

The Farming World

And Canadian Farm and Home

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Where is Summer?

ONE would imagine from the way the very cold weather hangs around that "summer" had got lost somewhere. Will the weather man kindly make a thorough search for it, and when found send it along by the fast express? We need its warmth for the growing crops, now sufficiently saturated with moisture from the recently extended rains, to thrive well under the drying influences of genial summer weather. Especially is this true of corn. So urgently is warm weather needed, that unless summer hastens its arrival a little quicker there will be no corn crop to harvest in the fall. Its presence is urgently required by man and beast. So, good weather man, exert your power to hasten the advent of "the good old summer time."

British Wool Values

British flockmasters are rejoicing over a permanent and material advance in the price of wool. The kinds of wool that sold a year or so ago at from 9c. to 12c. a pound are now quoted at from 17c. to 18c. per pound. Just recently, at Bradford, there was an advance of 1 cent per pound in the very kinds of wool the majority of British farmers have the most of—the half-breds, which include the Oxford, Hampshire and the Shropshire Downs. Though prices have advanced, the present tone of the market appears to warrant no immediate prospect of any relapse from the upward movement.

This advance in values will be welcomed by the sheep breeders of the old land. For the past few years prices for wool have been so low that it has been hardly worth while clipping it. Many found it more profitable to leave the wool on the sheep's back rather than take it off and expose the animal, thus unprotected, to the bad weather influences of the past year or two.

In Canada, while there has not been the marked advance in values that are recorded on the other side of the water, the market shows higher values than a year ago. Quotations here are 10 cents to 11 cents for unwashed, and 17 cents for washed.

Our sheep breeders have not been the only ones to suffer from the low prices for wool. Bad as the market has been here the past year or two, it has been as good, if not better, than in Great Britain, where flockmasters have had to accept as low values under conditions that make wool growing much more expensive than on the cheaper lands of Canada. However, values have been low enough here, and it is to be hoped that Canadian

wool growers will share in the general advance that is taking place the world over in the value of wools.

Assessing Pure-Bred Stock

Some little discussion has taken place recently in some few of our American exchanges about how pure-bred stock should be valued for assessment. In some districts it is the custom of the assessor to put a greatly enhanced value on pure-bred or pedigreed stock. This is objected to and for very good reasons, we think. Why should a breeder, who goes to the trouble, expense and worry of introducing a better quality of stock into his neighborhood be assessed higher per head than his neighbor who keeps only scrubs and very poor ones at that? The breeder of good pure-bred or high-class live stock of any kind is a public benefactor, working in the best interests of his fellowmen. The whole community is enriched by the introduction of strains of blood that help to improve the ordinary grade stock on the farm. Then there is the great risk and large expense for the care of this high-class stock, let alone the original cost. It, therefore, is a hardship when a breeder is unjustly taxed for his pure-bred animals. No honorable breeder would object to his live stock being valued at a somewhat higher figure than the ordinary stock in the district, but when it comes to assessing the pedigree as well as the animal there is room for complaint.

How have Canadian breeders fared in this respect? Does the assessor discriminate too much and put up the assessment to nearly the full value of the animal? These are questions that we would be glad to have some of our breeders enlighten us upon.

Utilizing Farm Help

In these days of high-priced labor the farmer should aim to utilize his help in the best way possible. We do not mean by this that from daylight to dark should mean a day's work. Too often the farmer defeats his own ends by keeping the hired man going every minute of the daylight. More will be accomplished by systematizing the work and confining the labors of the day to reasonable hours. It is wonderful what can be accomplished by systematizing one's work. The man who works in a haphazard way, without any system or plan, always does so at a disadvantage to himself and does not accomplish nearly so much as the one who works by some definite prearranged plan. And so it is with the hired man. His services will be profitable or not to the far-

mer just in proportion as the latter plans and systematizes his work for him. Too often the hired man is left to arrange his work as he thinks fit, and his employer wonders why so little is accomplished. Find out the capacity of your hired help and plan the work accordingly. Don't attempt to pile on more work than he can reasonably be expected to do in the allotted time; but see to it that the work is so arranged that there will be no idle moments during the hours of the day set apart for work. By careful planning, and utilizing every moment of the time as much as can be accomplished in ten hours as during a much longer period where no planning has been done. With regular hours and well-planned work, the help will appreciate the rest and the farmer himself will be satisfied with the results.

"The Yellow Peril"

We hear and read a great deal these days about "the yellow peril"—Japan, if victorious, will form an alliance with China and push western nations out of Asia; the introduction of Chinese labor into South Africa will drive the white man from the rich mining districts of the dark continent; unless kept out by a high tax, the almond-eyed Celestial will overrun the Dominion and reduce Canadian labor and enterprise to a starvation basis.

But with this "peril" if there be one, we are not so much concerned at the present time. Canadian farmers have a much greater one to face. Go through the country during June and early July and you will see field after field dressed in twelfth of July colors, due to the flowering of that most persistent and injurious weed—mustard. Is this not "yellow peril" enough for our farmers to grapple with at the present time? But are they doing it? Not to as great an extent as we would like to see. Like the poor, this "yellow peril" is always with us, flaunting its gaudy colors to the breeze, as if to defy the effort of mankind to stem its progress and prevent it from, year by year, injuring the farmer's crop and lessening the net profits from his acres.

And yet this "yellow peril" can be checked and its ravages stamped out. A 3 to 4 per cent. solution of copper sulphate (bluestone) using about 50 gallons of the mixture per acre, will effectually destroy mustard and leave the land in better condition for the growing crop. Apply the solution with a sprayer, on a bright, clear day. Young plants are more quickly and certainly destroyed than those in bloom. If the weather is cloudy, or