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JULY 5, 1917

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

1095

Mounding up to Combat the Peach Tree Borer.

The peach tree borer ranks next to San José scale as the most destructive insect attacking the peach. The moths begin to appear about the middle of July in Ontario, and are to be seen up until the middle of September. Egg laying takes place over much of this period. Eggs are laid on the trunk, branches, leaves and occasionally in the ground near the tree. On hatching the little larvæ work their way to the base of the trunk and gradually eat through the bark. Some of them are still very small by winter; others are almost full grown. In Bulletin 241 of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, Prof. L. Caesar recommends the following treatment:

"The customary method, and one that has given fairly good satisfaction, is to examine each tree twice a year, once in October and once at the end of May or in early June, and with a sharp knife dig out and kill all larvæ found. In searching for them the earth should first be removed from around the trunk to the depth of three or four inches, because they often work below the surface. Their presence can nearly always be determined by the masses of gum that exude from the wounds. This should first be removed with the knife or trowel, and then by cutting along with the grain of the bark so as to do as little damage to the tree as possible, the larvæ should be sought out and killed. If earth, to a height of 6 or 8 inches, is heaped up around the trees at the end of June it forces the larvæ to work higher up on the trunk, and thus, when it is removed, they can be more easily found and destroyed. The earth should be put back for winter."

It is not too late now to mound up around the trunks of the trees to force the larvæ to work far enough up the trunk so they can be dug out more easily. In badly infected orchards any precautions such as these are important for the peach tree borer is a serious pest.

FARM BULLETIN.

Our Scottish Letter.

Since I last wrote, now five weeks ago, great progress has been made by every crop on the farm. It is hard to believe that less than two months ago we experienced one of the worst blizzards known in the lifetime of the oldest inhabitant. The blizzard of 17th April, 1917, will not be forgotten for many a day, yet here we are to-day, at the close of the first week in June, with vegetation as far advanced as it generally is in a normal season, and every prospect of heavy crops of all kinds of produce. The one misfortune is that on account of the prolonged winter and backward spring it was impossible to seed the extent of land which present circumstances called for. In consequence of this, while there is likely to be a satisfactory yield per acre, there is nothing like the extent of acreage which the exigencies of the country seem to demand.

For the nonce the thoughts of agriculturists are being centered rather on the crops of 1918 than on those of 1917. For good or for ill the area to be seeded this year is seeded, and the issue is in the hands of Providence. But we are in the midst of a lightning campaign to greatly increase the seeded area in 1918. The Government is calling upon farmers to break up grass land and grow cereals and green crops. It boldly demands that where the issue is between stock and crop, stock must go. One important exception is made to this demand. Dairy cattle must on no account be sacrificed. The milk supply must at all costs be maintained. The ways and means for doing that are not altogether in sight. Labor is an essential, and feeding stuffs are scarcely less vital. Yet both labor and feeding stuffs are extremely scarce, and there is the possibility that feeding stuffs will be scarcer still during the ensuing winter. A winter supply of milk can only be maintained in Scotland by liberal feeding indoors. The grazing season here is comparatively short, and for profitable milk production it is found necessary to supplement even grass feeding with a small quantity of bean meal or cotton cake. Should the threatened shortage materialize the problem of the milk supply will be serious indeed. Hence one reason for anxiety regarding the great offensive which has begun so auspiciously under Sir Douglas Haig. This milk problem calls for the exercise of the best brain power in our agricultural camp.

Apart from its dairy side, the problem of increased food production is by no means easy of solution. The sea, it has been well said, which was considered Great Britain's strength has suddenly become her weakness. The enemy submarine has altered many things, yet gradually we are obtaining the mastery over it. Each week is showing a reduction in the number of losses of ships belonging to Great Britain and the Allies, and neutral nations trading with our shores. There is reason to believe that we are steadily taking a heavy toll of these U boats. Unfortunately one cannot believe all rumors, but we may at least conclude that the menace is being checked, and that, did we possess enough available shipping, there would be comparatively little fear of famine within these islands. Apart from tonnage scarcity there is, no doubt, a world shortage of cereal crops, and it is necessary for this country to endeavor at all costs to grow enough grain to feed our people nine months out of the twelve. This is the goal of the present crusaders. They are taking each county in detail, and they are telling the Food Production Committees exactly how much fresh land must be put under crop in their respective areas.

At the same time many thoughtful men are discussing these food problems on their merits, and independently of war conditions. They are discussing the problems not as they are rendered acute by the exigencies of War, but as they will remain for solution when the War is over. One writer says, the Empire may become self-supporting on a sound, economic basis, but the United Kingdom cannot become self-supporting save at a prohibitive cost. During war-time no cost can be regarded as prohibitive if by means of it the people can be fed. Even if every bushel of grain be produced at a cost which greatly exceeds the market value of the produce, the grain must be grown. The people must be fed. In the last resort wars are won by the nation which can feed its people for the longest period of time. The War policy of the Government regarding food is to fix a minimum price for the farmer, a minimum wage for the farm laborer, and a maximum rent for the landlord. The farmer may get more, he cannot get less than the guaranteed minimum price; the laborer may get more, he cannot get less than the guaranteed minimum wage, but the landowner may have the rate of interest on his mortgages raised, his costs for repairs greatly enhanced, and his own wages bill substantially advanced, but he cannot advance the rents of his tenants, who are not moving, one penny. This has been criticized as very unfair to the landowner, but such is the temper and mood of the times, that no one troubles much about this and each goes his several ways. It has been well said that as things are there are really three prices for all farm produce; there is the fixed price which Government guarantees to the producer; there is the sale price at which the stuff may be sold in the open market, and there is the production price, the figure at which the crop could be raised and harvested. Increased crop production can only be attained by intensive farming. Many thoughtful men maintain that the Government scheme begins at the wrong end. In place of urging an extension of cultivated area, a premium should be put upon more intensive cultivation of the area already under crop.

There can be no doubt that to a certain extent this is a sound proposition. It becomes increasingly evident that there is a vast amount of really bad farming in this country. It is only here and there that one meets with land that is growing its limit. Even in the same parish on adjacent farms there are great differences to be observed. The man who manures liberally reaps bountifully. In a paper read this week to the Farmers' Club, London, Allan C. Young maintained that there is a point beyond which intensive farming cannot be prosecuted and leave a profit. This is contrary to general experience. All who have studied the question are agreed that some outside authority should be appointed to determine whether a farm is being cultivated to the best advantage. The difficulty is to know how to constitute such a third party with powers. Some would call such an authority a Land Court, another would give it the name of a Rent-Regulating Court, while a third happily suggests that it be designated a Board of Conciliation. The essential and surprising fact is the universal argument that in the interest of the Commonwealth neither landlord nor tenant can be allowed to cultivate a farm in a slovenly and unproductive way. If the State is to guarantee a minimum price for farm produce, the State will demand and exercise the right to supervise the operations of every man to whom the guarantee is given. A farmer will do his best, provided he understands his business, when he enjoys security of tenure, has his rent fixed by a third party at a rate which is fair to all parties, and is guaranteed adequate compensation for improvements effected by him should he be compelled to relinquish these improvements to another before he has exhausted them.

One notable result of the demand for enhanced crop production is the attention being bestowed on mechanical auxiliaries for farm work. This spring several potato planting machines have been put upon the market. These are now perfected so that they can handle potato seeds of varying sizes. The bed potato planter is known as the "Richmond" planter. It was patented by Gordon Richmond, farmer, Don, Bridge of Earn, Perthshire. Like his father before him this young farmer has developed inventive powers of no ordinary character, and his planter has been evolved stage by stage under his own eye, until this season it has fairly captured the market. Anything that increases the ratio at which farm labor can be performed is sure of a ready sale in these days.

We are having much protesting on account of the suspension of horse racing by the edict of the Government. Some surprising statements are being made by those whose interests are bound up with racing. They are urging that the suspension of racing even for one year will ruin the breed of English Thoroughbreds. On the face of it this argument is overdrawn. It is inconceivable that any such disaster should follow a mere suspension of racing. Even granting that such short races as are now popular are fitted to develop the stamina and grit of the Thoroughbred, it is inconceivable that the whole fabric would collapse because of suspension. It is estimated that race horses and horses kept for breeding race horses consume from 900 to 1,000 tons of the choicest oats per month. It is in order to cut down this quantity for horses, and increase thereby the food supply for human beings that the suspension of racing has been resorted to. Oats will be saved, and at the moment every bushel must be hained and there must be no waste. The race-horse agitation is one of the most unworthy features of the social life of England at the present time. Scotland is very calm about the business. What concerns it most of all is the crass stupidity of Government officials in connection with the handling of hay and straw.

SCOTLAND YET.

Escana Shorthorns Sell For \$861.87.

Forty Shorthorns selling for \$34,475, or an average of \$861.87, is an epitome of the dispersion sale held by Mitchell Bros., Burlington, Ont., on June 29. This, a record average for a Canadian Shorthorn sale-ring, expresses the esteem in which the Escana herd has been held by Shorthorn breeders in Canada and United States, and furthermore it gives voice to the general approval of Right Sort, which, for the last several years, has been the herd bull in service. His get have been persistent winners at the Canadian National during the last three show years, and many of them are now at the head of some of the best herds in the Dominion and across the border. Right Sort himself, at almost six and one-half years of age, went to Chas. Parsons, of Iowa, at \$3,600, but only after J. J. Merger, an Ontario breeder, had put up a stiff struggle to obtain him. Very seldom is an aged bull, even when proven good, able to draw forth such bids in a public sale. Newton Grand Champion, the young imported bull which was brought over last year at a long price to act as the junior in service, was purchased by Geo. Amos & Sons, Moffat, Ont., for \$1,500. It is well that he remains in Canada, for he gives excellent promise of maturing into a leading sire in this country. Escana Masterpiece and Pride of Escana, two very promising young bulls by Right Sort, sold for \$1,000 and \$975 respectively.

The females included a considerable percentage of cows and heifers with calves at foot and again in calf to the service of either Right Sort or Newton Grand Champion. As a general thing, they were not in high fit; just good working condition. The younger heifers and heifer calves were well brought out. Of the 33 females, 13 sold for \$1,000 or over, the top being \$1,750, which J. H. McKloskey, of Fish Trap, Wash., paid for Lady Laura 41st, an imported cow by Royal Count. She had at foot a nice junior heifer calf by Rosebud King. Novelty, another imported cow, which is the dam of last year's junior champion bull at Toronto, and his full brother, Pride of Escana, in the sale went to South Dakota at \$1,600. Pettit Bros., of Freeman, took Favorite Missie, one of the herd's good producers at \$1,500. These represent a few of the top prices for females; the remainder are given in the appended list. An analysis of the selling shows that United States buyers took 11 head for which they paid \$13,300. J. H. McKloskey, of the State of Washington, purchased 6 head for \$5,675. Ontario breeders bought 29 head for which they paid \$21,175. The firm of Geo. Amos & Sons, Moffat, was one of the best Canadian bidders, taking 6 head at an average of \$1,233. The grand average for the 40 head was \$861.87. The 33 females averaged \$804.54, and the 7 bulls \$1,132.14. Where no state or province is mentioned in the list, Ontario is understood.

Nothing more need be said in regard to the excellence and popularity of the Escana Shorthorn herd. These comments have been conservative indeed, for the sale list tells the story in full. One of the best bulls in Canada has been allowed to go, but his good influences will still live and be exerted through his sons in service here. The prices received constitute a very high compliment to the wisdom and sagacity of Mitchell Bros. as constructive Shorthorn breeders as well as to the skill and perseverance of Jos. McCrudden as herdsman and manager.

Cows and Heifers.

Lady Laura 41st (imp.), J. H. McKloskey, Fish Trap, Wash.	\$1,750
Novelty (imp.), Jackson & White, Hurley, South Dakota.	1,600
Favorite Missie, Pettit Bros., Freeman.	1,500
Sybil Girl (imp.), H. J. Miller, Keene.	600
Long Lane Daisy, Howard Vaughn, Marion, Ia.	575
Lady Jilt, Theo. Martin, Bellevue, Ia.	525
Orange Princess 2nd, Robt. Miller, Stouffville.	1,100
Greengill Fancy, J. H. McKloskey.	475
Maude 55th (imp.), Geo. Amos & Sons, Moffat.	1,125
Escana Beauty 4th, J. Watt & Son, Elora.	650
Escana Broadhooks, Jas. Fallis, Brampton.	700
Broadhooks 11th (imp.), Geo. Amos & Sons, Moffat.	1,125
Escana Missie 3rd, F. R. Edwards, Tiffin, Ohio.	1,325
Red Missie, Pettit Bros.	875
Spicy Girl 3rd (imp.), J. H. McKloskey.	1,000
Newton Rose (imp.), J. H. McKloskey.	1,000
Newton Rose 2nd (imp.), J. H. McKloskey.	700
Lady Laura 29th (imp.), H. J. Miller.	550
Warble Mysie (imp.), Geo. Amos & Sons.	1,400
Cluny Eliza 7th (imp.), Geo. Amos & Sons.	1,225
Stamfords Lady, S. T. Coulson, Milton.	675
Killwinning Lady 2nd, Percy DeKay, Elmira.	325
Glenholme Lady, J. A. Watt, Elora.	600
Escana Beauty 3rd, J. A. Watt.	1,150
Escana Bessie, J. H. McKloskey.	750
Sybil 15th (imp.), Geo. Amos & Sons.	1,025
Escana Isabella 2nd, E. Fleck, Georgetown.	250
Escana Isabella, M. E. Harris, Mohawk.	350
Sunnyhill Gem, Percy DeKay.	450
Pearl Stockings, Thos. Harrop, Milton.	325
Isabella Girl, Thos. Harrop.	400
Red Isabella, Thos. Harrop.	275
Isabella Belle, H. J. Miller.	175

Bulls.

Right Sort (imp.), Chas. Parsons, Carol, Iowa.	3,600
Newton Grand Champion (imp.), Geo. Amos & Sons.	1,500
Pride of Escana, A. G. Farrow, Oakville.	975
Killwinning Mist, Chas. Monroe, St. Thomas.	325
Killwinning Royal 2nd, M. E. Harris.	225
Escana Masterpiece, Robt. Miller.	1,000
Greengill Star, E. de Gex, Kerwood.	300