

## \* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY.

HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE.\*

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coming into great favor throughout the West, and the seed is in demand. This not only makes the price high, but leads to the sale of chaffy and adulterated seed. The standard weight is 14 pounds per bushel, and most seedsmen quote prices either 'per 100 pounds,' or 'per bushel of 14 pounds.' We have secured pound packages from all seedsmen cataloguing this seed and have not found one lot that weighed more than 13 pounds. Most of the samples weighed 11 or 11½ pounds per bushel, while one sample fell to 8½ pounds. Buyers should insist on good seed of standard weight. At present most of this seed is imported, but some American-grown seed has been sold, and tests show that both in purity and germination home-grown is far superior to the imported seed."

It may be added that at Ontario Experimental Farms it has invariably been found that seed grown in Manitoba and the Territories was far superior and possessed higher germinating power than imported seed.

The passing of the San José Scale Act, a year or so ago, has worked a great hardship, if not injustice, upon the people of Western Canada by prohibiting the importation of fruit, forest and ornamental trees and shrubs from Minnesota, where the San José scale does not exist, and yet allowing the free importation of nursery stock from the badly-infected districts of Ontario. The nursery stock from Ontario, even as far north as Ottawa, is practically worthless in this Province and the West, whereas from Minnesota, with a climate in many respects similar to our own, and where great progress has been made in introducing and propagating hardy fruits, trees and shrubs, can be obtained stock in every way most suitable to our conditions. The Western Horticultural Society has, on two occasions, passed strong resolutions urging the repeal of the Scale Act, at least so far as Western Canada is concerned, and many influential individuals have also endeavored to have this hardship removed. The announcement now comes from Ottawa that the Act is being amended by establishing two disinfecting stations, one in Manitoba and one in British Columbia. This will doubtless prove satisfactory so long as no unnecessary delay in transit is occasioned or no expense is added to the importer.

The desirability of sowing only pure, sound seed needs no emphasis. With wheat, and probably the coarser grains, the majority of farmers are tolerably careful to procure the best seed at their command; still, there is room for great improvement along this line, and, as has been repeatedly pointed out in these columns, there is a great need of *seed farms* in this western country. There could surely be a profitable business worked up in every district by the careful, intelligent growing of seed grains.

In grass seeds—that is, the two grasses that are now recognized as standards in this country, Brome grass and Native Rye grass—an immense market is developing, not only locally, but across the line. Thousands of pounds of these grass seeds have gone south this year into the States, and the market seems capable of almost unlimited expansion, provided always that pure, clean seed only is supplied. Once let our reputation be injured by the sending of unclean seed, containing foul weed seeds, and the game is all up.

In buying grass seeds, the greatest care is necessary, especially as most people are not yet familiar with the appearance of these seeds in their purity. We were shown a sample of Brome grass seed this spring that had been given by a farmer to a local seed-man to sell for him. It was doubtless a Brome grass, but most certainly not the Brome grass, *Bromus inermis*. This seed was small, dark-colored, and had a long awn, while the Brome grass proper has no awn—in fact, one of its names is Awnless or Beardless—Brome grass. The following interesting extract is from a bulletin just issued by the Department of Agriculture, Washington:

We notice that at a recent meeting of the committee charged with the revision of the rules and the appointment of judges for the Toronto Industrial Exhibition it was decided to insert a clause in the rules requesting the judges not to refer to the catalogue while in the discharge of their duties. We are not informed of the reasons assigned for this request, but presume it is based on the old-fashioned idea that the judges should, if possible, be kept in ignorance of the ownership and breeding of the animals shown. If this were possible it might be desirable, both from the standpoint of the judges and the exhibitors, but in these days of breeders' association meetings it is hardly possible to select competent Canadian judges who are not personally acquainted with most of the exhibitors at the leading shows, and who do not know their herdsman and their cattle, so that if there is anything in the contention that they are liable to be influenced by the knowledge found in the catalogue, it seems to us that the exhibitors who are not known to the judges might reasonably insist upon an introduction in order to be placed upon an equal footing with their competitors who are acquainted, and yet, as a rule, these are the men who object to the judge referring to the catalogue. For a number of years, at the request of exhibitors, the judges in the classes for dairy cattle at the Toronto Exhibition were brought from a foreign country, one of the objects being to secure men who were not known to exhibitors, and who were uninformed of the breeding and history of the animals shown; but while some excellent judges were secured, they have not given more general satisfaction than our "home-made" judges, and this year we understand that Canadian judges have been selected for all the classes of cattle on the nomination of breeders' associations. If, unfortunately, a judge is appointed who is weak or dishonest, he will not need the aid of a catalogue to identify the men or the animals he may be disposed to favor. Exhibitors of Jerseys at Toronto last year will probably recollect that the foreigner who went through the form of judging that class made no reference to the catalogue. He went in empty-handed and bare-faced, and yet we fancy few will claim that his work was a blooming success from the standpoint of justice and fairness. Our own opinion is that in this matter justice does not depend upon the use or abuse of the catalogue, but on the selection of competent men of sterling character as judges, and trusting them fully. Knowing that their reputation is at stake, and that they are acting under the critical eyes of a company of discerning breeders who know what is right, and know when wrong is being done, there need be little fear that any will suffer from injustice. As to the catalogue, we cannot but think that if it is to properly fulfil its mission as an advertising medium, a check upon fraud, and an educational factor in giving helpful information, exhibitors should insist on having it made more complete and reliable, and that it should give the same amount of information respecting each and every entry. This should embrace the name and record number of the animal, the date of birth, the name and address of the breeder and owner, and the name and record number of sire and dam. The motto of fair boards and exhibitors alike should be "let there be light." Those who contend for the exclusion of the catalogue from the show ring, and for keeping the judges in ignorance should, to be consistent and to follow their idea to its logical conclusion, go a step or two further and stipulate that the judges be blindfolded and shall do their work by the sense of feeling, or else that the men who lead the animals into the ring shall wear masks to conceal their identity.

Arbor Day has this year been fixed by the Manitoba Government for Friday, May 4th. It is earnestly hoped that the spirit of the day will be observed throughout the length and breadth of the Province.