

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

"Persevere and  
Succeed."

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## EDITORIAL.

Weed seeds are the most vital of any. Most ground has plenty of such already. Don't sow more.

Second Chambers, being commonly less directly representative than the so-called "Lower" Houses, naturally become bulwarks of class interest and privilege.

Do not sow smutty grain if you can conveniently help it. But, if seed oats, barley or wheat is used that is in any degree affected with smut, treat it with formaldehyde.

With France, Germany and the United States actively suing for favor, Miss Canada must experience a flush of self-conscious pride to realize her present and prospective importance as a factor in world commerce.

If you have a hard-clay hillside, not too steep to mow, seed it to alfalfa. If you have no such land, sow alfalfa, anyway, on the likeliest field you have. A sweet soil, well-drained both above and below, clean, and in good heart, is demanded.

Cold comfort for the dogs is Dr. Rutherford's non-committal speculation that if the muzzling order is strictly obeyed it may be withdrawn in about a year's time. His words will probably sound the death knell of many a nondescript canine.

If every American President could spend a few weeks in Canada every year, prior to his inauguration, as President Taft used to do, it would conduce greatly to international amity. Personal acquaintance is an effective parry of international friction and ill-will.

We must still preach the gospel of clover. Sow it liberally on the fields, seeding down every white-straw grain crop. Scatter it in handfuls about the buildings, along the lanes and roadways, and in waste places everywhere. Its foliage and bloom will gladden your heart, its tissue will fatten your stock, its growth will enrich the soil. Blessed be clover. We do not yet fully realize its virtues.

Every Canadian citizen should know what his legislators are doing. "The Farmer's Advocate" makes it a point to present each year a succinct review of legislation bearing upon agricultural interests enacted at Ottawa, as well as at the Provincial capitals of the Eastern Provinces. The agricultural legislation and appropriations of a whole session are thus presented in a nutshell. This week the Ontario Legislature's work is thus reviewed. Read carefully, informing yourself concerning new laws, and amendments to the old.

The water-powers of Canada are roughly estimated as capable of a possible development of nearly seventeen million horse-power, said Hon. Clifford Sifton, in his inaugural presidential address at the first annual meeting of the Conservation Commission. Of this enormous energy, only about 511,000 have been developed. Were there no other natural asset worth guarding, this alone would amply justify the utmost efforts the Commission may put forth to secure the economical development of natural resources on behalf of the public, to whom they now and always should belong.

## Seed Corn Should Be Tested.

At the Corn Show, held in Essex last winter, Professor Klinck gave very full and clear instructions in one of his daily lectures as to how to determine whether seed corn was vital or not, by examination of the grain itself. He added, however, that while an expert might be able by this means to reject much seed that should not be planted, the actual condition of vitality could only be certainly known by a germination test. He strongly advised all planters to make such a test, more especially for the coming season, as the fall of 1909 was unfavorable for the thorough ripening and drying of corn for seed. It is not wise to plant corn that fails to test at least 90 per cent. of vital grain.

The ordinary method of testing is to take from the grain, after being shelled, 100 kernels, and plant these where conditions for germination are favorable, in a flower-pot or on the surface of a box of moistened sand kept covered with a damp cloth, and at the temperature of a living-room. In a week or less it will have sprouted, and the number germinating strongly can be counted. The root-sprout is the first to appear, and Prof. Klinck warned against judging of vitality by its appearance only. Some kernels that send forth a root may fail to throw a strong upward shoot. Before determining percentage, it is better to wait until the upward sprout has had time to show itself.

But a test of a sample taken from bulk seed is not altogether satisfactory. If there is shown to be any considerable percentage of dead grain, the ordinary practice is to plant just so much thicker; but, as the planter cannot distinguish between good and bad kernels, and as they do not always come in the same proportion, the result is an uneven stand, some hills having too many stalks, and others very few, or none at all. For that reason, and also because it is well to reject not only dead seed, but that which is weak in vitality as well, the ear test is strongly recommended.

With the following method, a man can place to test six to eight bushels of corn in one day, but most Canadian planters require but a portion of that amount. A tester, in the form of a shallow, open-topped box, can be made from ordinary inch lumber, and of any convenient size, say, about two by three feet, and three inches deep. Through the sides and ends holes are bored about two inches apart, and one-half inch from the top. Through these holes light wire is strung from side to side and end to end, dividing the box into squares. The tray is then filled up to the wires with sand, and moistened thoroughly. In place of holes and wires, tacks may be driven in the upper edge of boards, and fine cord stretched across and lengthwise from these, the tray being previously filled level with sand.

The ears to be tested should be arranged in rows on the floor, corresponding to rows of squares in the box, where they will be undisturbed until tested. Remove five kernels from the different parts of ear No. 1, and place them in the first square in the upper left-hand corner, designating this as square No. 1, row 1. Do the same with ear No. 2, placing the kernels in a respective square of the box, and so on with the whole. Kernels should be placed on the sand with the germ side up, and with the tip towards you, so that when the cover is lifted off, the condition as to germination can be seen at a glance. Cover with a thick piece of moistened cloth or old carpet, and keep at a temperature of 65 to 70 degrees F. After five days, the tester should be examined, and every ear that does not show vigorous root and stem sprouts should be discarded.

## Automobile Crimes and Convictions.

While Mr. Stock's bill, aimed to secure stricter regulation of automobile traffic, and to increase the penalties for infraction of the law, failed to pass the Ontario Legislature, nevertheless some progress in Legislative opinion has been registered. In the discussion which took place when the bill came up for its second reading, some plain things were said by members on both sides of the House, and the general feeling seemed to be that, unless some auto drivers mend their manners, the Legislature next year will pass a law which will sharply help them to do so. Premier Whitney is reported as having declared that drastic legislation against reckless driving was necessary, and that chauffeurs must understand that their right to the road is secondary to that of pedestrians or drivers of horses. Hon. Mr. McKay said that drivers seemed to think that, with the toot of their horns, they were heralding the advent of a king. Several members plainly charged a large percentage of motorists with deliberately violating the law every time they went out. Mr. McElroy, of Carleton, mentioned the case of a woman in his county who had been bedridden for five years, and would never be able to get out again, because of one scoundrel's conduct.

Provincial Secretary Hanna, in reply to a question by Mr. Stock, gave the number of convictions under the Motor Vehicles Act during 1909, with the names of the offenders and of the convicting magistrates, and the amount of fines and costs imposed in each case. He was also to have given the number of imprisonments, but, though magistrates had the option of imposing fine or imprisonment, or both, there was not one such case to report.

The number of fines imposed, 313, seems very large, especially when, as is well known, only a small percentage of those guilty are even arrested. By the way, a very large proportion of the persons fined were Toronto people. But the amount paid in fines is pitifully small. The largest fine imposed was but \$40, the smallest \$1.00, with an average of \$5.00 for the lot, with expenses extra in some cases. Automobilists can well afford to smile at the idea of such fines proving a deterrent to rich law-breakers.

## Gold Mines in Our Orchards.

A despatch last week from Beamsville, in the center of the Niagara District fruit belt, reported that a land boom was on in the vicinity of the Horticultural Experiment Station at Jordan Harbor, as high as \$1,000 an acre being paid for peach land which seven years ago would scarcely have brought over \$200. Of course, this is a genuine peach district, but right in this very section is at least one man who, having grown both peaches and apples extensively and successfully, declares that, with the same attention to each kind of fruit, there is as much money in apples as peaches, even in that specially-favored locality. These two facts should open some people's eyes. Apples can be grown over a large area of Canada almost as well as in the peach belt of the Niagara District, if not better. Indeed, the keeping quality is rather superior in the less southerly latitudes. If land, therefore, is selling at \$500 to \$1,000 an acre in the Niagara District, what are good apple orchards worth in other sections, or, rather, what can they be made to realize? Last year's returns from "The Farmer's Advocate" demonstration orchard at Lambeth indicated a clear profit equal to 13 1-3 per cent. interest on a hypothetical valuation of \$1,000 an acre. It was estimated last winter at over 14 per cent., but failure to realize the full estimated value on the No. 3