

Question Drawer

This department of The Guide is open to all readers, and it is hoped that they will make advantage of it. All questions relating to the problems of the farmer of Western Canada will be answered in this department. Write questions on one side of the paper only, and send only one question on one sheet of paper. Join in making this department of the greatest value.

MUST HAVE NAMES

Questions sent in without the name of the sender attached will not be answered. The name will not be used if not desired, but it must be sent in as a guarantee of good faith.

WINTER ROOT HOUSE

Subscriber, Alta.—Jan Macrone, Sask., writes: "To store farm roots successfully over winter it will be best to dig a hole between four and five feet deep and of a size sufficient for the roots to be stored, throwing the dirt well back out of the way of the hole. When the roots are put in, roof the pit with poles giving it a slight pitch, as it will then ventilate better. The poles should be covered with two or three feet of wheat straw, which in turn should be covered with the earth taken out of the hole. Be sure to have a good margin of the covering round the edge of the pit. A roothouse can be ventilated by letting a shaft down through the highest part of the roof, made from four pieces of six-inch board with a weather board on top. In cold weather it might be well to close the ventilators with a handful of straw. If your roothouse is to be used in winter it should have double doors, one upright in side of house and the other flat on ground above entry shut. One of the chief qualifications of a good root house is not to make the bins too large or the roots are almost certain to rot, otherwise subscriber should find no difficulty in keeping his roots successfully over winter."

MINNEAPOLIS BARLEY PRICES

R. Campbell, Margaret, Man.—Will you please explain feed barley being quoted so high in your Minneapolis market report and corn being so much lower than feed barley?

Ans.—Feed barley is scarcely ever so poor that some good barley, even malting barley, cannot be cleaned out of it, and as malting barley is very scarce, feed is greatly sought after for cleaning purposes, the balance being sold for feed. Mr. Chisholm, the retiring president of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, brought a number of samples of barley from Minneapolis last week, and grain men who have inspected them all agree that barley which was sold for eighty cents at Minneapolis would not bring more than 45 cents at Winnipeg.

DECEASED HOMESTEADER

M.J.R., Herbert, Sask.—The widow of a deceased homesteader must take out letters of administration in order to secure patent, but no further residence duties are required, cultivation only being necessary. Cultivation may be done, either by the widow or by someone appointed by her.

WINTER WHEAT AND RUSTED OATS

Reader, Bethune, Sask.—1. Would you kindly let me know through the columns of The Guide if Red Fyfe wheat sown in November just before the ground freezes, will lie in the ground safely through the winter and grow as well in the following spring as if it was sown in April or May?

2. Our oats have red rust on them, and we want to feed the sheaves, whole, to the horses. Will the rust injure the horses?

Ans.—1. No. Some grains might grow, but the greater part would be killed by frost. To grow winter wheat you should sow Turkey Red at the end of August or early in September.

2. The rust will not injure the horses, but there is danger that if the manure is spread on land without being well rotted the ground would be infected with rust.

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Canadian Co-operators' Congress

The first congress of the Co-operative Union of Canada was held at Ottawa on Labor Day. Mr. Samuel Carter (Guelph Society) president of the Co-operative Union, presided.

An address on the development of the movement in Canada was given by Hon. Secretary Keen, in the course of which he pointed out that the failure, in some cases, to successfully apply the principles of the movement in Canada in the past has been due to a misconception of the ideals and purpose of the movement, and to the fact that there has been no central guiding or legislative authority. He took the view that the primary need was co-operative education as a preliminary to the organization of co-operative stores and that the movement has passed the experimental stage, and it was essential its development should be put upon a systematic and business-like footing. He proposed that the union should be incorporated, and submitted several alternative methods of financing it. The delegates resolved that the union should be incorporated, but that the share-capital should be subscribed by co-operative societies only, debentures also being issued to societies and individual co-operators alike, both to bear interest at five per cent. per annum.

Organizer Appointed

The united board, which is the executive of the movement, was instructed to appoint as Dominion organizer an experienced propagandist with expert distributive knowledge to assist local people in establishing co-operative societies and to guide inexperienced committees in the initial stages of the business. It was understood that such organizer should operate principally in Ontario, but should be available in case of need for other sections of the country, and that he should do the routine work now falling upon the honorary secretary.

The honorary secretary reported the result of his negotiations with the post office department as to granting publishers mailing privileges to the "Canadian Co-operator," the organ of the movement. A resolution expressing surprise at the discrimination shown was passed, and a committee appointed to wait on the authorities.

Press for Co-operative Bill

The congress further resolved to ask the government to again introduce the Co-operative Bill as a government measure and the best thanks of the movement were accorded to F. D. Monk, K.C., Lloyd Harris and Alphonse Desjardins for their efforts in the past to secure the enactment of the same. It was decided that the executive committee should secure affiliation with the International Co-operative Alliance.

Proposed Co-operative Cannery

Mr. Andrew McNeill, chief of the fruit division of the department of agriculture, who attended the congress as delegate of the Ottawa Civil Service Co-operative Supply Association, proposed that a committee consisting of the president and secretary and Mr. McNeill, should be appointed to investigate the trade policy of the canners' combine with the view to the establishment of a co-operative canning factory to supply the needs of Canadian co-operators. Mr. Wieland, the Montreal representative of the English Co-operative Wholesale Society, which purchases \$5,000,000 worth of Canadian produce annually, stated that if production could be satisfactorily arranged the proposed canning society need not trouble as to placing its output; his society would easily be able to absorb the surplus. The resolution was carried with enthusiasm.

President Carter was re-elected for the ensuing year with the following vice-presidents, Ald. Walter Dodd (New Westminster) for British Columbia, W. McLeod (Glace Bay) and A. McMullen (Dominion) for Nova Scotia, O. Kummer (Preston) for Ontario, and Mr. Broadbent (Magog) for Quebec. Hon. Sec.-Treas. Keen was re-elected for that position and also as Hon. editor of the "Canadian Co-operator." J. F. Van-Lane (Brantford) was appointed auditor, those officers to form the united board, the executive of the union, for the year. R. H. Coats, B.A., editor of the Labour Gazette, attended the congress as the representative of the department of labor.


