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## EDITORIAL.

The evil of ripened weed seeds lives after them in alarming profusion.

It is not enough to hit the nail on the head; it should be driven in far enough to hold.

Cleanness in field and garden is cumulative. By destroying weeds early this season, next year's labors will be reduced to a minimum. Put it to proof.

People who continually grumbled about coldish days in early June forgot that tender plants were being retarded and hardened to withstand some frosty nights.

Do not pass by an unknown plant in your fields as an "innocent abroad." It may prove a dangerous weed. A complete sample, with root and flower, mailed to "The Farmer's Advocate" for identification, may save endless trouble later on.

Corn-growers find in a frosty June poor compensation for a soaking May. However, a few weeks of warm, moist weather during the latter part of June and the two midsummer months would soon cause us to forget the backward planting season.

One of the amusing anomalies of the times is the way in which people located in the farming districts of Eastern Canada, unsurpassed anywhere on the continent, have been casting their eyes hither and thither for places in which to "get on."

Pigeons and rabbits kept by small boys for amusement become serious neighborhood pests. The way pigeons will pull up sprouting seed peas is "a caution," to say nothing about the fouling of roofs and barns. Both pigeons and rabbits should be exterminated without quarter.

Much can be done towards cleaning a farm by mowing the meadows early. Millions of weed seeds mature between the beginning and end of haying. Clover should be cut early, anyway, for the sake of the aftermath, and all dirty fields should be mown early to forestall the seeding of weeds.

"The radical who stirs up our inert conservatism may not be altogether agreeable to us, but we may need him just the same." The Christian Guardian thus lucidly and tersely puts a truth in the realms of morals and ecclesiastics that is just as applicable in relation to the theory and practice of farming. Because things have been done a certain way in the past, their continuance in perpetuity does not follow.

It is generally advised to cut alfalfa when about one-tenth in bloom. Another rule, and perhaps a safer one, is to cut when the shoots for the new growth have started out nicely from the crowns. Cutting earlier than this is liable to result in a delay before the next crop commences to spring up. As a usual thing, we believe the two rules quoted will coincide, though we have not observed the one point often enough to be positive.

## Canada and the Milking Shorthorn.

What is the position of Canada to-day in regard to the milking Shorthorn or the dual-purpose cow suited to the general farm? Few clearer explanations could be made than that given by Peter White in his presidential address to the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association in Toronto last February. Mr. White said: "Canada is a rapidly-growing country, and by heredity and geographical position is and will continue to be a beef-eating country. A few years ago, beef could be produced on our Western prairies at practically the cost of help to herd it. Interest on land investment and feed entered, if at all, very slightly into the cost of production. This was the case not only in Canada, but also in the neighboring republic, and in both these countries beef could be grown at a fraction of the real cost of producing beef under normal conditions. This has had two very marked tendencies, which I fear not too many of us appreciate fully. First, as very heavy milking propensities were not required, in fact not desirable on the open range, and as we were breeding possibly more than we knew to suit the rancher, most of us, to a certain extent, at least, lost sight of the fact that the Shorthorn is a milk cow, and were rather encouraged to breed with the ideal perfect beef form in mind. Second, the Eastern farmer, on high-priced land, because he could not compete with this cheaply-produced beef, has been forced more and more into dairying."

The settler has now practically put an end to ranching on a very large scale, so that we are without extensive beef production in Canada. Western Canada is covered with wheat where once the beef herds roamed. Eastern Canada is paying more attention to dairying, as suggested by Mr. White. In the past, our breeders and importers showed a strong preference for the extreme beef type of Scotch or Scotch-topped cattle. These being light milkers, have grown into disfavor with milk producers. We cannot do without milk, and we want beef. The average farmer will not make the success of specialized agriculture that he will of mixed farming. The dual-purpose Shorthorn lends itself readily to mixed farming, and may be made profitable for beef and milk, as well. Shorthorn breeders do not enjoy the demand from the West that they once did. They must make their cattle profitable at home. The solution is the combination of milk and feeding qualities. The need for work in this direction is quite apparent.

The Ontario Government, recognizing this need, have made arrangements through Hon. Jas. Duff, Minister of Agriculture, to spend some \$12,500 for the purchase of dairy Shorthorns in the Old Land. No better move could be made. England has some heavy-milking, registered Shorthorn cows. The great City of London depends almost entirely for its milk upon the heavy-producing Shorthorns of the surrounding country. The cows are there, and there is no reason why we cannot get them here. The amount of money set aside is sufficient to lay the foundation herd of a strain of milkers in Canada, from which in time they could be disseminated throughout the country.

Great care must be taken in the selection of this foundation stock. We understand that Prof. G. E. Day, of the O. A. C. is to be entrusted with the task of making the selection, and no

better judge could be chosen for the work. If possible, only cows with undisputed milk records should come to Canada, and these cows, besides being heavy milkers, should be individuals showing a type which would lend itself to the production of beef, as well. Such cows are not overly plentiful in any country, and a considerable length of time will be necessary to make the selection, as pedigrees and a knowledge of the past history of the individuals and the families to which they belong is absolutely necessary.

Selection is not the greatest problem in connection with this undertaking. Future breeding and management holds in store many intricate problems for the man in charge, whoever he may be—that is, provided the herd is held intact when landed on Canadian soil. Bringing the cattle out and dispersing them would be folly, as the effect would be so little in each locality as soon to be lost sight of entirely. The only way to make the importation of lasting effect is to hold it together on one farm in charge of an experienced man. Establishing a strain of Shorthorn cattle noted for milking qualities, as well as beef propensities, is not the work of one year, ten years, nor even a score of years. It is the work of many decades. This new herd should be kept together, bred up and added to year after year to form a distributing center from which individual breeders may buy bulls and surplus heifers to build up and maintain their herds. Mixing the cattle with others will not be in the best interests of the undertaking. They should be so placed as to be an entirely separate herd, managed and run as such, and, if possible, a number of pigs kept in conjunction, and costs and profits carefully accounted and placed before the public to demonstrate the possibilities of the dairy Shorthorn. Few calves could be fed off for beef, as all which are suitable should be kept for breeding purposes. No breeder should take objection to the Government selling these cattle. They should not look upon it as opposition, but rather as an opportunity to improve their herds. Dual-purpose dairy Shorthorns are not going to become so plentiful in the next twenty years as to be a drug on the market. Some of the world's greatest breeds of horses would not have been what they are to-day without Government aid in breeding. There is no reason why, if properly managed, equal success should not follow the introduction of milking Shorthorns in Canada by the Governments of the Provinces or by the Federal Government.

Stock-breeding of any kind offers plenty of obstacles for the breeder, if improvement is to be made, and, without improvement, there must be retrogression, as it is impossible to stand still. The breeding of dairy Shorthorns is no easy matter, as the man who is placed in charge will doubtless appreciate after a few years' experience with them. The undertaking is of sufficient importance to warrant the entire attention of a competent man who should have land, stables and conditions favorable to the advancement of the project. Operated as an entirely separate herd in conjunction with the Ontario Agricultural College, with stabling and premises specially assigned to it, it would have several advantages, viz., that of demonstrating the possibilities to students, both short-course and regular; demonstrating to over 30,000 excursionists yearly the advisability of such a branch of agriculture, and the ease with which circulars and bulletins could be compiled and distributed to the public.

Wherever the Government chooses to place the