

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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tity per acre to sow, the best method of covering the seed to insure a catch, the best grain crops with which to seed down, the best means of protecting the young plants from destruction by the heat of the sun after the harvesting of the grain crop, and of avoiding the undue freezing in winter and heaving out by spring frost, may well engage the attention of farmers and form a topic for discussion and interchange of experience during the winter months. It is an acknowledged fact that heavy losses are sustained in some years from clover seed sown with a so-called nurse crop failing to prove a satisfactory catch, or from being burned out after harvest, or heaved out by frost. And the loss is not only the cost or value of the seed, but the consequent loss of a crop of one of the most valuable of stock foods and soil fertilizers, interfering with the most approved system of crop rotation, and causing impoverishment of the land by a succession of grain crops. The title "nurse crop" in this connection is really a misnomer, as there is ground for believing that a grain crop robs the clover plants of moisture, and shades them so that the tendency is to a slender growth and peculiar sensibility to the heat of summer, seen in case of dry weather after the grain harvest, but we presume it is yet too early in history to advocate sowing the seed alone, giving it the same advantages accorded to other crops, and farmers will continue the system of sowing it with a stronger-growing crop, taking chances for success or failure as long as the experience proves that the prizes are in greater proportion than the blanks; but it is surely worthy of consideration, whether by sowing less grain per acre than has been customary, an equally good yield of the cereals and a stronger stand of clover plants may be secured, and the latter better prepared to resist a drought after the grain harvest.

Another good point, which we have already quoted from the instructive and suggestive bulletin, is the reference to alfalfa or lucerne, a le-

gume which should be more widely grown over the greater portion of Eastern Canada. Prof. Waters, in his summary, is able to declare that alfalfa in its best condition is, without a doubt, more efficient than either clover or cow-pea hay, and when in ordinary condition is fully equal to either of these hays at their best.

NATIONAL ASPECTS OF LIVE-STOCK HUSBANDRY.

In a country like Canada, so peculiarly well adapted to live-stock husbandry in general, and the rearing of pure-bred stock in particular, the various Provincial Departments of Agriculture have, in the past, naturally and wisely directed their efforts largely in that direction, by means of exhibitions, the dissemination of information, and the securing of better transportation facilities. The Provinces have received aid from the Live-stock Branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, under the administration of Hon. Sydney Fisher as Minister, who is to be congratulated upon the service thus rendered. With the more thorough organization of the agricultural service in the older Provinces, and its inauguration in the new Western Provinces, the Dominion should be relieved of such educational work as Farmers' Institute lecturing and live-stock judging schools.

The most signal and important achievement in recent years, at Ottawa, relative to the pure-bred live-stock interests, was the adoption of a system of record-keeping upon a national basis, with headquarters at the Capital, but still under control of the breeders.

Obviously, then, the Dominion Live-stock Branch will hereafter devote its energies to those wider questions affecting the security, development and improvement of our live-stock trade in all its national aspects. For this very reason, the Live-stock Commissioner, Dr. J. G. Rutherford, is wisely associating with the service men well versed in various aspects of the industry, and seeks to strengthen his hands by means of the National Association, called again to meet in Ottawa during February next, as already outlined in "The Farmer's Advocate."

The recent inauguration of the dressed-meat and canned-goods inspection service will undoubtedly tend to encourage an export trade in these products. It is a most evident fact that the public abroad and at home will insist on wholesome foods, and though there may be friction here and there in its inauguration, the inspection service has not come an hour too soon. Improved and cheapened facilities, with greater speed in getting dressed meat to its destination, will soon be demanded, as well as for finished beeves on the hoof, and a thorough inquiry into the production of the latter, with a view to greater certainty of profitable returns, is assuredly in order, and should involve questions of breeding, feeding and early maturity, as well as transport. In view of its relation to beef-raising, as well as dairying, why not inaugurate a really comprehensive programme of research in relation to the question of the combination cow, upon which farmers would welcome well-defined deliverances?

And then, what of the Canadian sheep and wool industry? Why are our markets not better supplied with toothsome mutton and lamb? Are there not many areas of the country peculiarly well adapted to an extended sheep industry? Has the sheep any place on a dairy farm? What direction should wool production take? What's to be done with the predatory dog? What of the wool market and the effect upon it of the shoddy trade? These and many other problems bearing upon the extension and profits of sheep-rearing may well receive greater attention on the part of a national live-stock organization than they have in the past.

The collection of accurate statistical data, showing the condition and progress of the live-stock industry of Canada, indicating, also, those areas or conditions in which certain breeds of stock do best, and the possibilities of their profitable development, opens up another large and useful field for national effort.

According to recent Western advices, one hundred and fifty young men from the farms of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, are registered and in regular attendance at the Manitoba Agricultural College in Winnipeg. Considering that it is but the second year of operation, this is a most encouraging record, indeed.

"THE UNDOING OF THE FARMER."

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The farmers of this Province are under a very great obligation to "The Farmer's Advocate" for the article in a recent issue under the above title.

Farmers are proverbial grumblers. The weather doesn't always suit them, and prices are not always adjusted to their way of thinking. The feeling has been growing of late years that the farmer has not been getting a fair share of the prevailing prosperity. For the farmer's failure to secure his due of the material rewards of life, various reasons have been offered, and the issue is now fairly before us. Perhaps the solution of the difficulty lies in the farmer himself, and I wish to ask if the farmer respects his work and himself as he should? For instance, he finds that a lawyer from a distant city is to be his guest on a certain day. How will this legal friend be entertained? Is it not a fact that the best in cellar and pantry will be put at his guest's disposal? Suppose that his guest should be a farmer from an adjoining township. In this case, would there be the same eagerness to make a fine display? If not, why not? In the answer to this question is involved more than we think.

Another instance is worth considering. A farmer is, say, to meet a couple of men of national reputation at a fair, the one a successful grain-grower, the other a politician. To which one will the farmer be the more likely to defer?

Again, a farmer's marriageable daughter meets two successful young men at a party, the one a professional man, the other a farmer. Matters of wealth and character being equal between the two young men, in the event of both of them becoming suitors for the daughter's hand, which of the two will the farmer and his wife be the more likely to encourage?

Now, I do not for a moment accuse the farmer of snobbishness or flunkeyism, but farmers will do well to think more worthily of themselves and of their vocation. No work in the world makes more exacting demands upon the higher intellectual faculties than is made by farming. No occupation in the world has brighter prospects before it than are held out before the Canadian farmer just now. No doubt agriculture has its drawbacks, but so has every other occupation. We admire the business acumen of the man who successfully manages a departmental store, but we sometimes forget that the farm, with its crops, its roots, its orchard, its garden, its horses, its swine, and its dairy herd, is really a departmental concern, with all the problems of a city departmental store, together with scores of problems connected with living organisms that the city man never dreams about. In importance, as regards the welfare of the race, the farmer's work far transcends that of any manufacturer or professional man the wide world over.

One of the problems of the future is to have the farmer come into his own. The noise and glitter of the past years may have had not a little to do with making some young men and women believe that farm life is slow and humdrum, but the present financial panic proves that a deal of what seemed so attractive was, after all, only empty show. When many a business man is being crowded to the wall, and scores of men reputed rich are being proven to have possessed fortunes of only fictitious value, the average Canadian farmer has the pleasant feeling of having a little more than held his own. Not a few dwellings in our cities that seemed to be palaces in external appearances, conveniences and furnishings, in comparison with the average farmhouse, are turning out to have been built and furnished on borrowed capital, and their occupants are being compelled to seek undesirable quarters, and to subsist on diet that the farmer, fortunately, knows nothing about. Let the farmer think about these things, and help his children, in the light of them, to read the signs of the times. Along with this, let him learn, once and forever, that money-getting and public recognition are merely incidents in the great business of living. The greatest thing in the world is manhood or womanhood; the loveliest spot under the sun is home; and both of these may and do come to their best in farm life when the farmer is awake to his privileges.

Wentworth Co., Ont.

O. C.