

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"
Winnipeg, Man.

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land cleared at present if it were brought under a suitable rotation of crops and the best possible cultivation. It would be disastrous to attempt to clear up any more of the land in the older parts of the Province. We need all the forest that remains. If any such scheme of advancing money is adopted by the Government, the scope of the movement should be wide, and should be so arranged as to cover varied conditions. In many cases farmers already on the land would be glad of an opportunity to borrow money at a nominal rate of interest in order that they might improve their buildings, get better machinery and place their farms in a position to earn for them maximum returns. We must not consider the back-to-the-lander only, the man already there, in many cases, with a little help could increase his output almost two-fold. The money should be available also to those who are returning from the city to the land handicapped by lack of finances. If the loans were made for five or ten years drawing, say 5 per cent. interest, and the borrower had the opportunity of paying off a certain amount of the principal each year with interest, payments to be completed at the end of the five or ten year term, it should be satisfactory to both the lender and the borrower, and we feel sure, would very soon make a difference in the output from Canadian farms. It requires more capital than many of those unfamiliar with farming operations believe.

To be the most successful farmer, in these days when labor is scarce, requires an equipment of machinery and buildings which is beyond the pocketbook of many of those returning to the land as well as thousands already farming. Then, too, good farming means live stock farming, and if we are to increase production we must increase our live stock. It costs money to buy breeding stock of the right class, and nothing but the right kind is profitable at the present time. We should like to see something come of the scheme mentioned in our correspondent's article, and if it is attempted by the Government the rules and regulations governing the borrowing of

this money should be such as to lend themselves readily to all classes of farming and all classes of farm improvement.

Seed Gardens of France and Germany.

The war and our seed supplies from Europe was treated in our August 27th number. Seed Commissioner Clark has issued a further statement in the Agricultural Gazette which indicates the possibility, or even probability, of a grave situation that Canadian farmers, gardeners and consumers may have to face should they continue to be dependent on Europe for their supplies of field root and garden seeds.

Florist's seeds, such as asters, flax, and the like come mainly from Germany. Garden vegetable seeds, including carrots, beets, cabbage, cauliflower, radish, celery, parsnip and others are grown chiefly in France. Last year our imports of sugar beet and mangel seeds were 1,285,198 lbs., of which 452,721 lbs. came from France, and 448,023 from Germany. We obtained 32,966 lbs. of carrot seed from France. Of turnip seed we had 126,687 lbs. from France, 224,162 from Holland, and over a million pounds from Great Britain.

The territory over which the great battle is still in progress was expected to produce a great deal of the world's supply of carrot and garden beet seeds. Fortunately, there is now available a considerable reserve supply of all principal kinds, and a pronounced shortage of seeds for next spring is not anticipated. Where are the seed supplies for 1916 planting to come from is the problem to be met.

Unfortunately very few farmers and gardeners in Canada are experienced in the selecting, planting, harvesting, threshing and cleaning field root and garden seeds. In his report the Seed Commissioner says there is no mystery about growing seed of mangels, carrots and turnips. If sound roots are planted in ordinary soil early in the spring nature will do the rest, even to mixing the varieties as with corn, if two or more varieties are planted together.

GROWING FIELD ROOTS FOR SEED IN CANADA.

In a press contribution by M. O. Malte Ph. D., who has charge of the fodder crops and field root experiments at the Central Experimental Farm, at Ottawa, he also points out the present dangers of being dependent on Europe for our seed supplies, and advises as to simple methods of procedure in the selecting and storing of mother seed roots for the growing of seed. The mother roots to be selected should be free from disease, of medium size and as nearly as possible perfect specimens for the kind and variety. Select roots having only central bud or growing point for leaves. When trimming be careful not to cut into the bud, and the fibrous roots with a little soil attached should be disturbed as little as possible.

The storing of mother roots over winter should be designed to protect them against both frost and heat. It is much more difficult to protect them against heat than cold. A temperature slightly above freezing should be maintained throughout. A good, well-ventilated root cellar, where the temperature can be kept down during the warm spring days, is recommended. The pitting of roots in locations sheltered from heat and extreme cold, and with proper drainage and covering with straw, and earth according to weather conditions, is also advised.

HOW TO GROW ONE'S OWN VEGETABLE SEEDS.

W. T. Macoun, Dominion Horticulturist, expresses the opinion that on account of war conditions it would seem desirable that Canadians should make an effort this year to save some home-grown seed, and plan to grow some next year. In a former article he advised gardeners to collect and preserve any good flower seeds that are available this autumn.

To save seed of such annuals as beans, corn, peas, peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, melons, squash, pumpkins, radish, lettuce and others, all that is necessary is to separate and clean the seed when ripe, dry it carefully, and keep it in a cool, dry place until needed for planting. Raising seed of biennials as beets, carrots, parsnips, onions, cabbage, cauliflower and celery, is more difficult, and it is these that are imported mainly from Europe. Good, medium-sized, shapely specimens of biennials should be selected at digging time, which, for most kinds, is before severe frosts in the autumn. Parsnips and celery are best left and protected from severe freezing and thawing, to be dug and transplanted in the spring. The tops are cut to about two inches of the root or bulb, being careful not to injure the bud or centre shoot. The storing of the roots over winter, as recommended by Mr. Macoun, is practically the same as recommended for field roots. When planting early the next spring it is desirable to have the tops of the beets, carrots or parsnips slightly below the surface of the

ground. The stalks are cut at intervals as the seed ripens, and allowed to dry thoroughly.

To grow cabbage seed, plants having the best heads should be selected and the whole plant dug. They should be stored with a view to prevent severe freezing, and thawing after being frozen should be very gradual. He recommends storing cabbage outside in trenches, laying the cabbages on their side, covering with straw, and protecting from severe frost. At time of planting the head should be slit crosswise from the top of the head to enable the seed stalks to force their way through. Cauliflowers are treated much the same as cabbage, but are more difficult to store in good condition.

Well-shaped and well-ripened onions should be used for planting. Plant early in spring, 6 inches apart in rows 3 feet apart, the upper part of the bulb should be an inch or two below the surface. The seed balls or heads are cut when the stalks begin to turn yellow, the collecting of seed balls to be made at intervals as ripening proceeds. Onion seed should be carefully and rapidly dried.

Celery seed can be grown to best advantage in a mild climate where the plants in the open are not likely to suffer from severe freezing. By placing boards over celery in a way to permit of ventilation in the early spring before time to transplant and covering amply to protect from severe frost, celery may be carried through the winter in a sound condition. In the early spring transplant a foot apart in rows three feet apart.

The Crisis in the Rural Problem.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

A crisis exists to-day in the rural problem as well as in other phases of our national life. If affairs are wisely guided for the next twelve months we may see a large re-adjustment of the balance of population, which balance has for many years been heavily swinging in the direction of the towns and cities. Tradesmen by the thousands in our cities would at the present moment gladly leave the rather poor prospects of their trades if they could find places to live in and profitable work on the land.

That is one aspect of the crisis, that men in large numbers are out of employment in town, and profess to be willing to take work on the land. If the present unemployment were the result of an ordinary industrial depression it would soon right itself, and no increase of rural population, and of rural production, would result. But the waste of the war now going on will compel a falling-off, for years to come and practically world-wide, in the purchase of manufactured articles. Still, food must be had, not only to supply the needs of our own population as here tofore, and to maintain our food exports to their normal level, but also to make up the deficiencies of food products in those countries now wasted by war. This largely increased demand for the products of the farm must be supplied chiefly by the United States and Canada. It may be assumed that the present farming population of Canada are producing up to the limit. Any increase in one direction will likely be balanced by a decrease in another. If we grow more wheat, we shall likely grow less oats, or raise fewer cattle. If any considerable increase in the total is to be looked for it must come from an increase in the farming population.

The first need, in Ontario at any rate, is for farm labor in exchange for wages. At least half of the farmers of Ontario, if they could be assured of steady help next summer, would gladly plan their work so as to give profitable employment to that extra labor. At least one hundred thousand men might be employed on Ontario farms more than are employed at the present time. Unfortunately, the emergency has occurred in the autumn, when the busy season on the farm is over. But there are doubtless thousands of farmers who would be glad of help even now to care for the stock during the coming winter. As for next summer, if only unemployed labor of the right kind, now going to waste in the cities, could be placed on our farms, an increase of hundreds of thousands worth of food might reasonably be expected. The problems of course are, first to find men of the right sort, and then to place them where they are wanted. That should be the work of employment agencies, and it is foolish to depend upon a few centralized agencies in Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg. To meet the present labor emergency, agencies should be decentralized. Every town and city having unemployed labor should have its agency for bringing labor and employment together in its own particular district. For much of the labor required, that is under the direction of the farmer himself, farming experience is not needed so much as common sense, willingness, and honesty. Men who can offer these commodities should be able to dispose of them to their own advantage, as well as to the advantage of the farmers who secure them.

There is much hope for the unemployed in Canada, and also for the farming interests, if these counsels are followed. There is less hope, immediately at any rate, in the plan, proposed

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