

The Canadian Dairyman AND Farming World

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6. WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive original articles.

CIRCULATION STATEMENT

The paid-in-advance subscription to The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World exceed 11,000. The actual circulation of each issue, including copies of the paper sent subscribers who are but slightly in arrears, and sample copies, exceeds 16,000.

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THE CANADIAN DAIRYMAN AND FARMING WORLD
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CULTIVATION NECESSARY IN SPITE OF HAYING

Since the busy season of haying is upon us, it has become increasingly difficult to give the proper amount of attention to our root and corn crops. Busy as the season may be, we cannot afford to neglect the cultivation of our staple fodders. It is poor economy, indeed, to permit the corn and roots to suffer from inattention at this, the trying time, in their period of growth. True, the hay must be looked after and safely housed in the barn while the sun shines. At the same time, that sun is causing weeds to grow with vigor in our fields, as well as robbing the soil of its moisture through evaporation.

Busy, as we are, we must give attention to the stirring of the soil in hoed crops. It will take a little time, and delay our haying for a day or

two, but when we consider the great importance that is attached to these crops to be cultivated, it is clear that they demand our first attention, rather than the hay. We are all agreed that in an average season, the yields per acre of our hoed crops are in direct ratio to the amount of cultivation which they receive. If this be true, and results yearly prove it to be, then our course in the matter should be clear—keep the cultivator going at all costs.

But it is not only from the standpoint of increased production that we should give our hoed crops regular attention. Since relegating the bare fallow, to the years gone by, practically our only means for cleaning the soil is through the cultivation which we give while the land is under corn or roots. It has been well said, "One year's seeding, seven years' weeding," and all farmers know too well how this works out in practice. On the average dairy farm the hay crop is of comparative insignificance, when measured alongside our corn and roots. Therefore, it is readily apparent when we consider how much depends upon the ultimate success of these crops, especially our corn, that we can ill afford to neglect it, even though we retard what appears to be more important work, and, possibly, spoil a load or two of hay.

WHY THIS INDIFFERENCE?

It is to be regretted that farmers, as a class, do not appreciate as fully as they might, the opportunities they have at their disposal for self-improvement, and for gaining a more intimate knowledge of their business. The Dominion Government, and the various Provincial Governments, through their agricultural departments, have done, and are doing, much towards the educational advancement of the farming community. They might have done, and might do, a great deal more. But what encouragement do we give them? It is a wonder that we have so much done for us in matters of education when we show so little appreciation of the efforts that are being put forth.

In the older settled districts it has become a difficult proposition to get a representative audience together to listen to an address upon an agricultural topic, as has been evidenced throughout the past winter, as well as on several occasions lately. Even where the speaker is of the first rank, and his subject a live one of infinite concern to the farmers in the immediate vicinity of the meeting, there are to be found but a paltry handful of men to encourage the speaker and the Department in their work.

If we would reap the benefit of what is being done for us, and if we would have our grants by the various governments increased, we must show our appreciation of this effort and expenditure by a more healthy interest in these matters, and a much larger attendance at all meetings held under the auspices of the Dominion or Provincial Governments. If we would

make the most of ourselves as farmers, we must devote more of our time to attendance at such meetings, as well as spending more of our time in getting in touch with the leaders in agricultural thought. Such lack of interest on the part of our farmers, our institutes, and our agricultural societies, can result in but one thing, smaller appropriations for these purposes. As regards the field crop competition, there is danger at the present time of the grant made for this purpose not being used up, and how can we expect to get new grants or increased grants another year, if we have not used what was put at our disposal? Let us see to it, then, that a larger audience is in attendance at all meetings held by our institutes and our agricultural societies, and let us leave no stone unturned in endeavoring to take advantage wisely of the money appropriated by the Government for agricultural purposes.

THE EVER-PREVALENT WEEDS

Through the various agencies which act in the dissemination of weeds, the farmers in the older-settled districts, as well as those living upon newer soil, are well nigh loaded up with what appears to be the unmitigated curse of the present day farming. As the years go by, weeds are becoming increasingly numerous. This year is no exception to this rule, and the farms in many districts are blossoming forth in all the glory of wild mustard, ox-eye daisy, bladder campion and other noxious weeds. From present appearances, it looks as if weeds were bound to gain the upper hand. In some districts, the weed seeds imported in Ontario from the West, along with the frozen wheat which was fed during the past winter, are making the problem more complicated. It is well known that ball mustard, pennycress (stinkweed), and sow thistle were brought down in large quantities. The ordinary grain grinders could not break these seeds, and the cattle could not digest them. What else could we expect but that these would produce weeds, that would be much in evidence after the manure in which they were contained was applied to the soil?

As farmers, we must unite to fight these pests. We cannot exterminate them, nor can we well keep them in check by individual effort. What would it profit a man if he be a careful farmer, and do all in his power to rid himself of these plagues, if his careless neighbor permits his sow thistles to go to seed? The seed of this weed, being readily carried by the wind, will soon infest the whole community, if it is not attended to at the proper time. If our laws do not take into their jurisdiction the control of this weed, then it is up to us as farmers to assert our rights and see that we have protection from men who will not protect themselves, or have no consideration for their neighbors.

Weeds are the source of great loss. They increase the cost of practically every operation on the farm—

in plowing, cultivating, binding, threshing, etc. Are we going to permit this great annual loss to go on for ever, or are we going to take more radical steps towards holding them in check, and, if possible, bring about their complete eradication? No weed is so hard but it permits of its eradication, if we but know the nature of it, and how to go about the work that is necessary to exterminate that particular plant. As stated above, we can do little by individual effort. We must stand united upon this question, and see to it that our members of Parliament enact laws that will control this great evil, and see to it that such laws are enforced to the letter. In this way, and in this way only, can we abate this great nuisance.

BUY BARRELS NOW

Every fruit grower who expects to have apples to sell next fall, should buy at least 75 per cent. of his barrels now. If the apple crop next fall is a normal one, or above, it is probable that barrels will cost more later in the season than now. It may be practically impossible to secure barrels at any price at picking time, as has occurred in some past years.

Present crop indications point to a large export trade this year, and barrels are sure to cost more after September, than before. There is no reason why every grower should not estimate the crop which he is likely to have within the limit of 25 per cent, more or less. If, then, our growers order at the present time barrels for what they think will be 75 per cent. of their crop, in case their estimates should be too low, they will not have to buy more than 25 per cent. at higher prices. If their estimates should be higher, they will have, at most, only 25 per cent. to carry over, and with proper care, they will be out only their interest on a small sum for this.

As some growers may want to sell their fruit on the trees they may hesitate to buy barrels. While his system of selling is not always the best, particularly where the sale is made by the lump, it is followed year after year by many who should know better. In such cases it often happens that the best way to sell the fruit on the trees is to be able to furnish the packages. Indeed, this is very often an inducement by which growers can get an advance of one half the price of the barrels. Buyers, as well as growers, have difficulty in securing barrels in seasons of scarcity. If the grower has a supply stored on his farm, he may be able to make a profit on the barrels, as well as sell his apples at good prices. Every farmer who has an apple orchard should buy at least a portion of his barrels now.

Among the Scottish farmers who are coming to Canada in August for a seven weeks' tour, in response to the invitation of the Dominion Government, are a number of influential men, including Sir J. Sinclair, cousin of the Secretary for Scotland in the Asquith Cabinet.