

the farmer has to urge his horses, soft after the idleness and shedding of winter coat, or tired and thin after a long, hot summer's work, with less than half an ordinary load, through axle-deep mud to the market town. Besides this, the heavy wear and tear on the axles, harness, horse-flesh, and patience of the owner.

What is the remedy? Macadamized roads. How can it be accomplished? By co-operation of farmers and Government.

Let farmers haul stone to central point of highway section, instead of statute labor; municipality furnish stone-crushing plant, to be used in turn by sections of highway to be macadamized, trunk roads be first to be thus treated; government put in all culverts and bridges, through motor-car tax or otherwise.

Estimate of material and cost, varying with locality (Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia):

15 tons broken stone per sq. rod ; 4,800 tons per mile, at 50c. per ton.....	\$ 2,400
Cost of hauling from crusher and spreading 48 tons, at 25c. per ton.....	1,200
Digging and levelling road-bed, at \$1.00 per rod	320
Culverts and bridges by Government.....	

Construction cost per mile\$ 3,920

Average of ten farms to a mile; average road assessment now \$8; equals interest on Government or municipal expenditure, at 5 per cent., on \$1,600.

Very few farmers but would readily be taxed double this amount for the benefits of a permanent, firm, hard road all the year round.

Advantages Gained.—Statute labor abolished; six or eight days saved at a busy time of year; mud and dust gone; safe, solid road winter and summer, night or day, rain or shine; one horse doing the work of two; enormous saving of time, gear, wagons, axle-grease, and good-temper.

Annapolis Co., N. S. A. OWEN PRICE.

[Note.—These are the three prize essays, on "Bad Roads and Their Improvement,"—prizes given according to announcement in our Feb. 8th issue. See, also, editorial in this issue.—Editor.]

On the Seed Corn Trade.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

There is nothing in connection with corn production more important than good seed. If one is dependent upon buying seed, he should use every precaution to be sure of the reliability of that seed.

There is only one way to buy seed corn, and that is buy it on the cob. The old "scoop-shovel" method of handling seed corn is fast becoming obsolete, and it is right that it should. It has no redeeming features from a farmer's standpoint, and few from a dealer's. In handling corn in this form, however, unscrupulous dealers may easily substitute one variety of corn for another very similar yet undesirable variety, and furnish the farmer with something which, although it might be good seed, would be entirely unsuitable for his conditions.

On the other hand, buying on the cob has every advantage in its favor from a farmer's standpoint. In the first place, the purchaser is more sure of getting the variety true to name, as the variety characteristics are more easily perceived in the ear than in the grain alone; besides, if he is at all familiar with varieties, and what constitutes good seed corn, he can tell what kind of corn he is likely to harvest from the seed he plants. Besides, corn handled, cured, shipped, and kept on the cob until near planting time, possesses stronger vitality and will produce a larger percentage of germination than shelled corn. Shelled corn may be the product of either desirable or undesirable, or both types of ears, and yet we have no guide to show to which it belongs; while, corn purchased on the cob, if it does not come up to the grower's standard of what seed corn should be, can be discarded, without great loss or depreciation in the crop.

Some of the awards of recent corn shows have been rather misleading, varieties having won the premiums which produce a fine type of ear when they can be properly matured, yet, one year with another, are far too late maturing for average Ontario conditions.

Having been in the seed-corn business for several years, and coming in touch with farmers of all parts of Ontario and Quebec, I find that a majority of intending purchasers inquire for those varieties which win at the shows, and in many cases those varieties are altogether unsuitable for their climatic conditions. For instance, on the strength of the recent Ontario Corn Show awards, a customer from Northeastern Ontario asked for a quantity of Reid's Yellow Dent, a variety entirely unsuitable for his section, yet, when properly matured, in Essex and Kent, which is about once in five years, and under forced conditions, it makes and has been an outstanding winning variety of that section.

Growers should take into consideration their requirements and their climatic conditions, and select a variety with a view to its suitability for both. The corn-growers of Essex, Kent and Elgin Counties have great possibilities before them, and a broad field to cater to in the greater portions of Ontario and Quebec, and they must produce the goods, and put on the market something that produces for the dairy farmers and feeders of the Eastern counties the greatest amount of feed of the best quality, if they want to retain their trade.

To accomplish this result, a few, early-maturing, heavy-producing varieties should be selected—varieties that meet the needs of the dairymen and feeders of Eastern Ontario. At the present time we have too many varieties on the market, and our energies should rather be spent in improving our standard varieties, by way of selection, than in creating new varieties.

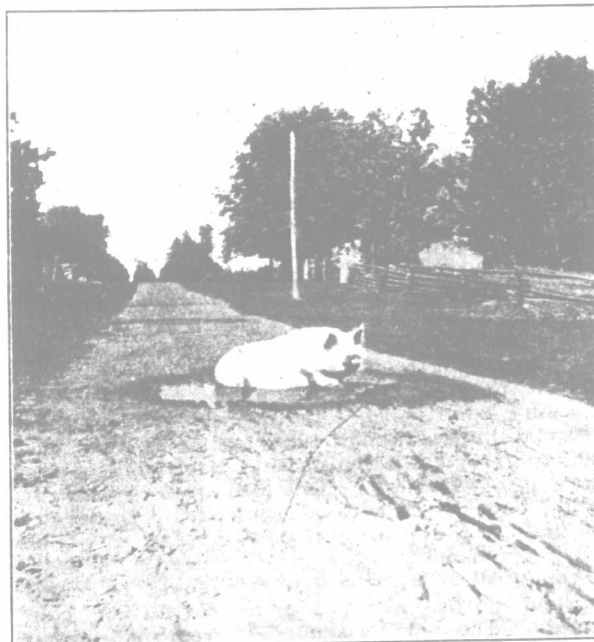
L. D. HANKINSON.

Elgin Co., Ont.

Hog Wallow on the Highway.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I am sending you a snapshot, taken in the summer time, almost at the gate of a poundkeeper. This is a fair sample of the roads, county and otherwise, of our neighborhood, and a very good indication of how the by-law prohibiting the run-

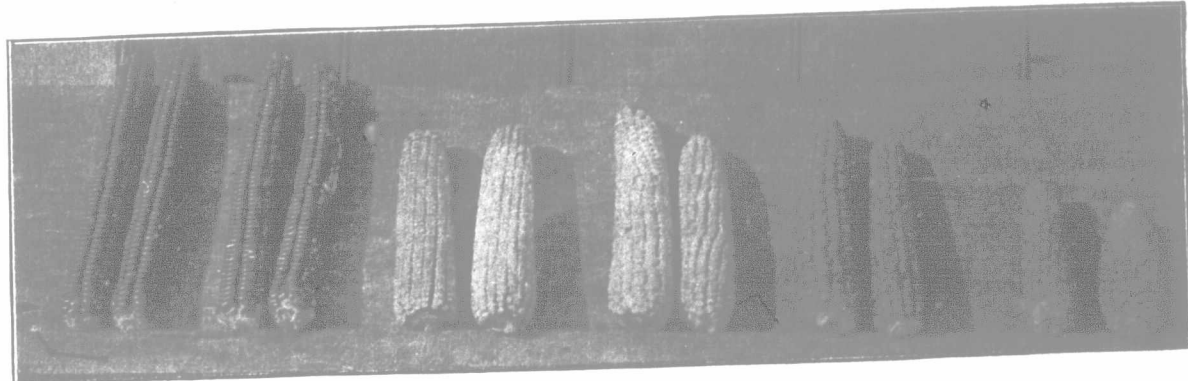


Her Impudent Majesty.

ning of hogs at large, is enforced. Is it not time that our township "fathers" got their heads together and devised some scheme whereby the festive hog can be kept off the highways? The weeds would dwindle and die for want of a proper seed-bed, and the roads become much safer for the travelling public. ERNEST NELSON. Simcoe Co., Ont.

A Massachusetts Judging Problem.

Something quite "nobby" in the way of a live-stock judging pavilion has been provided at the Massachusetts Agricultural College. Our readers will be the more especially interested in the picture published on another page, by reason of the fact that Prof. J. A. McLean, a Canadian by birth, and for some time connected with "The Farmer's Advocate," is at the head of the Animal Husbandry Department, which is developing rapidly. The new pavilion is a brick structure, 50 ft. by 80 ft., permits the holding of large classes of students, being capable of seating 400 persons. It was opened during Farmers' Week, which this year surpassed all records in attendance and interest, attracting in the neighborhood of 1,100 people from Massachusetts and other States.



A Study in Types.

Note the even, well-filled cobs, as compared with the uneven, open-kernelled ones of the same variety. Long-fellow is seen on the left, White Cap Dent in the center, and Stowell's Evergreen on the right.

The Trade in Bulk Seeds for 1912.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The season for heavy seeds has fairly opened. In some parts of Ontario buying has already been quite heavy. In other parts it is just nicely opening up. Owing to the scarcity in the local production of red clover seed, there is much English seed put on the market by the wholesale houses. Much of it is a very superior seed, judged by appearance. It isn't the first time, however, that English clover seed has been used by the Canadian farmer. Some express the fear that the plants from English seed may not be very hardy in this country. There may be some cause for fear just here, but we shouldn't be unduly alarmed, as the season will have much to do with the future prospects, as well as the seed.

One thing is reflected by the supplies which are ordered, that the price is having a lot to do with the demand. Dealers generally are not stocking up with more than one-half the quantity that they usually do.

It seems a great pity that red clover seed should go so high in price, when clover is such a useful plant in maintaining soil fertility. In some cases alfalfa is selling more readily than red clover, as the price is more within reach of the pockets of the average farmer.

Many farmers grew their own timothy seed this year, and it is claimed that a good deal is changing hands from farm to farm. The price of timothy seed is unprecedently high, and much seed that in an ordinary season wouldn't find its way into the market is selling readily. In the Eastern part of Ontario much of the hay was so well advanced that the seed was formed. They are threshing this and selling the seed. Fortunately, much of this seed is finding a market outside of Canada—fortunate for Canada, at any rate—as much of it is contaminated with ox-eye daisy seed, a weed seed which cannot be wholly separated from timothy seed.

It was refreshing information to hear that in one town in Eastern Ontario, a dealer said that, since the inspection of seed had taken place, the farmers of that locality wouldn't buy any local seed from neighboring farms. By the use of purer seed they have been able to grow cleaner hay for which they reaped a good reward in the price they got for it this year.

The Department of Agriculture, through its inspectors, is endeavoring to impress the dealers with the necessity of labelling their seed with the grades, so that a farmer, when he comes in a store, can see at a glance what grade the seed is which is being offered for sale. Knowing the grades, he can at once determine pretty well the seed to buy. It is a matter for congratulation that rarely is any No. 3 seed seen in the hands of the retailers. They are finding it easier, from year to year, to sell No. 1 grades, as they are in greatest demand, even when the price is so very high. This should be a lesson to the producers to try and furnish this kind of seed in larger quantities each year.

So far as purity is concerned, the higher grades of No. 1 are all comparatively free of both noxious and common weed seeds, and have become more so from year to year.

To meet this growing demand for No. 1 seed, farmers must be prepared to produce it, by sowing pure seed on clean chances. Such seed will always be in good demand. The idea advanced by one seed-buyer is a splendid one, and worthy of imitation—i. e., to induce the growers to do their best in producing clean seed, he said he was intending to divide \$100 into four prizes for the growing of alsike in a district in Western Ontario. The farmers who were able to offer him the cleanest and best alsike seed would reap a handsome reward. This is legitimate work for our agricultural societies to follow up, as well, in each of their districts, in order to improve the seed production of their localities. There is much to be done to promote the production of good pure seed of all kinds.

The thirty, sixty and hundred fold idea de-