

SEED IMPORTATION REGULATIONS

Canada farmers and gardeners are protected from the evils of planting inferior seed of many kinds of crops imported from other countries.

In Pamphlet S-12 of the Seed Branch of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, and obtainable from the Publications Branch, unfit seed is described as that which does not comply with the Seed Control Act requirements respecting the sale of seed in Canada, or if it had been refused admittance into any other country on account of low vitality.

The regulations will be carried out through the Customs officials who are required to take and forward to the Dominion Seed Laboratory for examination, sample of lots of seeds of the classes named entered for consumption in Canada. Seed that has arrived in Canada and found to be unfit shall be deported under Customs supervision.

Buy War Savings and Thrift Stamps.

HATCH CHICKS EARLY IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES

(Experimental Farms Note)

From records kept at the Experimental Farm, Nappan, as well as throughout the Experimental Farm system, it is evident that the early-hatched pullets are by far the most profitable ones, for they are producing eggs at that period of the year when the demand is greatest and the highest prices realized.

This is an important factor in successful poultry raising. When one considers the high prices paid for all feeding material the object should be to produce pullets that would lay during the winter months, in order to reduce to a minimum the cost of maintaining the flock through the most expensive period in the year.

Now the question arises "Can early chicks be produced in the Maritime Provinces successfully?" The answer is, "Yes." But in order to do so the poultryman must start with the parent stock, that is, with the flock that is to produce the eggs.

The fertility of the egg and also the vitality of the germ, must be kept up to its maximum if the best results are to be obtained. This can be done only by judicious feeding and careful attention to the flock, that the birds may be healthy and vigorous during the breeding season; for birds lacking in vigor and health will produce chicks low in vitality.

The eggs should be collected promptly before they become chilled, and stored in a room where the temperature is about 55 to 60 degrees, avoiding extreme cold or heat. Best results are obtained where eggs can be set from two to three days after they are laid, and should not be kept longer than one week, especially for early hatches.

All incubators should be thoroughly disinfected and cleaned before the eggs are set, and an even and normal temperature kept throughout the period. If hens are used for setting they should be in a good healthy condition and free from lice, otherwise they will be uneasy, and perhaps leave the nest and allow the eggs to get chilled. Greatest care and attention should be given them during this period.

When chicks are hatched artificially they should be put into a clean, warm brooder where the temperature will be from 85 to 100 degrees. They require plenty of fresh air, and as they grow older they need all the sunshine possible. Unfortunately there is very little at this season of the year. With hen-hatched chicks, put the hen in a coop and place it in a comparatively warm place for the cold weather.

Have plenty of clean, wholesome feed for chicks. Dried bread crumbs are an excellent feed to start on; plenty of milk may be given at all times, green feed in the form of sprouted oats or such-like is most essential for young growing chicks. Don't feed too much of any kind of feed at one time, but just what they will clean up in a few minutes, little and often, especially during the first few weeks.

Just as soon as the ground is dry enough, and the days are warm and sunny let them out for a short time during the middle of the day. Plenty of exercise is absolutely necessary for vigorous and healthy chicks. To make poultry pay, winter eggs are necessary. These can be secured from well-matured pullets only, and the early chick is the only one that matures before winter. Therefore, if you want to succeed hatch early. April 1st to May 15th is the best time for the Maritime Provinces.

Misner's Lintment Cures Distemper.

PENROD

(Continued from page three)

"What did you mean by speaking to me in that way?"

"He hung his head, raised the door with the side of his shoe, swayed, swallowed, looked suddenly at his hands with the air of never having seen them before, then clasped them behind him. The school shivered in ecstatic horror, every fascinated eye upon him, yet there was not a soul in the room but was profoundly grateful to him for the sensation—including the offending teacher herself. Unhappily, all this gratitude was unconscious and altogether different from the kind which results in testimonials and loving cups. On the contrary!

"Penrod Schofield?"

"Answer me at once! Why did you speak to me like that?"

"I was— He choked, unable to continue."

"I was just thinking," he managed to stammer.

"That will not do," she returned sharply. "I wish to know immediately why you spoke as you did."

The stricken Penrod answered helplessly:

"Because I was just thinking."

Upon the very rock, he could have offered no ampler truthful explanation. It was all he knew about it.

"Thinking what?"

"Just thinking."

Miss Spence's expression gave evidence that her power of self-restraint was undergoing a remarkable test. However, after taking counsel with herself, she commanded:

"Come here!"

He shuffled forward, and she placed a chair upon the platform near her own.

"Sit there!"

"Then (but not at all as if nothing had happened) she continued the lesson in arithmetic. Spiritually the children may have learned a lesson in very small fractions, indeed, as they gazed at the fragment of sin before them on the stool of penitence. They all stared at him attentively, with hard and passionately interested eyes in which there was never one trace of pity. It cannot be said with precision that he writhed. His movement was more a slow, continuous squirm, effected with a ghastly assumption of languid indifference, while his gaze, in the effort to escape the marble-headed glare of his schoolmates, affixed itself with apparent permanence to the waistcoat button of James Russell Lowell just above the "u" in "Russell."

Classes came and classes went, grilling him with eyes. Newcomers received the story of the crime in darkling whispers, and the outcast sat and squirmed and squirmed and squirmed. (He did one or two things with his spine which a professional contortionist would have observed, with real interest.) And all this while of freezing suspense was but the criminal's detention awaiting trial. A known punishment may be anticipated with some measure of equanimity—at least, the prisoner may prepare himself to undergo it—but the unknown torments more monstrous for every attempt to guess it. Penrod's crime was unique. There were no rules to aid him in estimating the vengeance to fall upon him for it. What seemed most probable was that he would be expelled from the school in the presence of his family, the mayor and council and whipped afterward by his father upon the state house steps, with the entire city as audience by invitation of the authorities.

Noon came. The rows of children died out, every head turning for a last unblinking speculative look at the outcast. Then Miss Spence closed the door into the classroom and sat at her desk, near Penrod. The tramping of feet outside, the shrill calls and shouting and the changing voices of the older boys ceased to be heard—and there was silence. Penrod, still affecting to be occupied with Lowell, was conscious that Miss Spence looked at him intently.

"Penrod," she said gravely, "what excuse have you to offer before I report your case to the principal?"

The word "principal" struck him to the vitals. Grand Inquisitor, grand khan, sultan, emperor, czar, Caesar Augustus—these are comparable. He stopped squirming instantly and sat rigid.

"I want an answer. Why did you speak those words at me?"

"Well, I guess you'd see," he returned, emphasizing the plaintive note.

"Now Penrod," she said, in a kinder voice, "I have a high regard for your mother and father, and it would hurt me to distress them, but you must tell me what was the matter with you or I'll have to take you to Mrs. Honston."

"Well, ain't I going to," he cried, spurred by the dead name. "It's because I didn't sleep last night."

"Were you ill?" The question was put with some dryness.

He felt the dryness. "No'm; I wasn't."

"Then if some one in your family was so ill that even you were kept up all night, how does it happen they let you come to school this morning?"

"It wasn't illness," he returned, shaking his head mournfully. "It was Mrs. Honston's boy's being sick. It was—it was—well, it was just awful."

"What was?" He marked with anxiety the incredulity in her tone.

"It was about Aunt Clara," he said. "Your Aunt Clara" she repeated. "Do you mean your mother's sister who married Mr. Farry of Dayton, Ill.?"

"Yes—Uncle John," returned Penrod sorrowfully. "The trouble was about him."

Miss Spence frowned a frown which he rightly interpreted as one of continuing suspicion. "She and I were in school together," she said. "I used to know her very well, and I've always heard her married life was entirely happy. I don't."

"Yes, it was," he interrupted, "until last year when Uncle John took to running with traveling men."

"What?"

"Yes'm." He nodded solemnly. "That was what started it. At first he was a good, kind husband, but these traveling men would coax him into a saloon so his way from work, and they got him to drinking beer and then wine, liquors, and cigars."

"Penrod?"

"Ma'am?"

"I'm not inquiring into your Aunt Clara's private affairs. I'm asking you if you have anything to say which would palliate."

"That's what I'm tryin' to tell you about, Miss Spence," he pleaded, "if you'd just only let me. When Aunt Clara and her little baby daughter got to our house last night—"

"You say Mrs. Farry is visiting your mother?"

"Yes'm—not just visiting—you see, she had to come. Well, of course, little baby Clara, she was so bruised up and mauled, where he'd been hittin' her with his cane!"

"You mean that your uncle had done such a thing as that?" exclaimed Miss Spence, suddenly disarmed by this sound.

"Yes'm. And mamma and Margaret had to sit up all night nursin' little Clara. And Aunt Clara was in such a state somebody had to keep talkin' to her, and there wasn't anybody but me to do it. So I—"

"But where was your father?" she cried.

"Ma'am?"

"Where was your father while?"

"Oh, papa?" Penrod paused, reflected, then brightened. "Why, he was down at the train waitin' to see if Uncle John would try to follow 'em and make 'em come home so's he could persecute 'em some more. I wanted to do that, but they said if he did come I mightn't be strong enough to hold him, and— The brave lad paused again modestly. Miss Spence's expression was encouraging. Her eyes were wide with astonishment, and there may have been in them, also, the mingled beginnings of admiration and self-reproach. Penrod, warming to his work, felt safer every moment.

"And so," he continued, "I had to sit up with Aunt Clara. She had some pretty big bruises, too, and I had to—"

"But why didn't they send for a doctor?" However, this question was only a flicker of dying incredulity.

"Oh, they didn't want any doctor!" exclaimed the inspired realist promptly. "They don't want anybody to hear about it, because Uncle John might reform—and then where'd he be if every-body knew he'd been a drunkard and whipped his wife and baby daughter?"

"Oh!" said Miss Spence.

"You see, he used to be upright as anybody," he went on explanatively. "It all begun."

"Began, Penrod?"

"Yes'm. It all commenced from the first day he let those traveling men coax him into the saloon." Penrod narrated the downfall of his Uncle John at length. In detail he was nothing short of pletoric, and incident followed incident, sketched with such vividness, such abundance of color and such verisimilitude to a drunkard's life as that had Miss Spence possessed the rather chilling attributes of William J. Burns himself have vanished from her mind.

Besides, there are two things that will be believed of any man whatsoever, and one of them is that he has taken to drink. And in every sense it was a moving picture which, with simple but eloquent words, the virtuous Penrod set before his teacher.

His eloquence increased with what it fed on, and as with the eloquence so with self-reproach in the gentle bosom of the teacher. She cleared her throat with difficulty once or twice during his description of his ministering night with Aunt Clara. "And I said to her, 'Why, Aunt Clara, what's the use of takin' on so about it?'"

"I said, 'Now, Aunt Clara, all the crying in the world can't make things any better.' And then she'd just keep catchin' hold of me and sob and kind of booler, and I'd say, 'Don't cry, Aunt Clara. Please don't cry!'"

DESIRABLE CHARACTERS IN GRAIN VARIETIES

(Experimental Farms Note.)

The desirable characters of any variety are those that enable it to thrive in the environment in which it is placed, or give it commercial popularity. The undesirable ones are those that prevent it from achieving its best, whether on the farm or in the market. According to conditions, a desirable character in one locality may be an undesirable one in another.

In any kind of grain, yield is, and always will be, a desirable character; but in many localities the variety must primarily depend on other characters, such as drought-resistance, early maturity, and tightness of chaff, to give it value. In localities where conditions are less severe, these again may be of actual harm, as a larger yield could be obtained with a variety that was later in maturing, having a looser chaff and being more adapted to a humid climate.

Earliness exceeds yield in importance in all of the northern districts of Canada, and wherever it is a question of maturing grain before the time of frost.

Tightness of chaff in wheat is necessary wherever high winds prevail at the time of ripening, as on our prairies. In eastern Canada, however, where no loss is experienced from winds, and the threshers are not used to threshing tight-chaffed wheat, considerable grain may be lost over the rear of the mill.

Varieties that have the ability to resist drought do not, as a rule, succeed where there is an abundance of moisture.

High baking strength is absolutely essential wherever wheat is grown for export, but for domestic use a variety may be grown to advantage that has only moderate baking strength, if it gives a high yield.

Thinness of hull in oats is a desirable character under all conditions. Hulliness in oats is only desirable for a few special purposes. The husk facilitates the commercial handling of the grain and protects the kernel from injury.

Beards on wheat and barley are most undesirable, but in the case of barley it has not as yet been possible to produce a beardless variety giving a yield that will equal the best of the bearded sorts.

Awns in oats are unnecessary and are not in any way connected with yield. The color of grain is most important, because it has an intrinsic value, but because the market demands a certain color of kernel in wheat, oats, and barley.

This demand has arisen from the association of a certain color with an outstanding variety, such as the red color of the Red Fife and Marquis wheats, etc.

Enough has been said to show the fallacy of the idea that any variety of wheat or oats or barley is superior under all conditions, to other varieties. The truth is that every variety has its limitations, and it is up to the grower to procure a variety which possesses characters that will enable it to thrive under his conditions. If in doubt, consult the superintendent of your nearest Experimental Station, or write directly to the Dominion Cerealist, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, describing your climatic conditions and requesting his advice as to the variety that will succeed best in your locality.

BRITAIN RULED THE AIR

London, January 23—Great Britain was preëminent in the air at the close of the war, when the British Air Force was the largest in the world, according to a report made public to-day. It fought on more fronts than the air service of any other nation, and its successes were proportionately greater, it is said.

In August, 1914, the British naval and military air services together mustered only 285 officers and 1,853 men of other ranks. In November, 1918, there were 30,000 officers and 264,000 men. At the outbreak of the war Great Britain had 196 airplanes, forty-five seaplanes, and seven airships, while, at the close of hostilities she had 21,000 airplanes, 1,300 seaplanes, and 103 airships. Besides this, there were 25,000 airplanes and seaplanes being built, and 55,000 airplane engines under contract.

The Women's Royal Air Force, which was not in existence in 1914, numbered at the close of hostilities 23,000.

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Table with 4 columns: No., X, H, H 1-2. Rows for Muskrat and Mink traps with suitable spread of jaws.

FOX OR BEAVER TRAPS

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STAR JUMP TRAPS

Table with 8 columns: No., X, H, H 1-2, E, N, D. Rows for Star Jump traps with suitable spread of jaws.

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