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Protection from Weed Seeds

THE representations made to the grain commission in regard to the spreading of noxious weed seeds in Ontario, as noted elsewhere in this issue, are worthy of careful consideration. Above all things farmers should be protected against the dissemination of weed seeds, whether in foods prepared for stock or from any other source. If existing laws cover the case, as presented to the commission, then means should be taken to have them properly enforced. If further legislation is needed, then there should be no hesitation on the part of those in authority in providing for it. The farmer has enough difficulty to keep his farm free from weed seeds arising from local sources without having to guard against their introduction from outside places when he buys feed for his stock. The grievance is a serious one, and it is to be hoped that the members of the grain commission will make such recommendations to the Government as will safeguard Ontario farmers from this source of weed seed infection in the future.

Enforce Seed Control Act

The Seed Control Act has been in force now since the beginning of the year, but we have yet to hear of any convictions under the Act. We have it on good authority that there have been several cases of fraud under the Act detected by the inspectors the past summer. Why, then, have not these cases been brought to trial? Are we to understand that it is not the intention of the Minister of Agriculture or the Seed Division to prosecute under the Act this season? If so, it would have been better had the legislation regulating the seed trade of this country never become law. It is a most farcical proceeding to pass important legislation regulating any trade and then allow parties who deliberately break the law to go unpunished.

If seed merchants or seed growers have been deliberately breaking the Seed Control Act, and sufficient evidence has been secured to bring them to justice, and we understand that such evidence has been secured, then it is the duty of the Department at Ottawa to prosecute, and let the people know that the law is being strictly and impartially enforced. The farmers of this country, in whose interest the Seed Control Act was said to be passed, demand that examples be made of those who have deliberately broken it. If this is not done,

why pass a law at all? If the Act is not to be enforced better have it repealed, and give everybody a chance to do as his conscience dictates in selling seeds. The buyer would then know what to expect, and could act accordingly.

Toronto Exhibition Fire

The total loss to the Canadian National Exhibition, as the result of the recent fire, is placed at \$137,000. This amount is made up as follows: Grand Stand, \$70,000; Transportation Building, \$60,000, and cattle stables, \$7,000. The total insurance on the buildings burned is \$99,000, leaving a net loss of \$38,000. But as the buildings will have to be replaced on

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a larger scale and with a view to lessening the risk from fire in future, the outlay necessary for replacing them will be at least double the amount of the insurance. Even if this be so, the buildings should be replaced by better and more up-to-date structures at once, so as to insure their being ready for next year's show. The citizens of Toronto owe a duty to themselves and to the country at large in this matter. They cannot afford to allow the exhibition to retrograde at this juncture. It is too good an investment to lose, even if another large appropriation is necessary to restore the buildings burned. We understand that the fire will not interfere with the building of the new fruit, flower and honey building in time for next season's show. This is well, as new quarters for these important departments are urgently needed.

The Need of the Fruit Trade

The great problem to be solved by the Canadian fruit grower at the present time is not so much the growing of the fruit as of preserving it after it is grown. While, no doubt, some of the fruit grown in our orchards is hardly worth preserving because of its nondescript character, still the great bulk of the apples grown in this country are of a kind and quality that will pay somebody well to pick and pack carefully and preserve for the market. Thousands of barrels are lost every year because the facilities for getting the fruit

to the grower to the consumer are totally inadequate, while the packing in many instances is not what it should be.

The chief need of the industry at the present time is cold storage. With this provided it would be possible to preserve apples a long time before they are put upon the market, and have them reach the consumer in better condition. With proper cold storage there should be no difficulty in keeping summer apples well on into the autumn, fall apples well on into the winter, and winter apples over until the next crop of apples arrives. The writer sampled an English Russet the other day that was picked on an Ontario farm in October, 1905, and preserved in the bottom of a barrel in an ordinary cellar until a week or two ago. The color was good, the flavor was good, and all the essential qualities of the apple seem to have been preserved intact. If this can be done in an ordinary cellar, what cannot be done in a well equipped cold storage warehouse properly managed.

But cold storage in sufficient quantities to help the fruit trade cannot be secured for nothing. And it is this question of cost, perhaps, more than anything else that has prevented our fruit growers and others interested from taking up the question in a large way ere this. Nevertheless, though the cost be great, a good cold storage warehouse, suitable for fruit and other perishable food products, should pay good interest on the money invested. It is possible that some pressure may be brought to bear upon the Dominion Government to assist financially this cold storage movement. If so, the Government should guard against a monopoly of the business being given to any one person or body of men. This difficulty might be got over if it can be shown that public funds are needed to help the movement, by granting