

Farm Experiences

PRACTICAL ROOT CELLAR

The problem of storing roots away from frost damage during the winter is important on every farm. H. L. Patmore, of the Patmore Nursery Company, Brandon, has a system of pits which has been successfully used for a number of years for this purpose, and following is a description of his experience with keeping roots:

We have a system of root cellars in which we store our seed potatoes and other roots each winter, and keep them in perfect condition without any loss from frost. With the first cellars that we built in this country we made an error, building them 20 feet in width and 60 feet in length. This, we found after, had too much roof space, and it was very difficult to keep the frost from it and costly to keep up such a large surface of roof, as it needed a lot of repair every season. About ten years ago we began to make good root cellars about 6 feet in width and from 100 to 200 feet in length. These are built in land slightly higher than the surrounding, but not in a bank. Fortunately we found a sandy sub-soil, so that these cellars are dry. We have now built several of the same width and length, and have found that it is very much more satisfactory to have several of these long, narrow cellars in preference to one of larger width. We dig these out about 4 feet down from the surface and then put a couple of rows of posts along the centre, leaving plenty of room to walk between the posts; we then put a stringer right along the top of the posts and use three tiers of ordinary cordwood for a roof, generally using green cut poplar laid close together, one tier across the top of the poles and one sloping down on either side. This raises the roof so that the cellars will be about 8 feet from the floor to the top, leaving ventilators one to every 50 feet. We throw on this first a little straw or hay, and

then about six inches of soil, but each winter put on as much manure as is necessary to keep out frost. If snow comes early it will make the best protection, but in a season when we have very little snow we generally add more manure during the winter. With such a thin covering of soil and manure it would seem almost impossible to keep out frost, but we have found that, by

in each of these cellars, putting them in straight from the field the same day as we dig them.

CRITICISES WHEELER'S METHOD

I have just read Wheeler on "Practical Soil Tillage," and, feeling strongly on the subject of double plowing, I would like to express an opinion. Land has been double plowed here, in the Red

work till May 15 conditions are seldom suitable to the starting of weed seeds. In fact, we seldom notice any weeds on any land till wheat seeding is over. Now, the double plowing method does provide a quick starting seed bed, and such land can be safely sown later than spring plowing. I have, however, seen a crop of wild oats plowed under so deep that the land was completely dried out in the bottom of the furrow—everyone knows how deep this weed will grow from—that to work it into shape was like pulling down backsetting. Also, owing to the thick growth, the plowing did not kill all of them, many being just coming thru the ground. I do not mean the whole field was like this but patches were, just as wild oats will come thick in spots. My own experience favors the cultivator. No better seed bed can be had than a well cultivated field. Two crops of weeds may be rooted up before seeding and really killed.—J.C.D., Man.

Ed. Note.—We welcome the above expression of opinion regarding the most recent of Seager Wheeler's articles. The writer of the above is a most observant and able young farmer living in an old settled district in the Red River Valley. Undoubtedly there are many conditions which must be considered when discussing tillage matters. Both writers agree that the control of weeds is one of the chief factors, but they disagree as to the most efficient method to attain this end. There are hundreds of others of our readers who have had long experience and have formed opinions on this matter. Let us have a discussion in these columns on this subject. Read Seager Wheeler's article in The Guide for August 18, and then write us your opinion concerning practical soil tillage.

HOW I MARKET GRAIN

During my earlier years of farming I

Continued on Page 17



Helping to save the crop in a western harvest field

putting a porch in one end and opening the door just as little as possible during the winter, we leave the cellars practically hermetically sealed, and we never have any trouble whatever with frost unless by some neglect the door should be left open too long. We usually keep about 5,000 bushels of potatoes

River Valley, as long as I can remember to kill wild oats, ragweed, etc., and as a preparation for barley, and the following has been learned from it: (1) That too much depends upon the kind of spring that follows to insure a full germination of weeds. (2) Also that from the time the land is in shape to

Independent Political Action Needed

By F. J. DIXON, M.P.P.

"O Canada" may well be the lament of all lovers of their fellow men residing in this rich dominion. True we have much to be proud of. We are citizens of no mean country. Our compatriots are dying for king and country in foreign lands. We should be mean indeed if we did not feel a thrill of pride at the splendid bravery they are showing. Canada is a country worth dying for and also worth living for. On its broad and generous bosom Canada could support in plenty 500,000,000 souls and yet with a scanty 8,000,000 inhabitants we have armies of unemployed walking the streets of our cities asking for "work or bread."

"O Canada!" Well may the heart of the patriot bleed when he sees thy rich resources squandered by the friends of whichever political party happens to be in power while tens of thousands of the people suffer from compulsory idleness and want. The psalmist sings about the lions lacking and suffering hunger, but he says when the Lord opens his hand they shall be filled. Surely the Lord has opened his hand over this country. Was ever land more richly endowed with natural resources? There is abundance of coal, timber, fish, minerals, grazing and arable land. In the face of this natural abundance why do the people lack work and suffer hunger? Simply because a few government darlings have been granted special privileges by which they monopolize the bounties of nature and exploit their fellow men.

Parties are Powerless

The condition of the people varies, but no matter which party may be in power, there is always a lot of involuntary and unnecessary unemployment and poverty. This condition cannot be overcome by faithful allegiance to either, or any political party. As Henry George says: "Social reform is not to be secured by noise and shouting; by complaints and

denunciations; by the formation of parties, or the making of revolutions; but by the awakening of thought and the progress of ideas. Until there be correct thought there cannot be right action; and when there is correct thought, right action will follow." It is only as an expression of, and an aid to, correct thinking that independent political action will improve the economic and social condition of the people. The need for some stimulus to correct political thinking is self evident. The faithful party man is full of faith, but not of thought. Resting securely upon the faith reposed in them by a once unsuspecting public, political parties have either ignored, neglected or treated with contempt the rights of the people. Political rebellion is therefore necessary to compel party leaders to recognize that their first duty is to serve the people and that the question of remaining in power should receive secondary consideration. It is because the last has been first that Canada is still in the throes of Protection. We had a Free Trade party once. The Liberal party before the advent of the golden silence of office was a Free Trade party. It was vociferous

then. It is silent now. That is hardly correct. It makes much noise, but it does not say anything for Free Trade. Someone must force a discussion of this vital topic. Its discussion is not encouraged inside of either of the two old parties. Therefore, it seems that the only course open for real Free Traders is independent political action. The farmers should lead in this matter. They have repeatedly declared for Free Trade and stand to gain more immediate material benefit than any other class by the destruction of Protection. Of course it would be better for all classes if this evil were removed, even the manufacturers, but it is not so easily demonstrable as in the case of the farmers. There certainly is no adequate reason why the city workers should be fooled any longer by Protection humbug.

A Policy that Failed

Sir John A. Macdonald declared in 1878 that "If this great national policy (Protection) is carried out we shall wear clothing made from our own wool; boots made from our own leather; and all we shall use will be manufactured by our own people." The national policy of protection has been in force for

36 years and today the political descendants of Sir John are plastering the billboards with large posters picturing men unemployed surrounded by their hungry wives and families and telling us that this condition prevails because we have bought \$1,350,000,000 worth of goods outside of Canada in the past three years. And thus, after thirty-six years of the great national policy of Protection, the unemployed are with us and we are still buying foreign made goods. A nation would be foolish indeed to continue a policy which has so obviously failed. Failed to compel the people to buy goods made in Canada; failed to provide employment for Canadian labor; and failed to provide a revenue adequate to the public needs. The things Protection has succeeded in doing are to enrich the manufacturers of shoddy goods and corrupt the public life of Canada.

Up to the Farmers

The time is ripe, and rotten ripe, for change, but nothing will ever turn up in the political field unless somebody turns it up. Who will do the pioneering? Once more it is up to the farmers. It is not enough, however, that they should be willing to vote for an independent candidate providing someone will fetch them to the poll in an automobile. They must be ready and anxious to give of their time and of their money to elect their candidate. Only in this way can permanent success be achieved.

A great deal of educational work will be necessary before the sufficient number of Free Trade advocates will be elected to affect a change in political opinion. Money will be needed to send out lecturers and to distribute literature among those who sit in the darkness of prejudice and ignorance. It is true that the farmers' organizations and a few papers similar to The Guide are doing good educational

Continued on Page 19



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