

northerly part of the state. There is, therefore, nothing to prevent the beet from being grown satisfactorily in Ontario if the conditions of soil and rainfall are suitable. The sugar beet factory should be located where there is plenty of limestone and abundance of water. Ohio consumes over 200,000,000 pounds of sugar annually. To produce this amount of sugar from beets would require about 200,000 acres of land. So in Canada, if the total amount of sugar consumed were produced in the country, many thousands of acres of land would be required to grow the beets.

Get Ready for Spring Work.

This is the time of the year when every farmer should lay plans for spring work. He should have a definite plan of his farm prepared, and be able to estimate exactly as to how much of each kind of grain he will sow, and upon which fields. When this is known definitely he will then be able to estimate carefully how much wheat, oats, etc., he will require for each field. This will enable him to get the seed ready before the busy season opens in the spring, and so have everything in readiness to begin work as soon as the ground is ready.

The question of seeds is an important one. Too many farmers neglect it and continue to sow old seeds over and over again, and then wonder why they do not have larger crops. It will pay every farmer to change his seed every three or four years at least. When he does change he should aim to get the very best quality of seed possible. This is the time of the year for securing good seed. Do not leave it off till the last moment when you will be too busy to make a proper selection. Write to the Experimental Farms at Guelph and Ottawa and get reports of the kinds of the various seeds which have given the best results, and make your selections accordingly.

Dominion Butter and Cheesemakers' Association.

The first regular meeting of this organization was held at Woodstock, Feb. 23rd and 24th last. A full report of the proceedings will be given in next issue.

There are many things to be said in favor of such an organization. It should stimulate makers to do better work, and to protect their own interests. By co-operating in this way the makers can accomplish a great deal, not only in advancing their own interests, but in advancing the interests of the cheese and butter industry. The main object of such an organization should be to improve and keep up the quality of our dairy products. Of course any organization that tends to make the conditions surrounding the maker such that he will have more control over the milk he receives and will be able to pay wages sufficient to secure good help and first-class supplies must tend towards improvement in quality. In this way the new organization should do good and should receive the endorsement of everyone connected with the business, whether he is a practical maker or not. At the meeting last week, however, there seemed to be a disposition on the part of many of the makers to advance too fast and to adopt too radical measures at the beginning. Everything proposed was along the right line, but we question the advisability of pushing forward too many radical schemes at once. Such a course may serve to antagonize the milk producers and other factors in our co-operative dairy system before they thoroughly understand the aims and objects of the association. The better policy would be to complete the details of the association and get it into working order, and then secure the sympathy of these other factors. When this is obtained it will be an easy matter to have any reasonable measure adopted that will help the position of the maker. Our advice, therefore, to the new organization is to go slow. Farmers who supply milk to cheese and butter factories, and others connected with the trade, are amenable to reason, and when a measure is advocated that has for its ultimate object the advancement of the industry in which they are in-

terested, though it may be more directly in the interests of the maker, are not loth to adopt it.

How to Cure Sheepskins.

A writer in an English exchange gives the following method for curing sheepskins:

"If dry, soak them in water till quite soft. Scrape off any flesh or fat which may be present. Now, well wash them in warm soap and water; wring out, but do not rinse. Then leave them for about two days in a mixture made as follows: To 5 gal. of soft water add $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of common salt, and stir well to dissolve. Then add $1\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. of commercial sulphuric acid, and stir again. It should now taste keen like vinegar, but should not burn the tongue. This mixture may cause the hands to smart a little, but will do no harm. Then rinse in cold water and wring out as dry as possible. Hang in the shade to dry. During the drying the skin should be rubbed between the knuckles, as when washing clothes, pulled, stretched in every way, and scraped. Any hard parts may be reduced with pumice-stone, though the knife acting as a scraper is quicker. As a finish, dust a little whiting over the skin, and rub this all over with pumice-stone. During the scraping and stretching, the wool should have been combed out, and not left till the skin had dried."

Broad Tyres on Wagons.

Some interesting experiments have been made recently at the Agricultural Experimental Station, Ohio, comparing the draught of broad and narrow-tyred wagons. In nearly all cases it was established that the draught was materially lighter when tyres six inches wide were used than with tyres of standard width. On a macadam road, the same draught required to haul a ton load with narrow tyres hauled more than a ton and a quarter with broad tyres. On gravel roads the draught required to haul 2,000 lbs. with narrow tyres, hauled 2,610 lbs. on the broad tyres. On dirty roads, dry and hard and free from ruts, the broad tyres pulled more than one-third lighter. On mud roads, spongy on the surface and underneath, the broad tyres drew one-half lighter than the narrow tyres. On mud roads, soft and sticky on top and firm underneath and where they were wet to a great depth and the mud became stiff and sticky, the narrow tyres pulled lighter than the wide ones. With these exceptions the wide tyre pulled lighter in every case.

On meadows and pastures the results also were strikingly in favor of the broad tyres. When meadows are soft, from 3000 to 4000 lbs. may be hauled on the broad tyres with the same draught as that required to haul a load of 2,000 lbs. on the narrow tyres. The beneficial effects of the wide tyre on dirt was also strikingly shown in the tests. The results of these carefully conducted experiments prove almost conclusively that the broad tyre is the better one for those having heavy teaming to adopt. It should be of special advantage to the farmer for use in the fields and on the road. Aside from this, if all those who do heavy teaming would use broad tyres we would have better roads, or at least the roads would not be cut up so badly during wet weather as they are now.

Keep More Sheep.

There can be no question about the fact that it would pay every farmer well to keep a few sheep. They are easily kept and consume food that is easily grown. We have pointed out frequently the fact that sheep are sure death to a great many weeds hard to eradicate. A Western writer draws attention to the fact that sheep are the most profitable animals on the farm, because they are double-headers and are not liable to cholera or other disease. However this may be, there is no doubt that sheep are not so much subject to disease as many other animals kept on the farm. Sheep will very often live on the weeds and grasses left by other animals. Then there is the question of care and attention. Though requiring

some attention they do not require half as much as the cow, nor as much even as the hog. Besides the profit from the wool each year, there is the extra profit from the lambs. Our climate is well suited for sheep rearing, and with some shelter during the winter, and with a good supply of suitable food, they will pass the trying season with comparative ease. Our motto to "keep more sheep" is one that every farmer should consider.

NOTES AND IDEAS.

It is gratifying to know that satisfactory arrangements have been made between the military authorities and the Horse Breeders' Association in reference to the annual horse show. The show will take place early in May and will combine a military tournament and horse exhibit in one. This will make it doubly attractive and on a sufficiently large scale to ensure a larger attendance than ever of visitors from a distance. The prize list is now being prepared, and will be ready for distribution shortly.

A farmer in Nova Scotia recommends going back to the use of oxen for farm work instead of horses. He considers horses an expensive luxury. If a farmer only has one team of horses he has no driving horse, and if he uses his team for driving they are no use for heavy work, and when they get old are no use for anything, while oxen can be fattened for beef when they get a little old for work. This may be very good reasoning, but in these days of hustle in farm work, as well as in any other work, the farmer who contemplates going back to older methods will soon be behind in the race.

CANADA'S FARMERS.

Mr. C. M. Simmons, Ivan, Ont.

We present this week the photo of a man whose smiling face, kindly ways and hearty welcome have become well known on the leading fair grounds of the province during the last twenty-five years or more.

Mr. Simmons was born in the township of Murray, East Northumberland, some sixty-five years ago. Schools were scarce in those days, and so were his chances for attending them. If his education was limited, nature made up for it by endowing him with untiring energy, keen perceptive faculties, and an unusual amount of good, sound common sense.

His life has been a very active one, and he has always worked with a definite end in view. Beginning with a very small financial start, in fact almost nothing, he has added to it until he now has over 500 acres of land in Middlesex county. He has always been a lover of good cattle, and early began fattening cattle for the British market. In fact, this is a hobby of his, and he fattens annually about one hundred head. For many years he bought and shipped cattle to the British and other markets, but of late years he has not done so.

As a feeder and dealer in live stock it is not surprising to learn that Mr. Simmons early invested in good representatives of the breed which he believed best adapted to produce the right kind of animals for the British market. He has been breeding Shorthorn cattle and Berkshire swine for nearly thirty years, and in this as well as in other things he has been very successful. During all this time, with the exception of a year or so, he has been a continual exhibitor at all the leading exhibitions. His stock have always won leading positions. This has been very gratifying, as Mr. Simmons has only shown one female not of his own breeding in all his show ring career. Last year a heifer of his breeding won the sweepstakes award at the leading exhibitions in Ontario. He has made a specialty of showing young stock.

Stock of Mr. Simmons' breeding have found their way into many of the leading herds of the province, and the foundations of some of the present successful herds were laid with his stock. Owing to advancing years, Mr. Simmons has decided to dispose of his fine herd of some fifty head March 18th. His attention in the future will be given to fattening stock.

Mr. Simmons has always taken an active part in everything that has had to do with the betterment of his neighborhood. He is no stranger to the various municipal offices. He was instrumental in starting the Lobo Fire Insurance Co., and was for a time its president. He has also been identified with the North Middlesex Agricultural Society, and has filled the offices of director and president. For some time he was a member of the board of directors of the old Agricultural and Arts Association, and is at present a director of the Dominion Shorthorn Breeder's Association.