

Forestry in Canada.

One of the auspicious signs of the times is the increasing interest which is being taken in the art of forestry, and the urgency with which those who have become awakened to the subject are pressing the necessity for some sympathetic, organized method of preserving and adding to our forest wealth. This agitation is, in Canada, a comparatively new thing. Long enough ago, foreseeing individuals saw, with regret, the ruthless slashing away of the forest growth, and predicted the misfortune that must come to climate, to water supply, and to soil fertility, if such depredations were permitted to go on unchecked. The Government, it is true, took steps to acquire forest areas to be held in reserve and as a source of revenue, but even these it was found were not immune from losses occasioned by chance fires and other causes. Probably the first strong hope for our forest wealth arose with the founding of the Canadian Forestry Association, which recently met for its fifth annual meeting in the reception room of the Parliament Buildings, Toronto. This Association, which has done good service in the past, is planning greater things for the future, and much is expected from its efforts. Not content with the mere extension and protection of the Government reserves, the members hope, finally, to bring the question before the farmers with a strength that will bear fruit in practice. The question is, indeed, one of vital importance to farmers. That it is not generally recognized as such must surely be due to the fact that the object and scope of the art of "forestry" and the possibility of its practice by the individual is not understood as thoroughly as it should be. When once it is, when it is known that "forestry" applies, not only to the conservation of Government areas, but that knowledge of its principles is of immediate value to the farmer himself in showing him, not only why he should keep a certain amount of his farm in "bush," but also how he can harvest it so as to make it a continuous source of profit to himself and his posterity, then will the subject receive the attention it deserves, then will the farmers be satisfied to learn and to do. This harvesting, yet keeping, of forest wealth is no paradox. As Prof. Roth, of Ann Arbor, explained in his address to the Association, there is a forest in Germany to-day which has been cultivated and cut for one hundred years, and is now better than ever. This is, or should be, an object lesson of value to Canadian farmers.

The annual meeting, which began with the President, Mr. Hiram Robertson, in the chair, was one very satisfactory to all interested. Among the speakers, who were all men in a position to speak with authority, were Mr. John Bertram, Pres. Loudon of Toronto University, Mr. F. G. Todd, Hon. Mr. Dryden, Prof. Roth, Mr. Aubrey White, Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands; Mr. J. S. Dennis, Commissioner of Irrigation for the C. P. R.; Hon. E. J. Davis; Mr. H. Unwin, of the Dominion Forestry Branch, and Prof. Hutt, of the O. A. C., Guelph.

In the annual report read by the President, the protection of forests from chance fires was urgently advocated. It was stated that the work done by the present fire-rangin staff is proving effectual, but the number employed is inadequate for the large areas to be protected. The running of the new transcontinental line will expose still larger areas to this danger, hence the necessity was urged for both Government and railway authorities to take further steps for guarding the forests. It was also urged that there should be a more systematic and scientific study of the conditions of reproduction and development of the forest, and that the information at the disposal of the authorities should be more definite and exact than that which is now available.

Mr. Bertram strongly advocated educating people of rocky sections, e. g., Muskoka, in forestry. He believed that if they had larger holdings, upon which they grew trees on definite principles, they would profit themselves and add to the wealth of the country. He also suggested that townships be authorized to acquire abandoned farms in such sections, and hold them as forest reserves. Prof. Loudon recommended the founding of a Provincial School of Forestry. As there are 40,000,000 acres of land in Ontario suitable only for reserves, with an annual yield of 6,000,000,000 feet, he judged there would be employment in perpetuity for many trained foresters. Mr. J. S. Dennis advocates protection of forests for conserving of water sources, referring especially to the growth on the foothills of the Rockies, whose watersheds supply the water necessary for the irrigated belt of Alberta; and Prof. Hutt, in a comprehensive address, said that what we need at present is a larger staff of experienced foresters to personally oversee the forests of the north. In settled portions of Ontario, he stated, the woodland in many counties only amounts to eight or nine per cent., or about one-third what it should be to maintain the most favorable climatic conditions. As a result, the snow, which should melt gradually and soak into the soil to enrich it, goes away rapidly, carrying much of the soil's fertility into the streams. One of the first problems of the Association was to induce an indifferent public to take immediate action to check any further wasteful removal of forests. He also stated that some of the prominent points in forestry to be emphasized in future Farmers' Institute meetings are: 1. The economic value of the wood lot. 2. The rational harvesting of the wood crop. 3. The best means of securing natural regeneration and continuous cropping. 4. The needless waste caused by allowing cattle to browse in the wood-lot, this being more wasteful

than to allow them to pasture at will in the corn-field.

The "Farmer's Advocate" heartily concurs in the suggestion that Farmers' Institutes should take up the subject of forestry, and, also, that in certain districts farmers' wood-lots, by being properly fenced and cared for, be used as object lessons in timber preservation and culture.

Frostproof Pipes.

I would suggest, as a solution to the question of H. M., of Ont. Co., as regards frostproof pipes, to thoroughly pack with dry sawdust, where possible, in a box around the pipe, for a space of at least eight inches. The sawdust should be kept dry, as when wet it is no longer impervious to the frost. This we did, with a short space of overground waterpipe last fall, and it has given us no trouble whatever, although we have had an exceptionally frosty winter.

The check-valve may prove a better solution in H. M.'s case, but not in ours, where there already is a check-valve in well at entrance of pipe.

Bruce Co., Ont.

J. W. Y.

Best Farmer's Paper on Earth.

"I am very much pleased with the weekly edition of the 'Farmer's Advocate,' the best agricultural paper on earth.

"JOHN B. HAIST.

"Lincoln and Niagara, Ont."

"Enclosed please find my renewal (\$1.50) to the 'Farmer's Advocate.' Permit me to congratulate you on your efforts to make the 'Advocate' interesting and instructive. No farmer can afford to be without it. Yours truly,

"HON. W. OWENS.

"Montreal, Quebec."

"I enclose herewith my renewal to the 'Farmer's Advocate.' I like it very much. It is the best farm paper printed in Canada, and I wish you every success.

"FRED DOW.

"Charlotte Co., N. B."

Broadcast Seeding.

Mr. James Bowman, Elm Grove Stock Farm, Guelph, in writing us, says: "We think seed grain grown on the most fertile fields will produce a better crop than that grown on untillable land, for the same reason that a well-fed animal will produce better stock than a poorly-fed one. We always prefer the plumpest seed, and use plenty of wind in cleaning. In sowing peas, and wheat seeding to grass, we prefer drilling, but for oats and barley, when not sowing grass seed, we would sow broadcast, and always test the drill, as grains of different sizes of the same kind do not run equally fast. Changing seed from light to heavy land, and vice versa, gives a noticeable improvement."

It Stands Alone.

W. H. Taylor, Bruce Co.: I am renewing my subscription to the "Farmer's Advocate" for 1904. Let me express my appreciation of your paper. As an agricultural and stock journal it certainly stands alone. It may and certainly has its contemporaries, but no equal. I think I can safely say that I never read a number but I get some information which means money to me, and to think that it is a weekly, I wonder how you can do it for the money!

John W. Young, Bruce Co., Ont.: "I am well pleased with the 'Farmer's Advocate' as a weekly. I thought it would deteriorate in size, but it has not. Every farmer that pretends to farm ought to have at least one good farm paper. The 'Advocate' fills the bill all right. I am re-mitting you for one new subscriber and my own renewal. As this was unsolicited, it speaks well for the paper."

DAIRY.

Siberian Butter.

In a recent issue of Wedel & Co.'s London circular the future of the Siberian butter trade is referred to, and we give the following extracts:

"The Russo-Japanese war must have an important effect on the butter market of the United Kingdom during the coming six or eight months, owing to the stoppage of the import of Siberian butter. On this there can be no two opinions. The Russian military authorities will not allow the safety of the Russian army or the existence of the Russian Empire to be imperilled for the sake of Siberian dairy farmers. The railway is about 4,000 miles long, and is a single line, having sidings at stated distances, and belongs to the Government. The full journey of goods trains under these conditions will take quite a fortnight each way, and as the empty trucks must be returned with the utmost speed from the Far East, no delay to take up Siberian butter or any other merchandise can on any condition be allowed by the military authorities. During the two years ended 31st December last, the imports of Russian butter into the United Kingdom exceeded 24,000 tons per year; of this amount 16,000 tons came from Siberia. It is estimated that another 4,000 to 5,000 tons found a market in Denmark, Germany, and other Continental countries; thus there will be during the coming summer a shortage of about 20,000 tons of Siberian butter, to be made good in the butter markets of Europe and the United Kingdom. The Siberian butter which goes to Denmark releases an equal amount of Danish butter for export here, while that which is now consumed in other Continental countries will prevent an equal amount of better quality butter from those countries finding its way into the United Kingdom. It appears, therefore, that the supplies of Siberian, Danish and other Continental butters to British markets during the present spring and summer will show an average shortage of over 12,000 cwt. a week."

Breeding Dairy Cows.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

In your Feb. 25th issue, I notice this subject once more brought up by Mr. T. G. Raynor. He quite agrees with Mr. D. in Jan. 28th issue in some ways. From my experience, and what I have seen, read and heard about crosses, I think it a very uncertain thing to do. I admit the late Mr. E. D. Tillson had a wonderful cow in a grade Holstein-Durham, as also Mr. Edy, who won the prize in the dairy test at Guelph in 1903, but while they were getting one good beef-milker, they no doubt got nine that were neither milkers nor beef. About the first thing to look for from such crosses would be three or four dairy steers, and then a beef heifer. No one can tell, and life is too short; we can't afford such loss of time. Better, I think, breed dairy for dairy, and look for such results. No one can get the highest type of both in one animal.

I believe in breeding from pure blood every time, and every thing in its own class, as we then have enough disappointments without mixing up. Even our chickens, let us breed for purity, and build Canada even higher than she is. These are my views on this subject. I would like to hear from others. Wishing your paper every success. A CONSTANT READER.

Fodder Cheese Condemned.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—I would like to call the attention of cheese factory men, and patrons of same, to a feature of the business that at the present time I think it would be prudent to consider. I understand that some factories contemplate beginning to make cheese during the present month. Anyone having a reasonable knowledge of the trade at the present time, and who is desirous of seeing the cheese industry maintain the position it has held during the past few years, surely cannot fail to realize the utter futility of such action. As all fodder cheese are made to cure rapidly, and thereby be ready for consumption within a few weeks, it follows that unless they are consumed within a short time, they deteriorate rapidly in quality, and soon become rancid and unfit for food.

Now while there does not appear to be an unusually large quantity of old cheese in sight, yet it is generally conceded that there is quite a sufficient amount to satisfy the demand there will be in the British market, until such time as there will be grass cheese available, or within at most a few weeks of that time.

But if fodder cheese in any appreciable quantity goes forward within the next three or four weeks, it will mean that not only will it retard the clearing off the stocks of old cheese, but a portion of this stuff made for immediate consumption will be found being offered for sale by British dealers long after it has become unfit for food.