

October 11, 1916

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the hide of a sucking calf. The hide of a sucking calf is soft and pliable and has the general characteristics associated with calf skin. The hide of a young calf which has been taken from the cow becomes dry and brittle. Thus a calf skin which weighs between 8 and 15 pounds may grade as a "kip" because of this coarser quality of the hide which can readily be distinguished by the condition of the hair. Calf skins weighing between 15 and 25 pounds taken from weaned calves are graded as "kips." "Deacons" are hides of calves which die at birth or are still-born, while "slunks" are hides of prematurely delivered calves. "Deacons" and "slunks" are bought by the piece. "Kips" bring a little more per pound than full hides and calf hides more than "kips."

Salting Hides

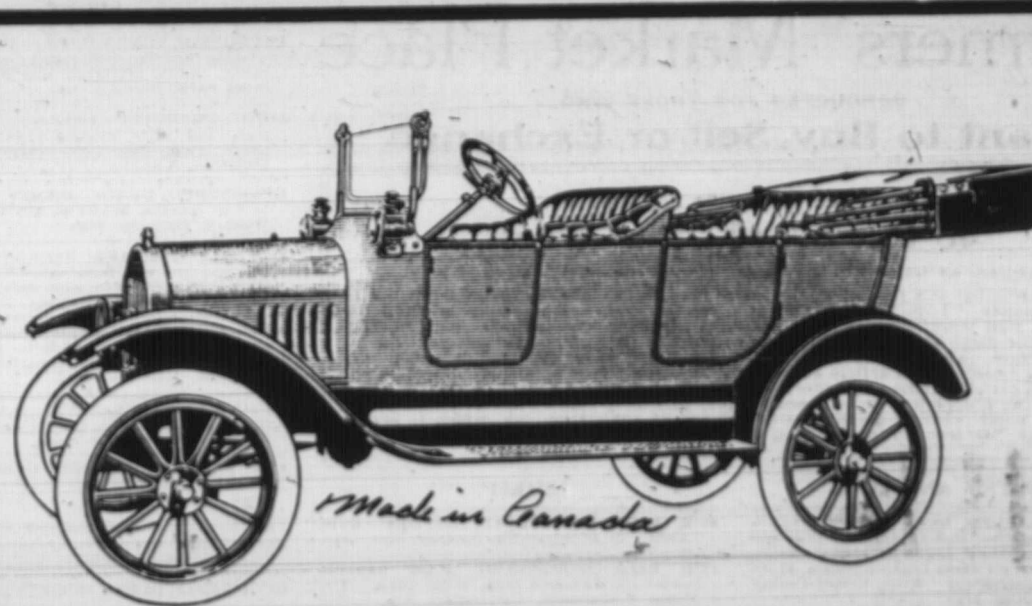
A few words as to salting. It is necessary to use from one to two pails of salt per hide. The best way to salt is to spread the hide out within a short time after it has been taken off on the granary floor and sprinkle the salt upon it. It is better to salt a number of hides at once, when they may be placed one on top of the other with layers of salt between. They should be left in this state for about a week to cure, when they can be rolled up and shipped. In winter time it is better not to put salt on. Hides should then be frozen as quickly as possible and shipped immediately. It is well to remember that nothing can be gained by keeping hides in the winter time. The sooner they are shipped the better price they bring.

SEED GROWING CENTRES

The area devoted to wheat in the three prairie provinces in 1916 is estimated at 10,500,000 acres; that devoted to oats 6,500,000 acres and that devoted to barley 936,000 acres. This enormous area required approximately 25,000,000 bushels of seed. What would it have meant to the country and to the individual farmers had seed been used which was high in yielding capacity, was resistant against rust and hail and which was as free from weeds as it might have been? Investigation has shown that where seed of this kind is used we might reasonably expect an increased yield of at least five bushels per acre in the case of wheat, fifteen bushels in the case of oats and ten bushels in the case of barley. This would have meant a total increase of approximately 150,000,000 bushels of grain in the three provinces. That enormous losses are being sustained on account of improper seed is coming to be realized more and more by the rank and file of farmers. The best farmers as well as those engaged officially in encouraging agriculture have long realized the importance of the problem and regard it as one of great national concern. During the past few years many schemes have been devised and many methods initiated for the purpose of improving the situation. One of the most comprehensive methods which so far has been undertaken is that adopted by the Canadian Seed Growers' Association. This association consists of farmers, who, working under expert direction, are endeavoring to produce seed of the highest possible degree of excellence for their own use and for the trade. When certain standards of purity, vitality and truthness to variety are complied with, the seed is registered and may be sold in sealed sacks as "Registered Seed."

Money Advanced on Seed

In the past these growers have been scattered, usually not more than one working in the same district, a condition which has made the inspection of growing crops an expensive operation and at the same time has made it difficult to get any considerable quantity of good seed in a given locality. As a means of overcoming these difficulties steps have been and are being taken to organize what is known as "Seed Centres" in suitable districts. These centres are composed of farmers who get together and agree to produce seed of the same variety in accordance with the rules of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association. They adopt a simple form of constitution and by-laws and choose one or two of their number to produce what is called "Elite Stock Seed." Quantities of this seed or its immediate progeny are supplied to each member in the centre for propagation. The seed offered for sale is then



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