



EDITORIAL.

Honor yourself by honoring your occupation.

Clover seed is about the one thing it pays to waste—or seem to waste. A few extra pounds of seed per acre may not be needed, but it is profitable crop insurance.

Every man with a tree to spray should look up our spray calendar, issue April 6th, and read Mr. Caesar's article on spraying, issue April 13th.

While we believe in sowing clover seed liberally, we are also reminded that success in securing a catch depends largely upon how the seed-bed has been prepared. A little extra harrowing may help as much as a couple of extra pounds of seed, and be good for the grain crop, as well.

"This is the century of the common people, and they are going to stop war," says Sir George C. Gibbons—a cheering and sensible prediction which we hope to see speedily verified. The adoption of a perpetual peace treaty between Great Britain and the United States will pave the way.

Of all the different means by which weeds, new and old, are introduced to our farms, the most fruitful is grass seed. The seeds of wild mustard, ox-eye daisy, that dreadful pest—perennial sow thistle, ragweed, and others, will be scattered over hundreds and thousands of fair Canadian fields this spring by those who, in their innocence, suppose they are sowing clean seed. Take your specs along, you old fellows of 45 or over, when you go to buy your seeds. One of the most noxious of weeds, bladder campion, a perennial, deep-rooted cockle, is being distributed in clover seed, especially the mammoth red clover.

"The trouble with me was I was living my fool days, and did not stop to consider the real value farm life is to a young man."

Thus writes a man of experience, who is glad he was persuaded by good advice to remain on the farm. There is sound sense in his observation. While it is unreasonable to expect old heads on young shoulders, it is a simple fact that very few lads are capable in youth of drawing sane conclusions concerning the great problems of life—of deciding, in short, what is really best worth while. If they could, there would be a larger number of people on Canadian farms engaged in the most wholesome, interesting line of productive enterprise in the world.

In the course of a fairly wide experience with men and affairs, we have noticed this: A very large proportion of the men who would be accounted in ordinary affairs sensible and level-headed—men whose opinions you would value—speak highly of farming and country life. Though they do not all prize it highly enough to choose agriculture as an occupation, foregoing exceptional advantages of place and power which fortune and capacity have secured them, they have, for all that, a genuine respect and liking for agriculture. Many are anxious to own and manage farms by way of AVOCATION, while some go farther than this, by choosing farming as a VOCATION. There is no life fraught with greater possibilities of interest and pleasure, none offering scope for higher brain-power, none more dignified, and no other quite so satisfying.

Spraying Simplified.

The spraying season is again nearly upon us, and everyone with an acre of orchard should bestir himself, if he has not already done so, to secure a pump. Any doubt as to the efficacy and profit of spraying has been dispelled from the minds of well-informed orchardists. Spraying has long been profitable when thoroughly performed, but of late years great advances have been made by scientists in the study of insects and plant diseases, with a view to discovering how best to combat them. Fortunately, the means of control have also been perfected, until the art of spraying properly has been reduced pretty largely to a matter of following simple instructions.

Economic entomologists, with the courage of their convictions, have been actually spraying orchards according to their own directions, and proving by results the immense benefit of expert work. Well to the front among these men stands L. Caesar, Lecturer and Demonstrator in Fungous Diseases and Insects at the Ontario Agricultural College. On the strength of his own experience, reinforced by wide observation of the work of others, Mr. Caesar has considered himself justified in making the statement that thorough spraying of an apple orchard, supplemented by careful cultivation and destruction of rubbish, will usually insure 75 per cent. of fruit free of worms or scab the first year, with somewhat better results thereafter, as high as 95 per cent. of clean fruit having been thus obtained. These conclusions are supported by the results of our own work. One experiment may be recalled: A Snow apple tree in "The Farmer's Advocate" orchard last year was one-half sprayed and one-half left unsprayed. From the sprayed side we packed with our own hands one box of No. 1 fruit, one barrel of No. 2's, and a few culls. From the unsprayed side, no No. 1's, no No. 2's, half a barrel of very indifferent No. 3's, and a bushel of poor, trashy culls. The crop from the sprayed side would have graded higher than it did, but for the hail. It is needless to multiply instances. The great broad fact stands out that spraying according to the directions given in our spraying calendar, April 6th issue, will pay manifold in orchards addicted to the ordinary devastations of scab, worms, and other fungous diseases and insects. As to materials, we are fortunately able to recommend even simpler and more convenient ones than were formerly used. Lime-sulphur, either homemade or commercial, may be used for apple trees at the summer strength of one part concentrated solution to 35 or 40 parts water, instead of Bordeaux mixture. It is a trifle cheaper and more convenient to apply, and has a certain insecticidal value against insects that cannot be destroyed by poisons. With the lime-sulphur should be combined, at the second and third sprayings, arsenate of lead. As a rule, three sprayings will amply suffice for an apple orchard, the first being of lime-sulphur, an apple strength, applied just before the leaf-spring strength, applied just before the leaf-buds open; the second, lime-sulphur, summer strength, combined with arsenate of lead, and applied just before the blossoms open; the third, and most important, spraying of all, lime-sulphur, summer strength, combined with arsenate of lead, and applied just immediately after the blossoms fall.

The concentrated solution of lime-sulphur comes in barrels, and needs only to be diluted before using. The lead arsenate comes in small pails or other packages in the form of a thick paste, which has to be reduced with water before it is mixed with the lime-sulphur in the spray-pump barrel. This is all there is to the matter of pre-

paring the mixture, unless one wishes to economize, making his own concentrated lime-sulphur, which, however, it is most unwise for an amateur with a small orchard to attempt. Complete directions for the spraying of every kind of fruit will be found in the spraying calendar published April 6th. By following this, together with Mr. Caesar's most excellent and carefully-considered article on spraying, in "The Farmer's Advocate" of April 13th, the veriest greenhorn may spray so as to obtain moderately satisfactory results, while, with practice, he may go on to more and more perfect and profitable work in successive years.

Question Box Runs Over.

Up to date of writing, spring seeding had not checked the deluge of questions which flow into this office month by month, three hundred and seventy-two of which were answered through the paper in the month of March alone, and ninety or more in the first April issue, besides several replies by mail. While an immense amount of valuable information is dispensed through this department, the work is rendered needlessly heavy by a great many trivial and purely individual questions that should never be asked at all. Questions as to plans of barns to meet individual needs, varieties of crops for certain localities, and cultural details, covered fully in general articles published from time to time, are driving a hard-working staff almost to the point of desperation. Many of these queries could be answered much more satisfactorily by the inquirers. There seems to be an impression that a paper has some occult means of securing information. While hesitating to disabuse their minds of this impression, we are, nevertheless, driven to point out that such is not the case. These inquiries are answered by men—plain, human beings, who supplement their own knowledge and experience with all that they can glean from other sources, and use their wits to secure information on difficult points. It is splendid exercise for them, but a little of the same would be an even better thing for some of those who ask questions they could answer themselves. In addition to the considerable number of inquiries referred to authorities outside the office, one man has been employed constantly for months past calculating capacities of silos and quantities of material for basement walls; diagnosing the reasons why chickens die; why sows eat their pigs; finding out the religious persuasion of politicians; whether Eaton's have a bigger store in Winnipeg or Toronto; and so ad infinitum. In addition to almost the whole time of this one interrogation expert, a large number of questions remain to be answered by other members of the staff, who employ snatches of time in this way as a diversion, between hurried moments of reading manuscript, writing editorials, talking to visitors, and buying implements for "The Farmer's Advocate" farm. We would not have our readers infer that we begrudge the time spent in answering sensible questions, but we feel sure that if they knew the strain they were imposing upon a large but still overworked staff, they would desist from the repetition of so many superfluous questions, and figure a few more problems out for themselves.

One man wrote in the other day, informing us that he had taken the paper ten years, without ever before sending us any questions. He then got off to a good start by asking eighteen specially troublesome ones, none of them bearing upon agriculture in a practical way. We shall abate no effort to serve the interests of our readers,