

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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Established
1866

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1914.

Vol. XLV.

LONDON, ONTARIO, MAY 5, 1910

No. 919

EDITORIAL

The problem of soil management is the problem of the season.

Success on the farm is dependent largely upon our appreciation of the knowledge and training required for the proper performance of its work.

An aggressive propaganda for the extension and improvement of live-stock husbandry in Canada presents vast and urgent opportunities to those in charge of the Dominion Experimental Farm system.

At a time when Conservation is being made the slogan of aspirants to Canadian public favor, leaders in the public service of farming will find in the relation of animal husbandry to permanent soil productiveness a splendid field for endeavor.

"Americans Eating Goat Flesh," is the striking heading in a leading American exchange. Goats by the hundred thousands are said to be slaughtered in the United States yearly, and the product sent into the food supply. The meat is said to be good—but it is not all eaten as goat meat.

"The emigrants on the outbound steamers at Liverpool look cheerful and happy, confident of the future in the new land, and this prospect seems to outweigh the sorrow at leaving the homeland," writes our English correspondent. Which means that Canada is now a land of hope, and emigration to it is no longer a desperate resort.

Two recent Congressional landslides from the Republican to the Democratic camp, in bye-elections where better trade relations with Canada were the issue, have disturbed President Taft, as well they might. Their effect, however, would appear to be merely a stimulation of his fanciful and farcical idea of revising the United States tariff so as to balance up cost of production at home and abroad. The American tariff will never be rationally revised on that principle.

The franking privilege at Ottawa should be abolished. In the end, it will cost the Government nothing worth mentioning to put postage stamps on official communications, and none others are entitled to free use of the mails. So long as franking exists, it is subject to abuse, such as the free distribution of party campaign literature. The incident cited by Mr. Aylesworth, who, when Postmaster-General, was asked to frank a bag of oats, illustrates the length to which privileges may be stretched.

Over two hundred convictions under the Fruit Marks or Inspection and Sale Act, for the season of 1909-10, with others still pending! And at that, hundreds of thousands of barrels of fruit probably went through that would not pass a strict interpretation of the Act. With public opinion behind the law, practically unanimous support from the press, the interest of honest growers to safeguard, and the welfare of an important industry to conserve, increasingly strict enforcement of the Act is called for. Fruit-packing frauds must be checked.

The Prospects for Corn.

With even an approximate continuance of conditions corresponding with the auspicious spring, 1910 ought to be a record year in Canadian corn-growing. For the silo, it most certainly will be. These round receptacles for converting green fodder into silage are going up everywhere, new ones, one might say in thousands, taking the country over, of steel, cement and wood, and rarely is an old one discarded. One large grower of seed corn in Essex County, Ont., writes us that by far the greater number of inquiries were for "ensilage corn," and they came all the way from his own county to Nova Scotia. Another says, "Most of the inquiries are from dairymen who use the crop for silage, and require to buy their seed from year to year." "The demand will exceed former years, unless we are very much mistaken," adds a seed firm, and another, one of the largest houses in the country, wrote us as early as April 16th, that, up to that date, 25 per cent. more corn had actually been sold by them than in former seasons. The demand from Eastern Ontario was being largely increased. Another grower in Essex County reports his trade very much greater than last year, that he was cramped for room, and, to provide improved facilities, he proposes building a large warehouse for the coming autumn. This is one of the needs of the South-western Ontario seed-corn belt—good dry quarters for storing corn in the ear for seed. Judged by the letters he had received, the inquiries for ensilage corn were two to one of those wanted for matured corn. The true policy for the silo is to produce a well-matured plant, ear as well as stalk, with as many tons per acre as can be grown.

The late, wet spring of 1909 taught us some severe lessons regarding the necessity of drainage, early soil preparation, and thorough tillage, which are now being put into effect, and will add to the profits of the 1910 crop. Is it not true, in any given district, no matter what the season's weather is like, that some farms invariably succeed in growing good crops of corn, while perhaps just across the line fence, on precisely similar soil, there is a weedy failure? Why? If we are candid, we must admit that this need not be the case. This year affords an extra good chance to turn a new leaf in corn practice. In several districts that are not particularly early, a large area of corn land was plowed during the week ending April 23rd, six weeks sooner than last year. In the last issue of "The Farmer's Advocate," A. McKenney, Secretary of the Ontario Corn-growers' Association, gave an excellent outline of the best modern practice, based on his own experience and observation. It will repay another study. And once the little plants are through the ground, with harrow, weeder, cultivator and hoe, keep the soil warm, aired, free of weeds, and its moisture regulated for the giant stalks we expect to grow, and ears above.

One of the leading seed-houses of Toronto tells us that they have had heavy bookings of orders for Compton's Early, Longfellow and North Dakota flints, and Early Leaming and Giant Sweet Ensilage of the dent varieties. These are the staple sorts which they found in steady demand. Corn for seed they report chiefly grown in the South-western and Niagara peninsulas of Ontario, but comparatively little is saved in the ear in Eastern, Northern and North-western Ontario. The same firm report, with regret, much of the Canadian-saved corn unfit for seed, owing to dampness when put in the crib last fall. Some samples, very fine in appearance, offered them, were found, under their germination tests, worthless for planting. A South-western Ontario grower wrote us that he looked for a good deal of failure this

year, on account of the quantity of shelled corn that was being shipped for seed. Another corn-growing specialist sends the encouraging news that more of his customers ordered corn on the cob for seed, which becomes popular with those who once try it. Dealers hesitate to buy that way because of its bulkiness, and the risks of mice getting among the sacks. Another, who had tried selling seed for the first time this season, was discouraged at the number of inquirers who wanted cheap corn, and they thought his price, \$1.30 for No. 1 selected ears of White-cap, and \$1.50 for Leaming, too high. When one considers the small quantity of seed really necessary per acre, \$2 per bushel is not excessive for good seed. The all-important point is to secure seed practically every kernel of which will grow. If the same thought and energy were expended in better methods of cultivation that are now devoted to trying to buy cheap seed, the returns would be vastly greater. Carelessly putting off securing seed till the last minute is another mischievous habit. On this point, one letter contains the following suggestive comment:

"If farmers would only wake up, and have a little more business tact, and not cause themselves and others so much trouble, they would be better served. For instance, the secretary of one Farmers' Club caused us to write eleven letters, and the order was for \$10, after we had been good enough to make a slaughter price. This we cannot do, with the wages we have to pay. Another will write about the 25th of May, asking that the corn be sent so as to reach him in two days, sure."

This correspondent, in concluding his letter, added that he found "The Farmer's Advocate" the best medium for advertising in the Dominion, which appears to be the general opinion of those who have something good to sell, and make it known through these pages.

Growth in Wheat and Flour Exports.

Exports of wheat and flour, the produce of Canada, have increased very greatly since 1900. Beginning in 1900 with a value of \$14,787,373, representing 20,365,392 bushels of wheat, which includes flour expressed in terms of bushels of wheat, these exports have increased with a fair measure of regularity, until, in the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1909, they amounted to a value of \$56,139,355 from 57,103,457 bushels of wheat (flour included) exported. This is the highest mark yet reached, both in bushels and value. It will be noticed that values have increased more than bushels, on account of rise in prices. While the number of bushels exported increased to nearly threefold, the value was almost four times as great in 1909 as in 1900.

A small percentage of these exports is sent to the United States, a considerably larger proportion usually goes to other countries not including Great Britain, but Great Britain receives, on the average, nearly 90 per cent. of the whole.

Speculation, Not Farming.

The Canadian Club of Orillia was lately favored with an address, at once comprehensive, illuminating and inspiring, on "Ontario the Land of Opportunity," by C. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture under the Provincial Government. Referring to the exodus to the Northwest, which he conceded was alluring to a man with a large family of strong boys wanting low-priced land, Mr. James added that the trouble was that restless people did not appreciate the advantages of the East, while they overestimated the opportuni-