

ance they allow the seeds to scatter themselves or actually with a drill sow them mixed with the golden grain. The weeds always become the master in such a case. If all the seed were counted it would be seen that a far greater number of weed seeds had been sown than grain seeds. We earnestly urge every loyal farmer to fight against this dire enemy. Hold the ground for yourself and allow not the thief to steal it from you. Many an honest farmer who has valiantly fought and won the day in the past, is now confronted with a lack of labor, or, if it can be had at all, it is quite beyond his means. Nevertheless the fight must be continued or defeat is sure. Cultivate no more than can be well cultivated—hold your own and wait. Wages will not always be too high, they will be reduced or land will increase in value. The adjustment is certain. The oldest of us have seen abnormal times before, when values went beyond their real worth, but the reaction was inevitable. It will come again, and things will right themselves. Therefore be steadfast and *Hold Your Ground*.

### Good Grain

*"Like begets like."*

Is there any difference in seed? How often is that question pressed home? Is it the right variety?—Yes. Then that is enough? No, it is not enough. Let any farmer examine Mr. Zavitz' experimental plots at the College, Guelph, and observe the difference between the growth of perfect and imperfect or small seeds and fully developed seeds of any variety of grain and he will be convinced that there is a very decided difference.

This is the time when the farmer should prepare or provide his seed grain. He should be charged with this one idea. *I must have the best seed possible.* Not merely grain free from weed seed, but grain perfect and uniform as well as clean. Seed which will start with a vigorous growth, seed which will give uniform plants—not some good and strong, while others are weak and feeble. If such seed is not in the granary, then let no time be lost in securing it elsewhere.

Does the owner want 10 to 25 cents per bushel more than market prices? Don't hesitate a moment. It is really worth far more than that for your purpose. You will get your money back on the increased yield of one or two acres, besides the satisfaction of growing a superior sample and marketing it instead of that which is inferior or worthless. The seed fairs held at various points are among our best institutions and have already done incalculable good. They should be encouraged in every possible way. We are delighted also at the efforts of the Dominion Department of Agriculture in this regard. Let every farmer, as opportunity is afforded, commend the work done, and so encourage it in the future. Pure seed, perfect seed, fully matured

seed, will add millions to our wealth. It pays to buy it, but it pays best to produce it.

### More About Farm Help

Elsewhere in this issue a Canadian manufacturer raises a question that may have an important bearing on the farm help problem in the near future. He directs attention to a bill now before the House of Commons asking that an eight-hour day prevail on all work done for the Government or on Government contracts, and reasons that if this becomes law it will eventually mean that the eight-hour day will be the rule in all day labor in our cities and towns, thus providing another attraction to lure men away from the farm.

The scarcity of help is serious enough now, and if conditions in the city are made still more attractive, the farmer will find it very difficult indeed to get sufficient help to work his farm properly. The Government, therefore, should go a little slowly in passing legislation of the nature outlined. The farmer should receive some consideration in this matter. An eight-hour day on the farm is a practical impossibility during the busy summer months; besides, no farmer could afford to pay the present wages for unskilled labor and have the work-day cut down to an eight-hour basis. True, there are farmers here and there who abuse their hired help and compel them to work fifteen and sixteen hours per day, but these are the exceptions. As a rule, the Canadian farmer treats his help very well, and finds it hard to keep the supply at that. If he has to compete with eight-hour labor in the city, the farm help problem will be a still greater one for him to solve.

### Amending the "Sheep" Act

The amendments to the act relating to the keeping of dogs recommended by the sheep breeders last week should receive careful consideration at the hands of our legislators. The sheep industry of Ontario is being seriously hampered at the present time by the killing and worrying of sheep by dogs. Hardly a week passes but what some farmer has his flock ruined by some dog on a "ram-page." Many farmers have become discouraged and given up sheep rearing altogether. This is a financial loss both to the farmer himself and to the country at large, as sheep raising is one of the most profitable branches of agriculture.

The law as it stands at present has one or two loopholes that render it non-effective where the councils of municipalities are so disposed. What is needed and what the sheep breeders want is to so change the act as to leave no option to municipalities to do anything but enforce the act. They ask that the clause giving powers to municipalities to make the law non-effective on the petition of twenty-five ratepayers be eliminated. This most certainly should be done. They ask also that the two-thirds clause be so changed that, providing the owner of the dog cannot be

found, the municipality shall pay not less than two-thirds of their value to the owner of sheep so killed or injured. This gives a municipality the power to pay the full value of sheep killed or injured by dogs provided the tax collected for this purpose is sufficient. Then the increased tax on dogs asked for is along the right line and calculated to eliminate the useless cur and provide a greater protection for the sheep owner.

There are, no doubt, many who would go farther in the way of amendments to the present law, but it is, perhaps, better to go a little slowly rather than ask for something that would not be granted.

The act should clearly and distinctly state what are the duties of the municipalities in regard to it. There are municipalities where a maximum valuation for all sheep killed by dogs has been fixed by the council. This is contrary to the wording of the act, but the fact that some municipalities have adopted this plan is proof that the act is not as clear on this point as it might be.

### More Good Hogs Wanted

Ontario's packers seem to be serious in their demands for a genuine high-class type of bacon hog. In order to help in the matter, a combined effort of leading packers is now being planned. Pure-bred sows and boars will be bought in localities where they are plentiful, or from breeders, taken to points where the quality of present products is not of a desirable character, and there sold by public auction. The work will be carried on under the Department of Agriculture, and in the care of Mr. A. P. Westervelt, Secretary of Live Stock Associations. This is a form of "combine" which no farmers or alleged "Farm Journal" should object to.

### EDITORIAL NOTES

This is the season when every farmer should decide what kinds of seeds he will sow and how much. Such seed should be got ready early. It is none too soon now to begin.

The bill to be brought into the Legislature at this session to tax race meetings is likely to work out to the advantage of the farmer and breeder if properly carried out. Should the bill become law it is the intention to devote the funds to giving prizes to farmers at shows for horses. This seems like an excellent move, and should be the means of providing a fund of several thousand dollars for this purpose.

Among the tariff changes at Ottawa is one providing for a bounty on the manufacture of cordage in Canada from Manila fibre, the bounty to be equal to the amount paid as export duty in the Philippine Islands on Manila fibre produced on those islands and used to make twine in Canada. This is a protection for the twine manufacturer and enables him to compete on a fair basis with the American manufacturer who has this export duty refunded. It will, however, not increase the price of twine.