

FARM

Seed Fairs Taking Shape.

The representatives of the seed division of the Dominion Department of Agriculture in the three prairie provinces are preparing for the holding of seed fairs again the coming winter. The Saskatchewan representative, Mr. H. McFayden, has sent a letter to secretaries of agricultural societies offering to assist in the inauguration of such fairs and to continue substantial assistance to those already started. A note of caution which is apt, is however sounded, namely, not to attempt to start a fair unless the interest in the undertaking is keen. This caution is needed for very often an agricultural society elects a secretary with more zeal than discretion, who generously attempts to carry out every suggestion that is made to him, regardless of the necessity or demand for innovations. Seed fairs certainly have a place and value in every grain growing centre, especially when they are recognized and made marts of trade where a man wanting good seed may meet the man who has this article for sale. There are few but who agree that it is advisable to give the matter of seed improvement more attention and the seed fair is one of the best means of giving this question public prominence. If at all possible assist the agricultural society to make the seed fair a success.

Outward Adornment of a Homestead.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Having just come from the Maritime provinces and settled here, I find a great difference in the country, and would like some information about how it is best to build and lay off a quarter section. I enclose a rough sketch of what I have done.

I did not want all in grain right up to the door but want trees, bushes, small fruit, apples, etc., if there are kinds suitable for this climate. As this place is only three years old no one has had experience as to what will grow successfully. Trees are needed for shelter and beauty; fruit is much needed, as only dried fruit can be obtained at reasonable prices. Ripe fruit is very high, only those who are well to do can afford it.

Sask.

LEANDER DEARMOND.

Ans.—By breaking and cropping a strip around the corner and about the buildings of this homestead an excellent preparation has been made for making a home. We cannot give specific directions for the laying out of the fields but would suggest that the house, when one is permanently built, be set back at least one hundred yards from the road and the intervening space be planted to trees and bushes a list of the most suitable varieties of which may be obtained from Mr. Norman Ross, Forester, Indian Head. These trees could be set in clumps and the remaining portion of the land seeded to an enduring grass, such as bromie. On the north and west sides of the buildings about fifty yards distant should be set a wind break of two or three rows of trees which could also be secured from Indian Head or a well known nursery.

The barn and other outbuildings should stand at least fifty yards from the house and some of the intervening land could be used for such bush fruits as raspberries, currants, etc. as well as for a vegetable garden. There would also be space here for the trial of hardy large fruit trees such as apple and plum, though these should not be set out in any quantity until the shelter belt has reached a height of ten or fifteen feet.

We would not advise placing the buildings near the slough and recommend that as little water as possible be used from it as these ponds are invariably charged with the germs of different diseases such as typhoid, swamp fever, etc.

The plan of using the yard between the house and the road for a vegetable garden is not calculated to add beauty to home surroundings although many well kept gardens make a much better appearance than an ill kept grass plot. If trees and bushes are set out in this space the soil about them should be kept fallow and the grass kept short by three or four clippings during the summer. In time no doubt the homesteader will be in a position to erect a suitable fence about his buildings and so protect his plantation. Nor should this be long neglected for stray stock can work a lot of havoc among young trees and bushes and unless these are protected there is little use in setting them out.

It is with special interest we note our readers enquiring for suggestions on the improvements of their homesteads, for the influence of the home surroundings upon the character of a people can scarcely be estimated. If in addition our correspondent will turn up the issue of May 23 he will find some valuable suggestions on the arrangement of the interior of a convenient farm house which he will doubtless require to build in the near future.

Stack Building.

A reader at Austin, Manitoba, writes to say that sixteen years ago his father wrote an article on stack building which was published in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE and since that time has not seen anything published that is just as sound advice. Turning up our files we found the article which we reproduce herewith:

Stacks, like all other things, cannot be judged by their looks, but if good looks can be combined with other good qualities, so much the better. And in this province where stacking is one of the most important features of farm work, it needs every attention. Bear in mind that it takes as long to build a bad stack as a good one, therefore, build right. A very heavy loss is every year caused by wet stacks, which could be easily avoided. The grain should be perfectly dry, and when it is stacking should be carried on with all possible speed. There are those who have not a thorough knowledge of when grain is ready for stacking, so they should have some experienced neighbor examine it for them. Some farmers maintain that a heavy dew will not do any harm, and should not hinder it from being put in the stack. Such is not my experience at all events. Grain stacked when damp will not make a No. 2 Hard sample.

In commencing the stacks, place them so there will be a space of about ten feet between the stacks, so that the separator will have ample room to come between and not pull out a quantity of the sheaves and thereby cause waste. Two stacks in one setting is, in my belief, quite sufficient, for the same reason, having them as near as possible the same size, say about 200 bushels in the same stack, so that no more time that is necessary will be lost in moving the threshers about the farm.

Use a fork to build with, keep the tops of the bottom sheaves well up, that they may not get damp with the moisture from the ground, never standing on or pressing down the outside row; place the second row so that they will nearly catch the tops of the outside ones; the third nearly to the bands of the second, and so on until

the centre of the stack is reached. By doing this the centre will always be higher than the outside, so that the settling of the stack will cause the outside ones to droop and thus keep water from running into the stack. The last six or eight sheaves should be set with a small picket in the centre and a hay rope around the end to keep them safe against the wind.

Care should be taken to see that the stacks settle evenly and if they begin to lean, prop them at once, if not done, they are liable to get wet.

Stacks built in this way will not be spoiled by the wet getting in, and the farmer will not have any musty oats or wheat to give his horses the colic.

I would like to hear the opinions of some of my fellow farmers.

WALTER LITTLE.

Appreciation.

DEAR MISTER EDITOR,

When Ah read that bit o' yoor's i' t' other week's ADVOCATE on t' misconcepshun o' t' English Ah just felt like Ah wanted te tak' od o' yoor fist an' ge it a gud shak' an' say "Thank yoo sur, yoor a gud soart o' a chap, 'at can see a lang deel farther ner mony i' this paart o' t' wold." Ah hedn't be'n lang i' Canada afore Ah fan oot just hoo things wer', bud Ah set it doon te t' ignorance o' t' foak. Ah's seer 'at if t' Canadians wad nobbut be 'onest wi' ther' sel's an' uz Britishers they wad larn nut only te like uz bud te luv uz, fer sewerly we be brethren. Ther's mony a young fella, trying te mak 'is way i' t' wold wi' 'onest toil, at feels a bit looanly an' is sumtahmes inclined te gi' up an' gan back te t' aud country, simply fer t' want o' a cheery wold an' a laatie kindly considerashun. Sum o' uz o' der chaps deecant mahnd si mitch, an' yet we sud all git on a lot better if ther' wer' a bit mare brotherliness an' less jealousy an' fau't finding, tho' si far es Ah's consarned Ah ha' fa'n amang fren's. Ah be'n weel treeted an' ha' 'ad ivvery considerashun i' me wark; bud Ah c'n beeath see an' 'ear o' mony 'at deecant fare si weel. Ah oop 'at all yer Canadian readers 'ill tak' t' 'int an' ah's seer it 'ill be better fer all consarned. Ah sumtahmes wonder weeahs t' meast et fau't—Canadians, er them foak 'at tries te pass ther'sel's off es natives, ma'be they ha' be'n born i' t' country off English parents, bud if they'd be'n born i' a steable ther's nut yan o' 'em wad clame te be a hoss. Ah cum fra't county o' broad acres, far-famed fer 'ospitality, an' o' course Ah miss me aud familiars. Bud it's tahme Ah stop'd; yoo'll nooan want te fill yoor valuable space wi' a lot o' mah blather; nobbut ageean, Mister Editur, thank yoo varry mitch. Ah's yoor's varry sincerely,

A YORKSHIRE TYKE.

