after the previous plowing.

In districts where certain weed seeds are prevalent, as ribgrass or buckhorn, ragweed, catchfly, or sticky cockle, false flax, curled dock, or, last but not least, bladder campion, would it not be well to fight shy of all such seed for seeding purposes? The prospect is that plenty of clean red-clover seed may be had this season at reasonable



we have learned from this wide drilling is that it does not diminish the yield, and that it stands better. If labor was more plentiful, it would pay handsomely to wheel-hoe all the grain crops. We have hoed an acre in three hours, but, reckoning two acres for a day's work, the cost would be below \$1 per acre, while the yield would be increased, and weeds subdued.

Last spring set in very early; we began seeding on April 4th, and finished on the 16th. Before our plots were sown, wet weather set in, and the land was not fit for seeding again until May 7th. This affected our yield, especially in peas, of which we had three varieties under test. We tried hand-selecting in peas, choosing vines which bore eight or more pods to the vine, where the average was about 5 pods. Our object was to find out whether the yield of pods would be kept up, as we believed it would. Unfortunately, the late sowing brought the blooming period during a hot spell; then a brown-spotted rust struck the vines, and the result was an inferior yield of 13 bushels per acre, when the same variety in our field crop, sown three weeks earlier, yielded upward of 30 bushels per acre—over double the yield of the late sowing.

Another interesting experiment tried was testing seed barley, grown on sandy and clay soil, to see whether there was any difference in the vitality of the seed germ, as we believed there would be in favor of the seed grown on clay soil. We