

DEATH OF D. M. FERRY.

The death of Mr. Dexter Mason Ferry, head of the great seed firm, of Detroit, Mich., which bears his name, which is announced as having occurred on November 11th, removes from American business circles a conspicuous figure. Mr. Ferry's name is inseparably associated with his seed establishment, said to be the largest in the world, an enterprise which he built up and developed to enormous proportions. The story of his life is one of steady development, from the humble position of a farm hand, and later of errand boy in the city, to the high place of a millionaire business man, whose achievements were the results of methods entirely the result of persistent and skillful devotion to business, entirely free from the spectacular ways of latter-day high finance. He was a firm believer in the advantages of liberal and judicious advertising, and had for many years used the columns of "The Farmer's Advocate" for the extension of his business. He was the son of a wagonmaker, was born in New York State in August, 1833, and was in his 75th year when his sudden demise from heart failure occurred.

BEWARE OF MUSTY OR HEATED FEEDING WHEAT.

It now appears, from Winnipeg despatches, that there are unusual difficulties in handling the 1907 low-grade wheat, as, owing to cold, damp weather, the wheat had small chance of evaporating the large amount of moisture in the kernels, and now, when shipped in bulk, some of it becomes tough, and then heats. Recently, cars have reached Winnipeg, after remaining in store at country elevators for short periods, that are badly bin-burned. It will be well for Eastern farmers contracting for Western feeding wheat to beware of grain that has heated in storage or transit, as some of it, by the time it reaches its destination may be hardly fit for anything but manure. Good dry, frosted wheat is one thing; musty or heated wheat is quite another proposition.

A correspondent ("Badger"), replying to an enquirer, advises catching weasels with a steel trap.

FORTHCOMING SHOWS.

Nov. 30th to Dec. 7th, International, Chicago.
Dec. 2nd to 5th, Maritime Winter Fair, Amherst, Nova Scotia.
Dec. 9th to 13th, Ontario Winter Fair, Guelph.
Jan. 6th to 11th, Eastern Ontario Fat-stock and Poultry Show, Ottawa.
Feb. 12th to 14th, Ontario Horse-breeders' Show, Toronto.
May 4th to 9th, Canadian National Horse Show, Toronto.

UNITED STATES CROPS.

The latest report from the U. S. Bureau of Industry, Washington, shows a slightly-decreased yield per acre in nearly all crops in 1907, compared with 1906. The apple crop is only about one-half what it was last year.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Miscellaneous.

FALL-SOWN ONION SEED.

Will you, or some of your readers, kindly let me know if onion seed sown in the fall will produce an earlier and superior crop than if sown in the spring? If so, what time should they be sown in the fall, just before it freezes up, or early enough so that the plant will make a start before winter? R. H. R.

Ans.—Personally, we are not believers in fall-sowing of onion seed, as the seed can only be sown in light soils, such as will retain no moisture during the winter season. These, of course, are the soils that can be always worked the earliest in spring, whereas it is only the heavier land where one must wait for the land to dry out after a very wet spring where any delay, owing to late sowing, is to be feared, and this is the very land on which we dare not sow the seed in the autumn. On our ground, we always plant our onion seed on a clay loam and even heavier; but would not dare risk putting seed in in the fall. If the land is well laid up in the fall, and worked at the earliest possible moment in the spring, we do not consider there is any advantage to be gained to risk the sowing of the seed in the autumn. For productiveness and yield, we have seen two spring-sown crops this past summer that it would be hard to beat, even late as the past spring was.

London South. G. P. COLLYER.

SILO, SIZE AND COST—ALFALFA SEEDING.

1. What would be the most suitable size of a stave silo to build to cure silage best, and to hold as much feed as possible for 100-acre farm, and for twenty head of cattle? Would you build it of 2x4 or 2x6? Would it be better covered? How many acres of corn would a 14-foot diameter by 28 feet high hold, and how many tons of corn (average crop) grows to the acre? Would three iron hoops, and the rest made of elm, be all right? What would each iron hoop cost? How do they brace silos to keep them from falling?

2. When should alfalfa seed be sown? Is it hard to get it to grow? H. Y.

Ans.—1. We would not recommend the building of a silo of the size mentioned (28 feet high and 14 feet diameter), unless a larger stock than twenty cattle were to be kept, although there is no reason why, with a silo of that capacity, holding 95 to 100 tons, and the growing of six or eight acres of corn to fill it, a considerably larger stock should not be kept on 100 acres. For a farm herd of twenty cattle, we would suggest a silo 12 feet in diameter and 26 feet high. This would hold approximately 65 tons of silage, which would supply twenty cattle with an average daily ration of thirty pounds throughout a feeding period of 215 days. Allowing for several young cattle in the herd, this would be about as large a quantity of silage as could be used to advantage. Five acres of very ordinary corn would fill it. Either 2x4 or 2x6 stuff, or an assortment of each may be used, and the staves should certainly be planed on the inside, and the edges dressed, though not bevelled. A cover will strengthen the silo and keep out snow. We believe it is a profitable addition, although thousands of silos are without. While

wooden-hoop silos are used with satisfaction, we believe iron rods are better. They may be obtained from local blacksmiths, made to order. A set of seven hoops of $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch or $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch round iron for a silo such as described will cost about \$12 at least, \$3 of which would be for welding and putting on threads and nuts. A silo, properly constructed on a firm, level foundation, the hoops tightened occasionally when the silo is empty in summer, and loosened in the fall, will stand without bracing, but will be safer if tied to a building.

2. In Northern districts, including practically all parts of Canada, it is considered best and safest to sow alfalfa in late April or early May, after the ground has been well cultivated and fairly well warmed up. When soil is suitable, and properly prepared, it is not, as a rule, hard to secure a catch, though the first seeding on a farm is seldom so successful as later attempts. This is in part due to lack of experience, and partly to the absence of the nitrogen-gathering bacteria on which the alfalfa largely depends for its supply of nitrogen. Inoculating the seed with artificial culture often helps, and better still is the spreading of a load of surface loam from an established alfalfa field over each acre of the field to be seeded.

STATUTE LABOR—CAPITAL FELONIES.

1. In the township in which I live, the pathmaster ordered us all out to do our statute labor on the beat. There were five of us, and each one had six days' work, and, according to the by-law, each one had to put in nine hours a day and draw one-fifth of a cord of gravel each load. The gravel pit was two miles away, and each one did his six days' work by drawing six loads the first day and three the next. I didn't go out when the pathmaster ordered me, because I was busy thinning my turnips. In two weeks after, I went out to do my work, and drew two-fifths of a cord to each load instead of one-fifth, because I had a lot to do at home, and was in a hurry. By doing so, I made five trips to the pit in an afternoon and drew as much gravel on the road as any one of the other four. The pathmaster told me I didn't put in as many hours as the rest of them, and, therefore, returned my statute labor to the council not done. Do you think my statute labor is done, or can the council compel me to go back and put in the same number of hours as the rest did?

2. According to the laws of Canada, how many cases are there for which a person can be executed or hanged, and what are they? Ontario.

Ans.—1. We cannot speak definitely without seeing the exact wording of the by-law, but we would judge, from your statement of the case, that the pathmaster's return was strictly correct.

2. Three—treason, murder and rape.

The teacher was explaining to his Scottish class the parable of the man who fell among thieves. . . . He asked the class why the priest and the Levite passed by on the other side. . . . Silence fell until the small boy raised his hand and his voice. "They knew he had been robbed already," he said.

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T. P. O'CONNOR'S ADVICE.

T. P.'s Weekly has a contribution entitled "Twelve Don'ts for Canada," containing sober advice to prospective emigrants. It is written out of personal observation and experience. In the beginning the writer says: "Don't go to Canada at all" if you have a good secure berth at home, or one with promise of promotion. If, however, you must go, don't emigrate to the Eastern Provinces or Ontario. In Canada the motto is "Go West, young man, go West." For reasons very obvious to us of the West, he begs his countrymen not to go to Canada in any season but spring or early summer. And, "Don't take furniture." Again: "Don't pay premiums for yourself or any of your family to be instructed in Canadian farming condition. . . . Go to the famous agricultural college at Guelph for instructions, or else work as an employee as general farm-servant."

Some other warnings are: "Don't be afraid of the cold; its extremity is only noticeable when the wind is high. Don't be in a hurry to take a free grant of land because it is free; learn about its local conditions first. Don't think that Canada is run on British lines. You must satisfy Canadians that you are a 'good Englishman' before the open hand will meet you. Don't put your hand to the plow and turn back. 'Butt right in.' There is gold in the Golden West, though the dollar bills do not lie about the streets. There, as elsewhere, there are sometimes bad harvests. There, as elsewhere, there are folks with nimble wits who make a living out of those with wits less nimble. But if a man has grit, determination, and a little patience, let him go West with all confidence. With these qualifications there is no doubt of the result. The competition will come, and come soon."

As a young man, while crossing over to Dublin, Lord Rosberry lost his favorite dog.

"Mutton," overboard. "Stop, captain! Stop the steamer!" shouted his lordship, in a state of great excitement. "Can't be done; if it was a man—why, then—"

"All right," said Roseberry, not waiting for the captain to finish, "that can be easily managed," straightway leaping overboard.

The steamer's engines were promptly reversed, a boat lowered, and the peer and his dog taken up, none the worse for their adventure.