

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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Vol. XLVIII.

LONDON, ONTARIO, JULY 17, 1913.

No. 1086

## EDITORIAL

Rain defies hay-making directions.

A first-class farmer operating on a mixed-farming basis has few, if any, "bad years."

Do as much of the cleaning of the hoe crop with the cultivators as possible. Hand hoeing is at best tedious work and takes up valuable time.

He is but a shallow thinker, or one who cannot bear to think, who forsakes the rural home because of its "isolation." In this lies one of its chief charms.

In lieu of a more elaborate irrigation outfit for field and garden, "The Farmer's Advocate" begs leave to recommend the judicious use of the hoe and scuffer every other day.

Prof. G. W. Dyer, of Vanderbilt University, pins his faith to this sensible maxim: "Exalt the country home as giving the best opportunity for woman to find her true life and render the largest service to the world."

Get a cover crop sown in the orchard. Hairy vetch, mammoth clover, common red clover and alfalfa are among the best crops for the purpose. But don't leave the alfalfa longer than till spring. It is too successful a competitor for moisture and plant food. As a cover crop to be plowed under the next spring it is good.

There is some good sound judgment exercised in the practice followed on some farms in periods of very hot weather, of doing the greater part of the work early in the morning and towards evening, resting in the middle of the day, when the heat is most intense. It is easier on men and horses.

Among other things Prof. Dean would do if he were a millionaire would be to put a milk scale into the hands of every man or woman who milks cows—which would be a very good thing indeed if he could insure that they would use it. Progress that does not spring from aroused initiative within oneself is weak-jointed, delicate and easily killed.

It has been suggested that an effort be made to get systems of farm accounting into the schools of the country, and let the farmer's boy, as part of his school work, keep the accounts of the home farm. If there is any better line of mathematics than this to teach in rural schools, we should like to know what it is. When shall we get down to brass tacks in rural education?

Many weeds come to this office for identification each year during this season. We are glad to help all those desiring to know the noxious pests which infest their fields, and how to fight them. Every farmer should know the weeds he has on his farm, and also the bad weeds which from time to time gain a foothold in new neighborhoods. The study of weeds should be a part of every farmer's work, and after learning the name and nature of the weed strive to remember it.

## Educational Bungling.

One way of learning the truth about things at home is to go abroad. In recording in "The Methodist Review" his personal observations in the Philippine Islands, Alfred Burbank, of California, verifies in part, at least, the criticism that in the education of the Filipinos, under American methods, too much attention is paid to "Book Learning", and too little to manual and industrial training. A rational idea of education is to prepare the individual for work, but it is not remarkable that the unsophisticated but observant Filipino should have got the notion in his head that the object of education is to fit the individual so that he will not have to work. In the judgment of Mr. Burbank the weakest part of American administration in the Philippines relates to agriculture, in which the future of the Islands is really bound up and the possibilities of which are beyond computation.

## Co-operation and Sanity.

It seems reasonable to suppose, as the Chief of the Dominion Fruit Division brings out in another column, that co-operation of producers will never guarantee its largest possible benefit until supplemented by co-operation of consumers, and vice versa. It is hardly to be expected that city dealers will go very far out of their way to encourage and stimulate co-operation among producers, though some few may be disposed to do so. Anyhow, the middleman's service will always demand its reward, which must be simply a slice wedged out between the share of the two parties, taking something as a rule from each. Contrast with this the case cited whereby the co-operating civil servants of Ottawa (in which commendable move Mr. McNeill has played a more prominent part than his modesty permitted him to explain) obtained a car of strawberries direct from the Niagara Peninsula delivered at their houses within thirty-six hours after being picked, and at a price considerably less than that at which the fruit could have been obtained through the regular channels. Again in apples, they have been able to pay Nova Scotia growers full price for their Gravensteins, and yet lay them down for a dollar a barrel less than the prevailing Ottawa price.

Under such an economical system of distribution, think how much more Canadian-grown fruit would be consumed by our growing cities, and how much farther removed the fear of disastrous over-production. Producers have a very real business interest in consumers' co-operation.

Mr. McNeill has a very lively faith in the outcome of the present co-operative movement among the fruit growers. He ventures to anticipate the linking up into what would be virtually a single selling agency of the co-operative apple growers in Nova Scotia, Ontario and British Columbia. There are already thirty-two local co-operative associations in Nova Scotia, all but two or three of which have united into a provincial organization. Ontario's fifty local co-operative apple-selling associations are being organized into a central selling association, and negotiations have been under way looking to the sale of the pack or a large quantity of it to the

Western Grain Growers on a wholesale basis. The co-operative associations in the Pacific Province are also aiming towards central organization. Why not a union of the provincial organizations? Mr. McNeill is confident that such a close organization of producers could never bear any but good fruit, and, of course dropping the pun, they should never handle anything else. Large possibilities of advantage loom up. But are we educated to the point of co-operating on such a scale? If not, why not become so? A modern writer has declared that the saner one is the more people he can co-operate with. Incapacity to co-operate denotes a form of ill-balance. Remembering this, let us work toward the ideal of sanity and co-operation.

## Seeding and Preserving Clover.

The fundamental importance of a catch of clover in any proper system of crop rotation should induce us to give every care to getting a good stand of seeds, and preserving it when secured. In this latitude nearly every one seeds clover with grain, and is warranted in so doing by the fact that a fair catch may usually be secured without much extra labor or expense, and without giving up a season's use of the land to the purpose of securing a catch. It is a mistake, however, to assume that a "nurse" crop is necessary, or that spring is the only season in which clover seeding may be successfully done. Some of the most successful catches of alfalfa are obtained by sowing alone in July just after a rain, and a series of Indiana experiments indicate that in that territory midsummer also offers excellent opportunity to get a good catch of clover seed. In those tests, midsummer seedings have invariably proven more successful than those made earlier or later. From some little experience of our own we are prepared to credit the statement. In 1911, having a seeded oat field in which drouth seemed to have all but exterminated the clover, we disk-drilled some extra timothy seed in August with a sprinkling of alsike, red clover and alfalfa added. One land we disked up thoroughly and sowed with a full mixture of seeds on August 23rd. Rainy weather followed and we got a good catch, though the clovers and alfalfa had hardly enough top to come through the winter well. Last year we found quite a thick stand of timothy here, which, however, cut rather a short crop, not so good as on other areas which had not been disked up. There was a good deal of timothy, and some short clover. This spring, however, we noticed before plowing for corn that the strip in question was much more promising than the area alongside. Our inference is that while August 23rd is too late to sow clover on ordinary soil in this latitude, the latter part of July or first of August might prove fairly satisfactory. We don't say for sure that it would, but intend to try it. Those who have thin catches would do well to run over them with a disk drill, sowing some more seed in front of the tubes. Then, if there is a little manure to spare, it will tell wonderfully if broadcasted over the field with a manure spreader immediately after the crop is off. Catches which look hopeless may, by these means, be preserved and stimulated sufficiently to cut a ton and a half or two tons of hay per acre next summer if the season is not too unfavorable. Save the clover if possible.