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EDITORIAL

Cheap seed is generally too dear to sow.

VOL. XLIX.

The easiest way to fight weeds is to sow clean seed.

fruit trees.

Put down some meat for the summer before the weather gets too warm.

Sow a pound or two more clover seed per acre than the usual custom and watch the results.

It is not the market price of calves which should determine their destiny but rather their value to the herd.

It is not always he who talks the loudest and the longest who does the most. Canada needs workers not talkers.

If you haven't made a hotbed, get at it at once. Grow your own garden plants and get the best and the cheapest.

Draw the manure on the garden now while there is time. This is a portion of the farm which no one can afford to neglect.

Quebec is to have a Minister of Roads. If this step means better roads, the other Provinces in the Dominion might follow the example.

Carelessness is costly. Remember this during the lambing season, and when many of the cows are freshening. Be on hand and save the young.

LONDON, ONTARIO, MARCH 12, 1914.

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The Seed to Sow.

In reading over a very good letter submitted to this paper by one of our correspondents a few days ago we noticed the statement that in order to grow maximum yields of grain it was necessary to from time to time change the seed. In other words, the best yields could not be obtained if the seed had been grown on the one farm year after year for a large number of years. Under average farm conditions, no doubt, this statement is true, because on the greater number of places only a minimum of care is taken in selecting the seed grain and in many instances it is sown almost as it came from the threshing machine. Taking this into consideration and keeping in mind the fact that a large percentage of small, shrunken and inferior seeds are present some years there is little wonder that the hest yields are not obtained from the home-grown seed. It has been proven by experiment and experience that small, shrunken, low-vitality seeds do not yield as good crops as the large, plump seed. It is a fact, however, that if good seed is sown every year, no matter whether it be grown on the same farm or not, it is possible to get even higher returns than the average of previous years. It is simply a matter of selection and it makes little difference whether the seed, if it is first-class seed, is selected from the crop as grown on the farm or from that produced in other sections. In fact, if it is the very best of quality the home-grown seed should be just as suitable. and perhaps a little more so than seed brought in from other land.

Some years ago experiments were carried on at the Ontario Agricultural College to prove this point. If it were necessary to change seed every few years the work of crop improvement on the individual farms of this country would be indeed very limited and it is a matter of great importance that crops may be grown year after year on the same farm, thus enabling the grower to breed up his strain of cereals much as he does the best strains of live stock. Thirty-five varieties of farm crops were tested at Guelph and the yield per acre the last year of the test was greater than the yield per acre in either the first or second years of the experiments in the case of all varieties with the exception of two of spring wheat and four of winter wheat. On the whole, the average yield during the latter part of the period was greater than that for the corresponding period at the commencement of the experiment. No particular plant selection was carried on and the soil fertility was maintained as nearly the same as possible. This seems to prove that varieties may be grown for a considerable length of time without "running out," as the popular belief is. In preparing seed for the coming spring's work, this is an important point to keep in mind. If a good, heavy-yielding variety of grain is on hand and the seed is clean, pure and of as good quality as can be bought in other sections there is no good reason why it should be changed. If your own is as good as the best, sow it; if not, buy the best and breed it up by selection.

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ever, which we believe are being slighted in the amount of seed sown, and among these is red clover. Of the crops grown on the farm perhaps more complaints are heard re poor catches of red clover than of all others. It is the general practice to sow clover seed about as sparingly as possible. ' This is due, no doubt, to the high price of the seed, growers not caring to buy any more than is absolutely necessary. We believe that many of the poor catches and bare fields are directly due to too little seed. It very often happens that a considerable percentage of the clover seed does not germinate and when only five or six pounds of it are sown per acre and perhaps only fifty or sixty per cent. germinates and possibly some of this throws out only very weak plants, there is little wonder that poor seedings result.

In looking over some of the farms operated under advanced farm practice some time ago it was remarked that it was not often that such good catches of clover were to be seen. One of the secrets advanced by the successful growers was a good seeding and on one of the farms as high as twelve pounds of red clover and six pounds of timothy were used for the standard hay crop. This compared with the five or six pounds which the average grower sows seems a very thick seeding, but the stand of hay warranted the increased expenditure for seed. We do not think the mistake of underseeding is made so frequently in the case of cereals as in the case of grass seeding, but have often seen fields of oats and wheat which would have been the better of a little more seed. The clover and grass crop is one of the most important crops in this country and growers cannot afford to have their rotation upset or to lose a year's hay and pasture for the sake of a few pounds of seed per acre. We would say put on plenty of seed and put it in well and

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If you know the hens which have laid the most eggs this winter mate them up with a bredto-lay male bird and get more eggs next winter.

When buying or breeding cattle to feed the greatest profit comes from the best. Steer feeding at Weldwood outlined in this issue proves the point.

If the cattle are finished, will it pay to feed them on a month or two? They gain very slowly toward the end of the feeding period. It pays to finish, but is generally advisable to sell when finished.

"Fight or Pay" would apply better to the war or noxious weeds than to Canada's support of the military. Begin the fight now by sowing clean seed or pay the penalty later of a lighter yield and a dirty farm.

A man can much better display his spirit of good citizenship by keeping his weeds cut than by spasms of oratory and the flinging of arms upon the public platform. His obtuse neighbor Would be better able to apprehend it at least.

The difficulty which many beginners find in getting capital enough to start farming was shown recently by a letter from a young man who stated that he was in the city endeavoring to earn money enough to equip a farm. Lack of capital is a very potent factor in the problem of rural depopulation.

Should More Seed be Sown?

Just about seeding time one hears a great variety of remarks from wiseacres about the amount of seed to sow per acre and many of the old timers hold to the practice which held sway many years ago of sowing more seed than is now generally favored. There are some crops, how-

good results are likely to follow.

Test Seeds.

While on the subject of seeds it might be well! to remind readers that it generally proves profitable to test seeds of all kinds before sowing or planting corn. Growers have emphasized the testing of seed corn for some years and at the present a large percentage of growers of corn make germination tests before the seed is planted. Perhaps it is a little more important in the case of corn than in other crops, but very often clovers and cereals are low in vitality and often contain a large number of seeds which will not germinate at all and many which shove out a weakling sprout which, unless conditions are exceptionally favorable, shrivels up and dies. Harvesting conditions last 'year in most localities were much better than the previous year, so that we do not expect that as a general thing there will be as much danger from low-vitality seed as a year ago, but it is only a small job to test one hundred representative seeds from a sample and it gives the grower an idea of just what percentage is likely to grow. If the vitality is low it is generally advisable to change the seed, or at any rate a thicker seeding should be made. Last year we tested a sample of alfalfa seed which proved so low in vitality that we would not sow Some oats also did not live up to indicait. tions. The seed looked all right, but the life was not there. Such may be the case with your oats or barley or other crops and particularly would it be wise to test the seeds of root crops grown. Thousands of dollars have been lost