

Seasonable Pointers For Farmers

Ontario Apple Marketing Could Be Much Improved

Lack of Shipping and Selling Organization the Chief Draw-back—Ontario Has Possibilities in Orcharding Un-surpassed by Any Other Province.

As an apple-growing province, Ontario offers possibilities which are unexcelled by any other province in Canada. In fact, its geographic position provides some marketing advantages which are unattainable by other provinces. Its commercial apple producing districts are in the midst of the best of local markets, including Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal, and many other cities and large towns; and in addition it is very conveniently situated for supplying the large consuming centers of the prairies, while the port of Montreal is also easy of access for the export markets. The varieties that are of the highest quality and in greatest demand, both on the home and export markets, do exceedingly well, and can be produced at a cost not exceeding and in some cases less than in other provinces, but notwithstanding these possibilities, the apple industry in Ontario has progressed to the same extent as in other parts of the country.

This is due in part to the fact that, in Ontario at least, 75 per cent of the crop is produced on mixed farms where the grower's time is of necessity divided. Unfortunately as a result on many farms the orchard receives little or no attention, it being left entirely to the tender mercies of nature, no attempt being made to combat the numerous destructive insects and diseases which take a heavy annual toll.

How the Ontario Crop is Handled. The methods employed in harvesting and marketing the apple crop of Ontario are practically the same as those obtaining during the past twenty-five years. The bulk of the crop is graded and packed in the orchard under varying weather conditions which are very often unfavorable, and by labor provided by the grower and obtained locally. No facilities being obtainable for storing the packed fruit against frost, it is necessary to get the fruit packed and shipped within a very short period, depending upon the season. Owing to the limited time of employment, it has been difficult to obtain skilled labor, and growers have been compelled to

compete with each other in securing labor, and to employ whatever local help was available, whether experienced or inexperienced, more frequently the latter. These conditions are both unsatisfactory and expensive. They do not permit of the proper care and attention being given to produce a uniformly graded and properly packed output. The methods employed in marketing have been various. When the crop is short, there is no difficulty in finding a profitable market. There is competition between local dealers and wholesale dealers in market centres, but when the crop is medium or large there is comparatively little buying, and the only alternative has been to consign. Very soon the large centres become overstocked, while other areas under-supplied. The tendency of individual effort has always been towards large centres and this is not surprising as there is not sufficient incentive to be out of all proportion to the value of the crop.

A small portion of the Ontario crop is also marketed through fruit growers' organizations operating independently of each other. Although a few of these have been fairly successful, generally speaking, individually they have not worked out satisfactorily. There have been many co-operative fruit growers' organizations formed in Ontario during the past twenty-five years, but only a comparatively few of these are functioning today, and few, if any, handle their fruit through a central packing house. The principle cause for the failure of these organizations is evidently their inability to successfully market the crops. In some cases the managers, who is also the salesman, has been selected from among the members and, although successful as a grower, has not had the time nor opportunity to gain sufficient marketing experience to dispose of the product to the best advantage. To engage a fully qualified salesman, who would devote all his time to the work, would be to incur an expenditure out of proportion to the value of the crop—C. W. Baxter, fruit commissioner.

to be recommended. At best, it is a long, slow process, and one never knows when, by such a system, his flock can be termed pure-bred. It is a good plan if one already has a pure-bred flock, and for those who are not trap-nesting, it is best to buy a male each year, but buy nothing but birds of the best constitution. Never be satisfied with birds lacking vigor. Always get a bird of the same breed with which one begins. A good many buy their birds intelligently, but there are a few who change their breed every year. They will take a Rock this year, then a Wyandotte, next a Red and possibly the Red will be followed by a Minorca, Buff Orpington, Langshan or a Game. In fact, they never seem to be satisfied if they cannot get a new variety each year. This should be avoided, and, if possible, buy from the same source each year.

The Male. To pick out the male with a strong constitution select the one that is bright as he runs with the flock, one that is alert and wide-awake, and whose head is up at the slightest commotion.

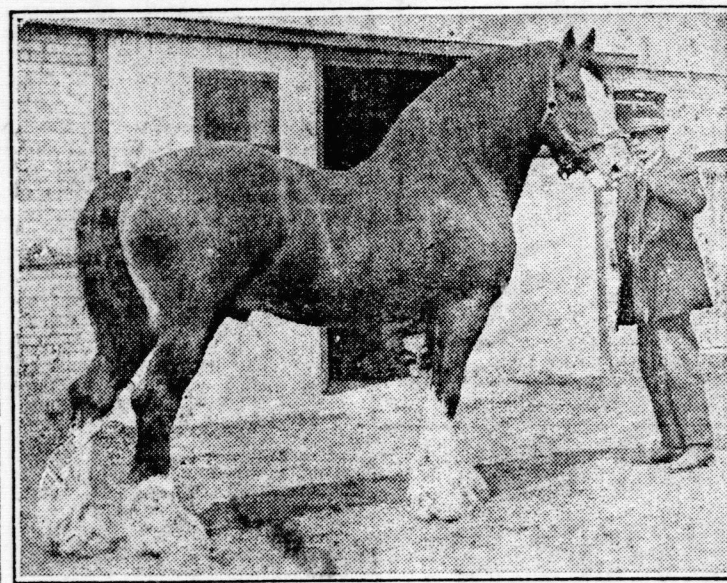
The head is a good index of constitution. In the vigorous bird there is a general appearance of brightness, combs and wattles vivid red with an absence of scalliness, the eyes bright and well set out, the head broad between the eyes, the beak short, slightly curved and strong at the base. There should be an absence of the crow or snaky appearance.

The body should not be too long for the breed, and gracefully joined to the shoulders. In the utility breeds for table use and egg production, the back should be broad, with the width carried well back, and not pinched at the base of the tail, a good oblong body with breast well developed as a result of the keel being carried well forward, and parallel to the back.

A crooked breast bone is generally an indication of weakness. The body should be fairly deep and firm on legs strong, straight and set well apart. The feet free from coarse scales and with a bright, shiny healthy appearance.

THE CLYDESDALE HORSE IN CANADA

(By H. S. Arkell, Dominion Live Stock Commissioner.)



The above picture is that of Commodore, a beautiful bay Clydesdale stallion, the property of T. J. Berry, Hensall, Ont. Commodore is twelve years old, and weighs 1,900 pounds. He is half-brother, Bonnie Buckley, sold at the Seaboard Harbour sale last fall for \$25,000. Commodore's sire, Baron O' Buckley, the greatest sire of the breed, was produced, which sold a few years ago for \$47,000.

Canada has many good horses, but she has more poor ones. Why? Scotland has some poor horses, but she has many more good ones. Why? Again, Scotland has developed a breed of horses which has won world-wide commercial recognition, has returned a profitable revenue to Scottish farmers and has admittedly performed the work on the land as well as the heavy transport work in the cities to the satisfaction alike of the farmer and of the commercial trade. Is Canada attaining similar success in the development of her horse industry?

If not, why? Let me answer this question by asking another. Speaking generally, what has really dated our Canadian horse breeding policy—individual prejudice or plain, sane, commercial common sense? Each reader must answer this question for himself, but it is worth while observing that the value is rated upon their breeding ability rather than upon any other consideration.

Isn't going to make him valuable either for breeding or for work, unless he really is. Life is rather too short to stake our private opinion in an experiment with the established principles of breeding practice and the say-so of a horse market. It isn't worth while and it doesn't pay. I would suggest that this must be our first practical lesson, if we are to make a success of horse breeding in this country.

There is one outstanding type of horse which it is conceded is the most profitable, year in and year out, for the Canadian farmer to produce. This is the drafter with weight, quality, and action. The drafter alone is likely to successfully withstand the competition of motor transportation. He alone is able to command satisfactory commercial value at all times of the year and under all conditions of the trade. He may not be the easiest horse to breed and rear, but he is worth the risk and he is always a merchantable asset from the time he is weaned until he reaches a ripe old age.

The Clydesdale Horse Association of Canada deserves to be commended in appropriately pressing the claims of the Clydesdale upon the attention of the farmers of Canada. With the prejudice to any other draft breed, we must recognize the great commercial success which Clydesdales have attained in practically all the Anglo-Saxon countries. And I am told that this commercial recognition is not likely to be increased. It remains with Clydesdale breeders to justify in the future on the basis of individual and general excellence the claims which they may now advance, and to ask farmers to use more intelligence and to exercise greater common sense in the selection of healthy, sound mares of proper type and conformation they must be prepared to provide stallions whose value is rated upon their breeding ability rather than upon any other consideration.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS.

A few years ago the United States breeders of pure-bred cattle, recognizing the necessity of more effective measures for the control of tuberculosis, arranged a conference with officials of the bureau of animal industry at Washington, the result of which was the adoption of what is known as the accredited herd plan, meaning that the herd had been thoroughly tested and found entirely free from any symptoms of tuberculosis. The plan proved so successful—over a thousand herds being accredited in a brief period—that a decision was arrived at to adopt the system in Canada. Regulations were promulgated which came into force in September, 1919, and have proved gratifyingly successful, a number of herds having been accredited, while many others are under test. There is now an agreement between the country and the United States that cattle from accredited herds may enter either way, without detention or test. Under the municipal tuberculosis order, passed at Ottawa some years ago, the more recently adopted accredited herd plan compensation is paid for animals officially slaughtered, and the owners are permitted under regulation to realize whatever they can from the sale of the carcasses.

GRAIN STOCKS SUFFICE FOR WORLD'S REQUIREMENTS.

As the period approaches for bridging over the gap between the old and that now in course of development in the various northern hemisphere countries, it is certainly opportune to have a short paper from the statistical bureau of the International Institute of Agriculture, dealing with the world position as to supplies of wheat and rye. Including, on one hand, the quantities available in exporting countries, and on passage, and stating, on the other side, those needed by the importing countries, the institute arrives at the conclusion that the world stocks are sufficient for all requirements until the new harvest, and will leave a margin of 1.4 million metric tons at least. Probably some countries will actually import smaller quantities than those estimated on the basis of the official communications, either because of financial difficulties in their obtaining cereal supplies, or because of restrictions imposed in exporting countries, wheat consumption. On the other hand, the available supplies of exporting countries do not include quantities at disposal from some minor exporters such as Manchuria. There is, consequently, good reason to believe that stocks of old crop wheat will be at August 1, 1921.

more than the estimated quantity of 1.4 million metric tons.

In any event the remainder of the old crop to be carried over at the beginning of the new commercial season (August 1, 1921) will be in excess of one million metric tons, and will undoubtedly be less than in the past year.

Good Pasture Essential For the Breeding Herd

Poor Spots Should Be Touched Up by Hand Sowing—Pastures Ruined by Being Used Too Early in Season.

With the arrival of these warm days every farmer looks forward to the time when the cattle will be turned to pasture, for the labor of feeding and caring for the cows is then done away with and the best and cheapest returns are looked for. It is natural that large returns should be obtained at this time, for the cattle are feeding on the lush green grass that is then in the prime of its growth, and it is a properly balanced ration.

On many farms there are areas used as permanent pasture. This type of pasture can be made fairly productive if well handled. The trouble usually is that it contains a comparatively few kinds of grasses, and consequently does not carry over the whole season. Another fault is that, being uncultivated and it receives little consideration, and it is not allowed to be used early and late in the season, with the result that it never gets enough growth to keep it from drying out in the dry season, and it does not get sufficiently advanced to reseed itself. This year plans should be laid to touch up any poor spots in the permanent pastures by sowing by hand a light seeding of a mixture of such grasses and clovers as timothy, orchard grass, meadow fescue, red clover, alsike clover and white or Dutch clover. The best time to do this is early in the morning when the ground is heaved up by the action of a spring frost. When the frost goes out the seeds will be covered up and will start to germinate as soon as the ground warms up. A mixture of the above grasses and clovers in equal parts by weight, seeded down with a light seeding of barley or oats at the rate of 18 pounds per acre, will make a fairly productive permanent pasture where it is desired to establish one.

Securing Best Results. In most cases, however, the pasture is obtained from the tillable area; that is, from that part of the farm which comes under a definite rotation. If no definite rotation is followed, one should be outlined and followed this season. If best results are to be obtained, the quality of the pasture resulting from rotation of crops depends largely on the length of the rotation. Good pasture seeds of hay, for by that time the clovers are all killed out and even the hardy grasses are becoming thin, hence

It is fortunate that the prospects of the new crop are fairly favorable and indicate so far as can be foreseen to present a satisfactory yield on the whole, sufficient to compensate for the reduction of stocks in exporting countries in comparison with last year, and to guarantee the supplies during the coming season for the world at large.

Causes of Ruination. Whether permanent or tillable pasture land is used, considerable judgment must be exercised in the use of the same. One cause of the ruination of many good pastures is the making of them too early in the season. This is not good for either the cattle or the pasture. In the first place, the grass is soft and watery early in the season, consequently there is not much nutriment in it, and if the cattle are allowed their fill, scouring may result. In the second place, the land is usually soft, and the cattle, in their exuberance of spirit, will do a lot of running and thus destroy more than they will eat. The cattle should be kept off the pastures until the grass has made a good start and the land becomes firm; then they should only be allowed in for an hour or two each day—after having a feed of roughage in the stable. The length of time they are allowed in the pasture can be increased each day, thus making the change gradually. Subsequently, the pasture should not be grazed too closely if drying out is to be avoided.

Proper Rotation. The objection may be raised that there is not always the necessary supply of feeds, particularly roughages, to enable the farmer to carry over his stock and give the pasture a chance. The answer to this is "proper rotations." Where a four-year rotation is followed, the necessary roughage in the form of silage and clover hay is usually at hand. However, where there has been a short season in the roughage crop one season, plans can be laid to offset this shortage the following spring. For instance, a crop which will make pasture before the regular pasture is ready, and in some cases the latter, is fall rye or a mixture of

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decrease will occur. These facts may easily be understood when we recall that the manure at first contains a large amount of available food which causes a great multiplication of bacteria. As this available food decreases there is not enough to support the increased number of organisms and many of these therefore die.

The bacteria present in manure may be divided into two classes: the aerobes, which require air, and the anaerobes, which require absence of air for their growth. Whether there are more bacteria of one or the other of these classes will depend very largely upon the physical condition of the manure which they are working at. Both classes of action may occur together, the aerobic bacteria working at the surface of the manure pile and the anaerobic in the inside. If the manure is loosely stored, then the aerobes are most active; if it is packed tightly the anaerobes will be most active. In the decomposition or rotting process brought about by these bacteria, the various constituents of the manure are attacked and changed into more available or simpler forms.

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