

FARMING AND LIVE STOCK PAGE

THE EXPERIMENTAL UNION.

Most intelligent farmers know what good work has been done to Ontario agriculture by the Experimental Union's activity of recent years. They send out samples of grain, roots, etc., for trial in various parts, and report on the results to the executive. By this means much has been learned as to the suitability of various varieties to certain soils and localities.

This information has been of great service to hundreds of farmers, both young and old, who have intelligently followed their reports. Many other farmers know of the good work being done, but are too busy, or think they are, to assist by a small experimental plot. Others, and these are the hardest cases, belittle all efforts of scientific agriculturists to know more or learn better things about the production of grain.

To tickle the soil of a poor worn-out or weedy farm, as the large part of Ontario farms to-day are, into a blossoming abundance of marketable product is no small achievement for even the best informed. That many places do produce handsomely in spite of the absence of methods and common sense, is more of a tribute to the goodness of God than a meritorious boast of the tiller.

Agriculture combines the highest that is in man with the brawn of the arm, to produce a living plant. To produce that successfully so as to improve upon the original is an aspiration worthy the consideration of any one.

Next week at Gravelly will see a meeting of this union, and all who can should be there. The Experimental Farm at Ottawa also are sending out their annual list for experimental purposes, and all who can profitably handle a plot should do so.

THE GRANGE ENTHUSIASM.
The meeting of the Dominion Grange in Toronto this week has revealed the old-time enthusiasm of grangers of the early days. The advent of the Farmers' Association members into the body has been a decided strength, for they supplied much of the militant spirit that is necessary in connection with the organization, deliberation and expression of opinion. Their virile enthusiasm has already been evidenced in the renewed activity in establishing subordinate granges, as well as in the higher plane of discussion to which the meetings of the order have been called.

The Farmers' Association perhaps ignored the local side of their vocations, and like all zealous reformers, expected all the adherents to cherish a deep love for the abstract and often "unpractical" subjects on their tapis. The grange had gone to sleep largely in the lap of her luxurious slumber. She was prone to lie back and admire the beautiful allegories and to forget that the cudgels needed to be taken up at times. The union of the two struck the desired medium, and, with a shortened ritual and a live interest in the state of the land, it bids fair to be the farmers' banner organization, where safe from religious strife and politics' baneful disputations farmer can agree with farmer as to what gives to the agriculturist a proper share in the rate for material betterment.

The election of E. C. Drury of Crown Hill to the highest place in the order determines next year's usefulness, and with such men as the Grange now enjoys, the interests of the Canadian farmers will be safeguarded. It is to be hoped that the work of establishing new granges will proceed so that every county in Ontario will be heard on these questions. What the Manufacturers' Association is to members, the Grange hopes to be to the farmers—only in a better way. For the farmers ask for no special favors, but a fair field and no discrimination.

WHAT IS A DOG TAX FOR?
Recently a case came before the division court at Brougham, in Ontario County, in which a farmer sought redress for sheep killed by dogs from the owners of dogs caught in the act. These men were highly-respected farmers also, and although they had killed the dogs as soon as they were charged with the offence they were mulcted for the damages and the costs.

Pickering Township has a tax on dogs that annually forms a revenue in excess of the damage claims. It is held by many that inasmuch as the farmers pay this dog tax, all damages arising should be met out of this fund. But as in the present case, where the dogs are not known to be marauders previous to the event, and where, as was here, speedy action is taken to destroy the cur, it does seem somewhat of a burden to place on the farmer for his dog's lawless acts. That the law should be amended to cover such cases is the opinion of many.

The owner of the sheep should get full value for his animals killed, and not partial restitution, as is the case now. Where a flock has been visited by a dog, the resulting injury beyond the loss in numbers is severe indeed, as every flock master knows. And he is entitled to full protection when the dog is licensed.

We must have our dogs, and many of them are valuable friends and servants of mankind. At the same time the sheep industry demands attention, so that a remedy as proposed ought to remove much of the seeming injustice that obtains.

THE STATE'S SHEET ANCHOR.

To the Master, Officers and Members of the Dominion Grange.

"Old age obliges me to abstain from attendance at meetings, otherwise I should surely leave for the Grange. I am not a member, but I have not belonged to a political party in this country, but I wish to do my duty as a citizen, and it seemed to me that I had a call when the delegation of the Patrons of Industry broke down, as between the two parties, it was sure to do, and the farm interest, on which I look as the sheet-anchor of the state, seemed in danger of relapsing into weakness."

"We have now a great and vital question coming. Mr. Hill's powerful speech in favor of free trade is a stirring trumpet, sounded for an advance. Forward then, all who desire to strike off the shackles of commerce. Probably there are not among those whom I address many who need to have it proved to them again that it is a good thing to be allowed to buy what you want, most and where you can get it the cheapest. I saw the repeal of the corn laws in England, and I may say again that anyone who had witnessed the state of things before the repeal would be about as likely to wish it reversed as he would be to revive the cholera."

We want to be good to all, and we can help it, to harm none."

Goldwin Smith.

SEED GRAIN AND POTATOES.

Distribution From the C. E. F. Among Canadian Farmers.

A distribution is being made this season of samples of superior sorts of grain and potatoes to Canadian farmers for the improvement of their experimental farms.

The samples consist of:

Wheat—Early, medium, and late varieties.

Oats—Early, medium, and late varieties.

Barley—Early, medium, and late varieties.

Peas—Early, medium, and late varieties.

Beans—Early, medium, and late varieties.

Apples—Early, medium, and late varieties.

Potatoes—Early, medium, and late varieties.

The samples will be sent free of charge to each applicant, and will be sent by mail.

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The Farmstead

The Grange is much alive.

Farmers have chance enough to finish plowing.

Providence is kind to the man behind the plow.

Foot and mouth disease is being vigorously fought in the United States.

Good horses are selling very well at country auction sales.

Mrs. J. J. Poterrell advertises a very good farm near Pickering Village to rent. Plowing is all done.

Read and keep in view the sale ad. of Nicholas C. Brown of Whitby. He has some extra good roadster, running and saddle horses, as well as milk cows.

Farming in Ontario is going to be a better financial proposition all the time. The man who farms intelligently and feeds plenty of live stock will get good returns.

Keep your eye open for your annual Farmers' Institute meeting. The farmer who cannot afford a day off for these events is poor, indeed.

The Women's Institute meeting at Pickering was largely attended on Wednesday last. Nine new members came in, and this young organization is forging ahead.

A big day at the annual meeting in conjunction with the Farmers' Institute.

The spring of grain off the farm is always a loss to the fertility of the farm. The great area devoted to buckwheat this year and the big price for barley last year did farmers no good.

East York Farmers' Women's Institutes will hold their regular meetings at Agincourt on Dec. 2, at Unionville on Dec. 3, at Stouffville Dec. 4, and at Scarborough Dec. 5.

Dr. Reed of Georgetown and Miss Shuttleworth of Gravelly are the speakers.

J. Locke Wilson, superintendent of agricultural societies, is optimistic over the results of the field crop competition and looks for a big exhibit of seed grain at Gravelly and Ottawa.

Some one has given to the world a saying that sticks: "Talk to your cow as you would to a lady." There is a world of common sense in it. There is more to be learned from a cow than from a man.

What else is it but the language of the Bible applied to animals: "A soft answer turneth away wrath." A pleasant word to a horse in time of trouble has prevented many a disaster where the horse has learned that pleasant words mean a guaranty that danger from punishment is not imminent.

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