

**Jottings from the Farmers.**

(Now that crops are harvested and many being sold and rapidly delivered, brief, new statements on the results of the season's work are welcomed for this page. There is always more or less of interest in every section pertaining to live stock; notes of interest to stockmen and feeders will also be welcomed. Farmers' institutes, granges and clubs have now started in earnest, and short, witty accounts of these meetings are always of interest. New ideas and short cuts in farm economy are always being sought out by hustling farmers when you catch a new idea, write it out and send to the editor. We have room for jottings of this nature from every state.)

**THE GARDEN OF CANADA.**

Southeastern Ont well deserves to be called "the Garden of Canada." The climate and soil being very suitable, the counties of Lincoln and Welland have been largely planted in peaches, pears, plums, cherries, etc. which bear abundantly. One grower sent off 90,000 12-qt baskets of peaches in one season; another has about 100 a in fruit mostly in bearing, and almost every farmer reckons his season's shipments by the thousands of baskets. In fact, the tendency to plant with fruit to much land and to neglect to a great extent the other branches of farming for which the country is well adapted has been a serious mistake of the farmers in this district, for since the yield has been so largely increased, prices have become very low and now only first-class products find a ready market and pay the grower.

This state of affairs is likely to be quickly changed in a rather ruinous manner, since whole orchards are now being rooted out in a vain endeavor to exterminate the San Jose scale, and moreover it is now becoming known that during last winter many peach trees were frozen at the root, but have sufficient sap to leaf out and to blossom. This year there was a considerable increase in the acreage of wheat, corn and oats.

The country being long settled is well filled up and farming is experiencing a decided boom. Many farms have of late changed hands and improved methods are being adopted with the result that prosperity is more general. The markets supplied are London, Toronto, Ottawa, Winnipeg and Montreal; in fact, our fruit is sold all over the Dominion, and owing to the water routes being available, freight rates are cheap. A good market is being opened up in England and on the continent; the cities of London, Liverpool and Paris are markets for thousands of our apples. For other products the neighboring cities and towns form a ready market; a large packing establishment in the section insures a ready sale for pork. Cann factories and evaporators of tomatoes, apples, peaches, etc. are scattered all through the country and handle enormous quantities each season. A steady increase is apparent in the raising of beef, pork and poultry. In fact, farmers are becoming aware of the fact that to be successful we must not depend entirely on our fruit, though by it we have become known, but we must pursue all branches of the work, so that should the fruit from any cause be a failure we have another source of revenue.—[James Skelton.

**DO SMALL FAIRS PAY?**

What good do small fairs accomplish? Most of them none. There have not been any fairs in most of the parishes of Charlotte Co, N B, for several years and farmers are as well off without them. A ½ bu of grain of any kind will be exhibited and perhaps take a prize. That same ½ bu will be exhibited 4 or 5 yrs and if you asked the owner of the ½ bu of the grain exhibited for another like it he could not produce it. Again there will be a great, large, overgrown potato and other roots and vegetables, many of which will take a prize, yet they may be good for nothing but to feed hogs. Again three or four persons will put what they have to exhibit together and enter them as one, and if they take any prizes they divide and if they do not they lose but little. Animals and fowls are entered as thoroughbred when they are not one-third. The reason of this is that if you give most farmers the best thoroughbred stock of animals or fowls, in a very few years you will scarcely find a trace of the original with them, for it has been crossed and recrossed. As to the judges, men have been chosen to judge fowls who actually did not know the male from the

female. At small fairs the judges generally know to whom the exhibit belongs and there is a good deal of favoritism shown.—[John Fryer, Charlotte Co, N B.

**PLANT MORE TREES.**

More even distribution of the forest growth over farming sections is needed, for as it now is, the forest growth in mountains and other sections is unfit for agricultural purposes. The sections best adapted to farming are largely void of trees. In time of drought the sections which suffer most severely are those where timber is most scarce. Southern Ontario, which has been cleared too much, years ago when there was still much timber standing, produced far better crops than now. Farms were then much better distributed through the growing season and showers were frequent and mild, but now rain too often falls in heavy, sudden downpours, often doing damage to growing crops. These severe rains are usually followed by hard winds that soon dry the moisture from the land in the growing season, and in winter the wind having uninterrupted sweepdrifts the snow in great banks along fences and leaves wheat fields bare.

We cannot undo the harm done by too excessive clearing, but one can improve matters by planting trees in shelter belts on the south and west sides of our farms. For a perpetual wind-break, the Norway spruce undoubtedly leads. A good shelter belt should contain four rows of spruce 10 ft between rows and trees 5 ft apart in the rows, and the trees placed so as to break the spaces between rows. Spruce seedlings can be got from nurseries when about 10 in high for about \$3 per 100. Be very careful in moving evergreens not to let the roots get dry, as this means certain death to the tree. [Robert Killins, Lincoln Co, Ont.

**ALL AROUND THE FARM.**

I have no trouble with hiring help; I deal honestly and honorably with them; when speaking to them, ask them instead of ordering. Do unto them as you would have them do unto you.—[Thomas Dennis, Jr, Renfrew Co, Ont.

Work less ground and work it better. Raise more of the produce suited to the locality and get the top price for them. Try and build up the farm and make a good living without going in debt. Put crops in early, harvest them early, get them to market first and get a better price for the products. With the income improve the farm in every way possible.—[W. W. McConnell, Picou Co, N S.

How many dairymen are making a profit out of the business? Is it too much to say 50 per cent of those engaged in the industry do not make a profit? It is only those who realize from \$35 to 40 a year from each cow that are making anything.

Anything which adds to the attractiveness of the home makes it a better place in which to rear the children who must grow up there.—[J. C. Whitten.

If the city woman and her hired girl together had to do half the work that many a farmer's wife does all alone, they would think themselves worked half to death.

A farmer's back yard affords an index of the man's farm life and habits.

What the People Should Do—They should, through acts of parliament or provincial legislatures assume possession of all the railway, express and telegraph services, as soon as circumstances will permit. It is the duty of the government if at once appoint a railway commission with full power to adjust freight rates and to adjudicate upon all disputes arising between the people and carrying corporations.—[Dominion Grange Master Jabel Robinson.

**A Successful Farmer's Methods—**We should all understand the nature of the land we are cultivating. All kinds of soils do not have the same effect on the same kind of grain. Over 40 years' experience has proved this conclusively. Barnyard manure is the best fertilizer for grain crops. Keep all the straw on the farm and turn it into manure. Feed hay to the stock, instead of marketing it. Turnips, mangolds and carrots make a good stock feed. Keep good, thoroughbred cattle for breeding.

My experience is, it is best to plow all the land in the fall for spring crops. Winter frosts pulverize the soil. Sow oats in seed land. Then follow with peas, manuring well. The peas will also make a good bed for fall wheat by plowing vines under in fall. I have not much faith in breaking up old sod for fall wheat, too much grass comes up. Keep the land well drained, nothing takes away the strength of soil faster than surface water. Don't cultivate when it is wet. The plowing under of any kind of a pasture, such as clover, rye, fodder corn or buckwheat, is beneficial to the soil. Keep the land free of foul plants or seed. There is nothing better than a rotation in grain raising I have something to take to market at every season of the year. [John Budge, Wentworth Co, Ont.

For Winter Pasture, oats or rye may be sown to advantage at time of Nov rains. These crops are a great help in preventing soil-washing. The comparative feeding value per ton of green 1½ fodder is \$3.78, against 5.94 for oat fodder and 5.22 for green herdsgrass or timothy. On the same basis green corn fodder is worth 3.

The New Minister of Agriculture for New Brunswick is Hon L. P. Faris, the only practical farmer in the legislature and representing a fine agricultural district. Hon Mr La Billois, the former minister for agriculture, has taken the office of chief commissioner of public works.

For Best Success, divide the farm properly as to tillage and pasturage. Keep all the cows, with a good pair of horses, that you can raise feed for. Put in several acres of fodder corn, using commercial fertilizer. Begin to feed early. Silo the corn. Plow the land in the fall and stock down all you do not plant. Use clover seed freely in stocking down. Cultivate all you can manure properly and no more. Take your milk to a creamery; the skim milk you receive back has all its properties except the fat, add a little meal and you have a perfect food for calves and pigs. Have each cow's milk weighed and tested 3 mos after calving. Eat the poor ones and replace with good; profit is made from good cows only. Feed and water regularly, milk quickly, quietly and regularly. Keep cows in a warm, well-ventilated barn and keep them clean. Never let milk stand where there are bad odors. Aerate the milk and do not mix warm with cold milk. Have a good garden; all kinds of vegetables for the family can be raised on a small piece of ground properly cared for. Buy only what you can pay low for.—[E. H. Heath, Stanstead Co, Que.

The Welland Canal—E. M. L.: This canal crosses Welland Co, is 27 miles long, has a fall of 327-ft, has 26 locks which are 270 ft long and 45 wide. The canal is 14 ft deep.

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