

## FARM BULLETIN.

### Some Observations in Oxford and Norfolk.

Recently the writer enjoyed a trip through the eastern part of Middlesex County, through the southwestern part of Oxford, and south to the lake through Norfolk County. An outstanding feature of the country was the uniformly good fields of grass and vigorous fields of spring grain which never presented a better color. Corn was backward and quite generally somewhat dirty. The condition of things during the seeding made it very difficult to handle the corn land properly. Grass got a start, and when the land was fit to plant too much time was not spent in getting it in. Frequent harrowings after the corn was planted would have helped, but then again the land was often too wet to permit of such. However, it was being cultivated and with some hoeing will be all right. In the vicinity of Delhi and Simcoe, where corn is grown more for factory purposes on lighter land, it was further advanced and gave very good promise of yielding fair returns.

Frequent fields of fall wheat were observed and, as a general thing, they gave promise of a good crop. There appeared to be very few bare places in the fields, the straw was a good length, and it was heading out nicely. Spring grain showed a very good length of straw indeed for the time of year. Barley was shooting and the color was exceptionally good. There is a danger, however, of the growth being somewhat tender and likely to go down if the soil does not have a chance soon to lose some of its excessive moisture. If moderately dry weather is experienced during the latter part of July, spring grains, through the districts traversed, should be exceptionally good. In spite of the lateness of the season many splendid fields of grass were observed. Clover and timothy seemed to be growing abundantly, but in some instances it was noticed that red clover had not stood the winter and alsike predominated. This demonstrates the advisability of mixing a couple of pounds of alsike clover seed with timothy and red clover. The alsike appears to be more immune to unfavorable conditions, and if the red clover does not survive one is still likely to have a very good quality of hay. Haying was in progress on quite an extensive scale in Oxford and Norfolk Counties, but no doubt it was very much retarded by the dull weather which prevailed during the latter part of last week.

Another interesting feature which one could not fail to observe was the different lines of agriculture popular in the various sections of the different counties. As one journeys eastward in Middlesex County and into Oxford he will meet during the early part of the forenoon wagon-load after wagon-load of loaded cans en route to the factory. Further evidence of this being a good dairy district is to be seen in the fields, where whole herds of cattle graze and which conform very closely to breed type. On one side of the road one would observe a herd of Holsteins, very uniform in markings and dairy conformation. On the other side will be seen a herd of Ayrshires having the same qualifications. As one journeys into Norfolk County the land becomes lighter, mixed farming is at first common and then canning-factory crops and fruit become the rule.

### Increased Entries in Live Stock at Calgary Exhibition.

The exhibition in the West opened in Calgary on June 28. From that date until July 5 there was assembled on the Calgary exhibition grounds a great array of excellent herds and flocks from the Western Provinces, together with a number of herds from Ontario. The exhibition was well attended by Alberta people, who were amply repaid for the time spent in viewing the products of field and stable, to say nothing of the special educational features put on by the Dominion Experimental Farms of Lethbridge and Lacombe. Alberta as a Province is becoming noted for its production of high-quality butter. The butter exhibit at Calgary was claimed to be the best ever held in the Dominion. Butter from practically every Province was entered in competition, but out of a total of thirty-two prizes Alberta carried off thirty of them.

There were 696 entries of cattle, which was an increase of 60 over last year. The quality was also superior to anything previously exhibited at Calgary. There were 922 entries in horses, 265 in hogs, and 514 of sheep. All classes were stronger this year than last.

There was keen competition in all classes of Clydesdales. The high-quality, drafty stallions attracted a good deal of attention and rightly so because they all showed to splendid advantage with their clean, flinty-boned legs and trappy action. The championship ribbon went to Ben Finlayson on Edward Garnet, and the reserve to A. D. McCormick on Castor. J. K. Eckert secured the Canadian-bred championship on Count Ideal. The mares brought into the ring were in excellent bloom and the championship went to Thornburn and Riddle, on Nell of Aikton, with Maggie Fleming, a stablemate, as reserve. The champion Canadian-bred female was Royal Maud, exhibited by Thomas McMillan, of Okotoks.

There were seven exhibitors of Percherons who brought out excellent representatives of the breed. The champion stallion was Nelson, exhibited by George Lane, and Melissa from the same stable was the champion mare, with her stablemate, Nellie Bell, as reserve.

In the cattle classes Ontario animals were to be seen,

and in many cases they were successful in carrying away the championship honors. The Shorthorns were of excellent quality which made competition keen in every class. John Miller, Jr., of Ashburn, was the only Ontario exhibitor of this breed and was successful in carrying off second prize with the three-year-old cow, Roan Duchess, and fourth with Lady Rose. In the junior yearling class Crimson Lass 3rd, and Duchess of Gloster won fifth and sixth respectively for Mr. Miller. In the junior calf class Countess of Lancaster, exhibited by the same breeder, secured fourth place. Senior and grand champion honors in the male classes went to Yule and Bowes on Missie's Wonder Jr., and Junior championship to J. G. Barron on Fairview Chief. In the female classes J. G. Barron secured the senior and grand championship prizes on Fairview Baroness Queen, while the junior champion female was Clipper Girl, exhibited by Yule and Bowes.

The display of Aberdeen-Angus cattle was of high merit and the top honors were divided between J. D. McGregor, of Brandon, and James Bowman, of Guelph. The latter secured the senior championship on Beauty's Leroy, with Young Leroy as reserve, but the grand championship was lost to the junior champion, Black Cap, an entry from the McGregor herd. In the female classes the championship prizes went to the Brandon herd, McGregor winning senior championship on Majesty Queen and the junior and grand championship on Pride of Glencarnock 3rd.

There was the greatest showing of Herefords ever seen in Calgary. Every class showed quality and numerical strength. George E. Fuller's \$17,000 bull, Martin Fairfax, won over Clifford's Bonnie Brae 31st, in the aged-class, and Beau Perfection 48th, from the Curdie Land and Cattle Company's herd, won over Collicutt's \$11,000 Gay Lad 40th in the two-year-olds. When it came to awarding the championships the Curdie Cattle Company secured the grand championship on Beau Perfection 48th, with Lord Fairfax 5th, the junior champion from the Clifford herd, as reserve. There was a splendid array of females and the Ontario herd secured the lion's share of the honors. Senior and grand championship ribbons went to L. O. Clifford, on Miss Armour Fairfax, but George E. Fuller had the junior champion female in Beauty Fairfax. The Ontario herd also secured first in the classes for junior herd, and for three calves under one year, and second in the classes for three, the get of one bull, two, the progeny of one cow, and for the herd.

In the dairy classes Holsteins and Ayrshires were well represented, but there was only one herd of Jerseys and one of Guernseys. The grand champion Holstein bull was Korndyke Posch Pontiac, exhibited by J. H. Laycock, while the grand champion female was Princess Holdenby DeKol, from the same herd. Roland Ness had the grand champion Ayrshire bull in Burnside Masterman. Birdie of Lone Spruce, exhibited by Mr. Ness, was the grand champion female.

### Salt a Cure for Bindweed.

We have tried various methods of eradicating bindweed. Throughout one summer we plowed the patches regularly, but the more we plowed the thicker the weeds grew. Rotation with cultivated crops likewise failed. Plowing through the patches only spread this noxious plant. Hogs pastured on the bindweed removed the surface vegetation and pulled out some of the roots, but the following spring the bindweeds appeared again and flourished in increasing numbers. Sheep also are of no value in killing this weed.

In the fall of 1911 we bought two carloads of salt and spread it on land affected with bindweed, as an experiment. The results proved so satisfactory that during the past three years we have scattered about 1,500 tons of salt on bindweed patches. The salt used for this purpose is called "crushed rock salt No. 4." It was shipped from Kanopolis, Kan., and is now quoted at \$2 per ton f. o. b. Kanopolis.

The following methods were used: During the summer when the weeds were visible we located the extreme limits of the patches, marking them with a plowed furrow. Early the following spring the surface of the ground was cleared of all grass and weeds, and salt was applied by broadcasting directly from the wagon, with flat shovels. Wheat drills do not completely cover the ground, and manure spreaders are not properly built for the handling of fine salt. The salt was applied at the rate of twenty-three tons per acre, making a uniform layer over the entire area of at least three-eighths of an inch in thickness. Some seem to think that a smaller amount of salt is adequate, but I have realized from experience that it pays to put on a sufficient amount the first time and avoid repetition of the operation. I prefer to allow the salt to remain undisturbed on the ground until the third year. I then fertilize and plow deeply.

The number of years required for salted ground to return to a productive condition depends upon the amount of salt used, the amount of moisture received, the artificial means used to restore it (such as fertilizers), and the method of cultivation. The ground salted in 1911 grew a fair crop of wheat in 1915, and a good crop in 1916. To me the question of how many years before the ground will return to its former condition is of minor importance, for ground covered with bindweeds is wholly worthless, and the danger of the spreading bindweeds permanently ruining the surrounding land is so great that it is necessary to adopt drastic measures.

To the man who is at present unable to salt all the bindweeds on his farm I have this suggestion to make: That he purchase enough salt to cover a strip about ten feet wide around the extreme edge of each patch,

so that the roots of the pest cannot spread over more land. The patch inside the circle should then be plowed regularly so that the flowers can not mature and the vines develop seeds. This will act as a check to the weed, but the ultimate purpose should be to use salt over the entire patch.

Trials at Dodge City Agricultural Experiment Station have led the experts in charge there to believe that salt at the rate of ten tons per acre is the most economical means of eradicating bindweed. This amount does not completely destroy the pest, however, and later applications in small amounts are generally necessary in disposing of the remaining weeds.—Martin G. Miller, Russell Co., Kansas.

### The Farmer and His Paper.

I doubt whether there is any profession to-day against which so much criticism is directed, or any business about which the public is so woefully ignorant. And few men walk the streets who do not believe themselves competent to run the paper better than the editor runs it. These reflections have been recorded, because I wished to lead gradually to the idea I have in mind—the idea that every farmer ought to know something about what a farm paper is, and how it is made. To know how to write is a laudable ambition, a fine accomplishment, but to know how to put the writing into type and then make it into a presentable paper is quite another thing.

I have long had an idea that if our farmer readers knew just a little about how the paper is made, and some of the editor's vicissitudes, they might very much more graciously accord him justice, and at least admit that he is doing his best.

Obviously no publisher would print a paper if he had no advertisements. The money received from subscribers would scarcely pay for the soliciting. Indeed, the subscription price very often does not cover the expense of getting it. If the circulation department pays its own way we are happy. This means that farm papers must carry at least 50 per cent. advertising, and that the reading matter ought to bear some relationship toward the businesses represented. I do not mean to infer that the editorial columns should carry any free reading notices, mention trade names, or otherwise crook the knee to the influence of commercialism; but what every editor should remember is the educational value of every line he prints. White paper is too expensive—it is too scarce at any price—to be wasted. The properly conducted farm paper can educate its readers to buy the goods advertised in its columns, can keep them in a mood to buy, by teaching them the way to better living, higher ideals.

The staff of a farm paper is made up nowadays of specialists. No mistakes can be permitted in articles treating of a subject so important as scientific farming. To avoid them we have men and women trained by education and environment to handle departments for every specific branch of agriculture and of the farm home. We must have a live-stock editor, a field man or two, a dairy editor, a poultry editor, a woman for the home pages and one for the children; and finally a man to supervise the whole outfit—not necessarily a scientific expert in anything except the making of papers. The smooth operation of the business, the proper assembling of the pages into an attractive product; the tact needed to direct a man in touching delicate subjects in just the right way; the giving of advice without appearing to give it—all these things make the editor of a farm paper a diplomat or a dismal failure.

You know, being farmers, that few of your kind like advice. I suppose no human beings on earth ever had more of it, or paid less attention to it. What you do like, however, is interesting reports showing results and how these results were brought about. That is what the careful editor will try to give you.

Women have a large part now in making up a good farm paper. The old-fashioned, roll-the-hoop department kind of paper had the family pages relegated to the live-stock section. Just how the editors figured out this arrangement as being wise is too much for me. The women renew the paper—not father.

The editor of a farm paper must have the wisdom of Solomon, the patience of Job, and the good temper of Lincoln. No state or national problem, no marital discord, no ailing cow or pig, no line-fence dispute, no altercation between A and B should appall the editor. "One and all," as the showman would put it, he decides the trials and troubles of his readers.

One of the interesting peculiarities of the editing business, in a farm paper office, is the absence of letters about farming. A farmer will write in to ask about his cow or pig, but he seldom writes about his crops. However, his reticence in this respect is amply made up in the liberal attitude he assumes toward the discussion of taxes, matters of religion, socialism, politics.

The paper that comes to you every week is no hazardous affair. It is thought out months in advance. Every article, except, of course, the news of the week, was prepared in accordance with a schedule in the managing editor's desk. Year after year the same subjects must be touched upon in a farm paper. Certain reminders must appear. Nothing can be left to chance. And, finally, every page you read must pass through the hands of the editor, the foreman of the composing room where the type is set; the linotype operator, the proof-reader, the editor, the foreman of the composing room again, the make-up man, the foreman of the electroplating room, the press room, the elevator boy, the mailing room, the postal clerk, the postmaster, the rural-route carrier, and finally yourself.—Charles Dillon.