

Spring Seeding in N. B.

The soil in this district, Victoria Co., consists of clay, for the most part. It remains cold until well into June, mainly on account of the depth to which the frost penetrates, often from two to three feet. Much of the seed grain often perishes on this account, and growth is usually slow until well into July. Were we to seed as thinly as is found sufficient in Ontario, it would stool out so as to prevent maturing in most seasons until the frost was on it. It is sometimes forgotten that a large part of the best land in New Brunswick is in the latitude of Nipissing; that the most southern point is in the latitude of Northern Muskoka. Nevertheless, I believe with the liberal use of good seed and the experience to be gained by years of practice, agriculture can be as successfully carried on in this Province as in Ontario, within certain limits. If we cannot do better, I think we can do as well, with oats, grass, turnips, and potatoes. But I am of the opinion that if someone from Ontario were to use here the system which has proved best there, he would make as great a failure, most seasons, as I should expect one from here should by carrying his system into Ontario.

From the above statement you will have gathered that the main crops grown here are those mentioned. Wheat does well on a limestone foundation, but is a doubtful crop on a cold soil. Buckwheat is largely grown in most sections, and is a great stock feed when ground and mixed with chopped oats, for milk, beef or pork, or whole for poultry. Barley does very well on a suitable piece of land. Peas do well, most seasons, if sown very early.

The general practice here in the selection of seed grain is to use only the very earliest varieties, and to sow what is to be the following year's seed first in the spring. The earliest-ripened grain is usually the heaviest, and a free use of the fanning mill makes it more equal, leaving only the most mature. We generally sow from four to five bushels to the acre; sometimes even six bushels. A warm, shallow soil will have sufficient seed with 2½ bushels to an acre, but a heavy clay, especially in an exposed situation, i.e., where the snow blows off during the first of winter, must be very close seeded to insure a good crop. Our seed time is very short; not over twenty days from the time we can work on the land until all grain must be in the ground, that we can count on as safe from frost. Buckwheat can be sown a week after oats would be considered late. One bushel is sufficient for good land per acre; two bushels is not too much when the land is not rich. The ground must be warm before buckwheat will germinate. It may sometimes be called a forlorn-hope crop, as it is often sown because the ground was not got ready in time for oats, and it usually turns out well, although very little frost will kill it at any stage of its growth. Two bushels of wheat is the usual quantity sown to an acre.

Our seeding season being so short, all grain land should be plowed the previous season. Our usual method in the spring is to break up the furrows with a spring-tooth, so soon as the ground is sufficiently dry that the harrow will work clean in it. If the seed is to be sown broadcast, we do so as soon as the land is levelled well up with the spring-tooth, and harrow the seed well in with the steel fine-tooth harrow. If it is to be sown with the drill machine, we work the ground fine with the various harrows before sowing the grain, and then level off with the fine harrow.

For grass we sow only red and alsike clover, and timothy. We sow from four to seven pound of mixed clover to the acre. Sometimes ten pounds of clover has been tried, and I think this quantity will become common. We sow from three to seven pounds of timothy seed, according to the soil and its condition. We sow the clover and grass seeds mixed, after the grain crop has been sufficiently harrowed, covering it with one stroke of a short tooth harrow.

I came from Scotland to this place, and was hard hit by persisting in applying Scottish methods indiscriminately here. But, after failure upon failure, I began to look into the methods of the native farmer, and was glad to adopt a good many of them. I found they just set me right, where the methods that were so successful in Scotland were simply starving me out. For all that, we have learned much from Ontario farmers, and also from experts from the various departments of the experimental farms, who sometimes attend our institute meetings.

W. L. McPHAIL.

A Yearbook of Agriculture.

A noteworthy publication is the Yearbook of the United States Department of Agriculture. Though reduced in size, compared with former years, it still contains over 700 pages, and the last volume now before us ranks quite equal to its predecessors in the quality of its contents and illustrative features. Beginning with a prefatory note by the efficient Editor of the Department, Mr. Geo. W. Hill, the report or annual review of the Hon. James Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture, follows, succeeded by a valuable series of special articles of timely interest to the industry, and concluding with an appendix, which gives a very complete record of agriculture as organized in the Republic at the present time, including all the public departments, the educational and experimental institutions, live-stock associations, and statistical information. It is a remarkably fine example of the progressive spirit of our neighbors, who were never more alive than they are to-day to the interests of agriculture.

DAIRY.

Progress of the Jersey Cow.

Hark Comstock, writing in the Country Gentleman, says:

The Jersey team in the test at St. Louis was a much greater one than that of eleven years previous at Chicago. This shows in a higher percentage of the fat straight through, and also the greater flow of milk. Brown Bessie was the great milker at Chicago. In her thirty-day and ninety-day contests she averaged a fraction over 40 pounds of milk a day. The whole St. Louis team during 120-day tests averaged 41.05 pounds of milk a day. That the average cow at St. Louis should have beaten the best cow at Chicago speaks well for the progress of American Jersey breeders in improving the dairy capacity of their stock. It also speaks well for the selection and handling which the team received by the committee and by the employees. It was a great victory, and one that brings great credit to the breed and management.

The breeding of the winning Jersey team at St. Louis shows the effect of aiming directly at an objective point in each step of the breeding problem. If American breeders have insisted upon one point more than another when selecting a bull, it has been that he should be out of a great butter cow, and carry as many crosses of great butter cows as possible. Special family has received some consideration, but, as a rule, the crossing of different families has prevailed. Some of the crosses have nicked, and some have not. A few breeders have set up an exclusive standard and sought to teach the public that families should not be crossed, but that each should be bred in-and-in to a "pure" state. We have been told that Americans generally have been sacrificing "type" by cross-breeding their families. It



Carrie.

Grade Ayrshire cow. Winner of the championship in the two-days test at the Eastern Ontario Dairy Show, Ottawa, 1905. Exhibited by T. A. Spratt, Billings' Bridge, Ont.

has been claimed that we should breed for type—a show-ring type—and that in doing so, yield would take care of itself as a bred characteristic. The Island types have been held up to us as a pattern to follow. The argument has had its effect. Island types have commanded the highest prices.

The reason for this has been that the show-ring has afforded a wider field of profit than any other. The show cow is judged on type. Ideal type means a good dairy cow; it can hardly mean a poor one. But as between the "good" and the "greater" in dairy quality the scale of points cannot determine. The prolonged public dairy test alone settles that question.

Dairy School Literary Society.

The dairy class of the Ontario Agricultural College is in full operation, with an attendance of sixty in the regular course, and fifteen in the farm dairy class, with daily additions to the number. Besides the practical work, the students receive instruction in the several studies that underlie the science of dairying. That the members of these classes are alive to their opportunities has been shown in their organization of a literary society, for which the following officers were elected: Honorary President, Professor H. H. Dean; President, H. Lunn; Secretary, D. F. Stewart; Treasurer, Miss Green; Critic, Miss Rose. Meetings have been held every Saturday afternoon, and, judging from the character of the debates, the impromptu speeches, and the spirit of the discussions, it is evident that the class of 1905, as it is made up of the best material, will be a force in the Canadian dairy industry.

One Judge or More?

One of the most perplexing problems that directors have to deal with in connection with our agricultural fairs is the getting justice done in awarding prizes.

It has been thought that the one-man judge, an expert so called, would relieve the difficulty. Our Government officials, noticing the trouble, have endeavored to come to the aid of directors by having classes formed for men to acquire the art of properly judging stock, but this, to my mind, is a failure, and not satisfactory to exhibitors. Also, many of our agricultural society officials have asked the several breeders' associations to recommend suitable men, those they know to be good judges, but this has only added more trouble. For instance, leading, or selfish, breeders can, and I believe do, use this opportunity to see that a man is recommended that they can work, or, better, will work for and with them. I have seen this game played more than once. For instance, if the Shorthorn breeders were to recommend a prominent Scottish breeder be judge at Toronto, I wonder how many animals in the English families of Shorthorns would get prizes if there were any Scotch or Scotch-topped ones there, or vice versa. Or, again, if an American importer of Island Jerseys, one interested mainly in that class, was appointed judge of Jerseys, I wonder if any others would get prizes, except the Golden Lad family. Hence, the necessity of having more than one interest represented, or more than one judge.

Again, in judging bacon hogs. This is a great and growing industry, an industry that needs encouraging, and is being encouraged by our pork-packers and dealers, and also specially by agricultural societies and fair associations, by offering handsome prizes, and this should be carefully guarded, and justice done to exhibitors in the awards. Take the one judge here: Suppose a special is given for a number of bacon hogs, suppose a Berkshire, a Tamworth and a Yorkshire breeder exhibited these several breeds, and a breeder of Yorkshires was the judge, where might we expect the awards to go, or vice versa? No, one-man judge won't do, let us have two, at least.

Now, one word more about the ability of some of our "expert" or would-be expert judges. Compare the stock they themselves own with the stock they are sometimes called to judge, or with stock owned by many modest but successful breeders, who do not pose or masquerade as "expert judges," but whose stock would put to everlasting shame that of some of these pap-fed experts sent out by the Government officials to show their ignorant fellow farmers how to judge. Their placing, in many cases, would be more properly called misplacing, or, "a lesson on how not to do it." I, for one, am sick of the one-judge system, as conducted at present, and I know I am not alone in the opinion that we have need of a better exhibit of ability than we have had before we shall be satisfied with the so-named experts.

York Co., Ont.

BREEDER.

Care of Salt in Barrels.

Most creameries generally buy their salt in five or ten barrel lots or more. We have noticed that they mostly have the barrels standing up in their store-room or creamery, and by the time the buttermaker comes to use the last barrel the salt is all in one solid lump. This can be avoided a great deal by laying the barrels down. You have no doubt noticed that a salt barrel when opened always has a space of a few inches left from being full. Now, in laying your barrels down, you will have this space extending from one end to the other in the barrel or nearly so, according to how full the barrel is. Then if you will roll the barrel across the creamery floor a few times before opening, you will find the salt will be nearly all broken up and easy to get out of the barrel, saving lots of work, and bad language.—[Dairy Record.]

Alfalfa and Oxygen.

In dairy history the present time should go down as the era of alfalfa and oxygen. The cheap hay that supplants twenty-five-dollar bran, and the cold air that cures milk fever, are each a discovery making dairy profits more certain. If the next fifty years evolve the equal of either of these, another generation of dairymen will be that much better off than we. But think of the blessing of learning these two things within a decade!—[Jersey Bulletin.]

Best of All.

I have been a reader of the "Farmer's Advocate" for at least ten years. I think it is the most up-to-date farmer's paper that I have ever read, and I have read a good many. Since becoming a weekly it is much improved.

Wentworth Co., Ont.

JOHN MITCHELL.

Wm. H. Hill, Middlesex Co., Ont., writes: "Glycerine is a very fine thing to use when milking cows. It will take off warts, and save a lot of trouble. It surprised me. Every milker should use it."