

The Farming World

For Farmers and Stockmen

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Postponed One Week

OWING to the unusually large edition of our Dairy number demanded since our first announcement and our desire to make that issue both mechanically and editorially thoroughly representative of one of Canada's greatest industries we have decided to delay publication until April 8th.

Our readers will be interested to know that among the contributors to that number will be, Prof. H. H. Dean, O.A.C., Guelph; J. A. Kuddick, Chief of the Dairy Division, Ottawa; J. W. Hart, Supt. Kingston Dairy School, G. G. Pablow, Instructor in Cheese-making, Kingston Dairy School; Miss Laura Rose, Instructor in the Home Dairy O.A.C., Guelph; H. W. Parry, Compton, Que.; J. F. Tilly, Dairy Supt. New Brunswick; J. W. Mitchell, Dairy Supt., Maritime Provinces; C. A. Murray, Dairy Supt., Manitoba. The issue therefore will be most complete, covering as it will the dairy interests of the whole Dominion.

Soil Cultivation

"The one fundamental labor of agriculture is the stirring and mixing of the soil." These words of Prof. I. P. Roberts, contain a fund of thought for every farmer. No matter how rich a field may be, or how much or how well proportioned its store of plant food may be, if the soil is not properly tilled and put in proper condition for receiving the seed the greatest success in crop production cannot be secured. This may be illustrated any day in the growing season by a drive through any part of the country. It holds true even on the Western prairie. In that part of Canada it is the farmer who pays most attention to the cultivation of his land who has the largest crops of wheat. The system in use when the virgin prairie was broken up, that of sowing the seed with as little preparation of the soil as possible, will not do to-day. And what applies to the newer portions of the country applies with much more force to the older portions.

Every experienced farmer, if he be at all observing must be convinced of the importance of proper soil cultivation. And yet how many there are who neglect this most important part in crop production. When the spring opens there seems to be such a rush to get the seeding done early that the question of having the soil in proper condition for the reception of the seed is of secondary importance. We have often heard farmers boast of being

through seeding before their neighbors, when they would have had better crop returns had they been several days later in finishing and had the land in better tilth. It is much better to be a few days later in sowing and have the land in proper condition for the seed than to sow earlier on badly prepared land. A mistake often made is that of not recognizing that certain soils require more cultivation than others. A heavy soil requires more cultivation to get it in good tilth than a light one.

In preparing the soil for the seed certain principles must be observed. The finer the soil the quicker will it come in touch with the seed and produce growth. This is an important point in crop production. And the smaller the seed the more necessary it is that the soil should be pulverized as finely as possible. In a coarse, hard, lumpy soil it is only with difficulty that seed, and more particularly small seed, can come in touch with the plant food, and often does not reach it. Small seed also does not require to be buried so deeply in the soil and consequently there is need of better preparation of the land so as to have the surface in as fine a condition as possible.

Every farmer should be familiar with the methods to adopt to get the land in good condition. There are those who advocate shallow cultivation and others who advise going more deeply and bringing up the subsoil. As to the best plan to adopt the farmer will have to be guided by the kind of soil. A strong advocate of shallow cultivation is Mr. Wm. Rennie, for several years Farm Superintendent at the Agricultural College. He certainly had splendid success from this method at the college. He claims that it is the only correct way to kill weeds and increase soil fertility, the only exception, when deep cultivation should be practiced, is when it is necessary to loosen a clay subsoil, when a green crop and farm manure have been plowed under. Prof. Roberts states that plants which throw out roots near the surface should receive shallow surface tillage, while those which root deeply may have deep tillage. The aim should be to prevent the water from rising above the earth in which the roots are feeding.

The Session's Work for Agriculture

The Ontario Legislature was prorogued last week. Out of the 116 acts passed comparatively few of them directly affected the farmer. Among those in which he is more directly interested are: An Act to amend the Agricultural and Arts

Act defining the boundaries and work of the Eastern and Western Poultry Associations; an Act to amend the San Jose Scale Act, and one to amend the Act respecting the barberry shrub.

The amendments to the San Jose Scale Act, introduced by Mr. Dryden, consist of the adding of a number of subsections, which provide that all infested nursery stock shall be either destroyed by fire or so treated by fumigation or spraying as to effectually kill the scale. The amendment also gives any township or incorporated village the right on the petition of fifteen or more ratepayers, the right to appoint one or more inspectors to enforce the San Jose Scale Act within the municipality. The Act relating to the barberry shrub, also introduced by Mr. Dryden, in brief prohibits the planting, cultivation or selling of the barberry shrub, and provides for the destruction of the shrub wherever at present grown on the petition of at least three owners or occupiers of land in the district. An Act, also introduced by Mr. Dryden, providing for protection of stallion owners, was, after being considered by the Agricultural Committee, held over for another session, awaiting further information on the subject.

Several appropriations were made for agriculture, the estimates as brought down in connection with the budget speech, providing \$212,176 for this purpose and the supplementary estimates an additional \$18,350, making \$230,526 in all. The chief new items are: \$3,000 towards an Eastern Ontario Winter Fair, conditional upon suitable buildings being provided; \$4,000 for special dairy instruction; \$5,000 to enlarge the Winter Fair buildings at Guelph; \$1,000 for sugar beet experiments, and \$2,000 towards the payment of expert judges at agricultural fairs. This last appropriation is to be used in connection with the forming of the local agricultural fairs into circuits, and the employment of expert judges. The plan for special dairy work has not yet been decided upon, but we hope to be able to give full particulars in our Dairy number.

How Chickens Will Pay the Farmer

At an East Simcoe Institute meeting, Dr. Alfred Boulbee, manager of the Canadian Produce Co., gave an address on poultry for export, from which we take the following:

"Eastern Canada is fitted to be the grandest poultry country in the world, we have a splendid climate