

due in a large measure to unclean seed.

Often the farmer is too busy at seeding time to give much attention to cleansing the seed properly. Sometimes it goes into the seeder and from it into the ground without even being put through the fanning mill. The best time, therefore, to begin the selection of seed for next spring is now when there is very little to do and when there is plenty of time to go over the seed carefully and eliminate the weed seeds as much as possible. If it is not possible from the supply in the granary to secure good clean seed, then a supply should be got from some other source. It will pay to go to considerable expense and trouble in order to get good clean seed, as the success of the future crop depends upon it.

With the coming into effect of the seed control bill, a better quality of seed may be looked for in the seed stores of the country, especially in the seeds of clovers and grasses.

Legislation for the Fall Fairs

The annual meeting of the Canadian Fairs Association to be held in Toronto on Feb. 21st and 22nd, promises to be one of unusual interest. Legislation amending the Agriculture and Arts Act has been drafted for the approaching session of the legislature. This legislation will be submitted to the fairs association meeting and will no doubt provoke warm discussion. Under the proposed legislation it is understood the distinction between district and township societies will disappear, all the societies in the province being placed under the same footing so far as the Department of Agriculture is concerned. The old geographical division into ridings will, it is said, be replaced by counties, and each society within this area will receive assistance from the government in proportion to the amount which it expends in promoting progressive agriculture. This will be determined upon sworn returns, which the secretaries make to the department, showing the amount of money actually paid as prizes for strictly agricultural exhibits. Special provision will be made in the case of New Ontario and other sparsely-settled sections. It is also stated that the legislation will give the department authority to determine the localities in which fairs receiving provincial assistance will be held.

Everyone interested in the welfare of the fall fair will agree that some new legislation is needed to put the agricultural society on a better footing. The proposed changes have been under discussion at the annual meetings of the fairs association for several years past and the members should be in a position to act upon the proposed legislation. The principal clause has to do with the apportionment of the government grant. An ap-

portionment according to membership is unsound in principle as well as in fact. It gives an undue advantage to the society with a large town population in its midst. By apportioning the grant according to the work done for agriculture every society, large or small, will be on the same footing and progress in keeping with the original interest and purpose of the Act will result.

Dishonest Milk Suppliers

According to the reports of Chief Instructors Publow and Barr as given at the recent dairy convention, the practice of adding water to or taking the cream off milk supplied to the cheese factories of Ontario is on the increase. Evidently increased skill and intelligence as applied to dairying does not always make for honesty and square dealing. The inherent tendency in mankind to get something for nothing will not down. The evil is not new, however, and has been with us since those days when dairying was of minor importance to Canadians.

While the practice is not at all general and only unscrupulous individuals here and there attempt it, yet it is sufficiently general to blast the good name of Canada and to bring reproach upon the dairymen of this country. One way of stopping it is to apply the law. This has been done to a large extent, but the evil continues to thrive. At present the law is applied through the instructors employed to aid in improving the quality of our dairy products. But this is not satisfactory. The instructor should not in any sense act the part of a detective. It makes his work less effective and a lot of valuable time is wasted that should be better employed. If the law has to be applied to make patrons honest the maker or a special committee connected with the factory should enforce it and not the instructor.

But there is a better way than all this of discouraging the practice. Let the cheese factories of this country pay for milk according to its quality and the temptation to add water or to take cream from the milk will be removed. There is really no excuse for the expenditure of one dollar in applying the law to dishonest cheese factory patrons. The Babcock test in careful and accurate hands will do the work and give every patron just what he is entitled to get for his milk, both quantity and quality considered. Common sense and justice to all should rule in this matter and not law.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Hon. Mr. Fisher has called a Dominion conference of fruit growers for March 20th at Ottawa. Such a conference should prove of great advantage to the fruit interests of every part of Canada.

The Ontario Government have decided to build a new up-to-date dairy building at the Ontario Agricultural College. This will fill a long-felt need.

At an institute meeting near Guelph the delegation ran into a local option scrap, which broke up the evening session. Those present had the option of receiving a shower of stones, etc., from the liquor battery or getting out, and they "got."

Western fruit consumers have made a decided protest against any duty on fruit as advocated by the Niagara fruit growers, and rightly so. It is hard enough for the Westerner to get good fruit as it is, without making him pay a duty on it.

The fruit marks act is still doing duty at the old stand. A few days ago it loomed up at Trenton, Ont., and two apple shippers were heavily fined for not conducting their business honestly. Lessons of this kind are needed to make some people "do unto others as they would be done by."

The Niagara fruit growers want a fruit experiment station and it looks as if they were going to get it. The object of this station will be chiefly to test fruits and carry on experiments which owing to unfavorable weather conditions cannot be conducted at the Ontario Agricultural College. If profitably conducted this should prove a useful expenditure of public money.

Identifying the Remains

Andrew Carnegie, says the Epworth Herald, tells this as one of his experiences at Skiba Castle:

Soon after he had bought Skiba there was a menagerie exhibited in the neighborhood, one of the main attractions of which was the orang-outang.

One night the orang-outang got out, fell over the cliff, and was killed. In the morning two of the keepers came across the dead body of the orang-outang.

One of them scratched his head and said: "He ain't no 'lander, that's sure."

The other said: "He ain't no Lowlander; they ain't got that much hair on 'em." After a while one of them proposed to the other as follows:

"I'll go up to the kirk and see the parson, and you go up to Mr. Carnegie and see if any of his American visitors are missing."

Want a Fruit Farm

The fruit growers of the Niagara district are asking the Ontario Government to establish an experimental fruit farm in that section. The subject has been under negotiation for some time. On Feb. 4, the executive of the Niagara Peninsula United Fruit Growers' Association passed a resolution asking the Government to locate the farm where suitable soil may be obtained, adjacent to good hotel accommodation, and proper railway facilities.