

Farming and Agriculture :- Special Features :- Interesting Observations

The Best Kinds Of Vegetables To Plant

(Experimental Farms Note)

The vegetable variety question is an age old one, and still we find many of the vegetable growers in doubt as to which variety of carrot, beet, or pea to grow. This is not to be wondered at since there has been an enormous effort put forth to introduce something new in the variety line each year. No doubt, it is confusing to growers when seed buying time comes, for in some cases the old varieties are given a lower rating than the new variety is superior. It is true that improvement is needed in many of the varieties, and particularly so when regional conditions are to be considered, but there is time enough to change abruptly from the old varieties when the new sorts have been tested and reported upon officially. In every Province throughout the Dominion of Canada there is located one or more Experimental Farms or Stations where variety testing has been conducted for a long period of time and where the varieties of recent origin are now under test, thus making it possible for growers in all parts of Canada to get first hand information regarding the merits of almost any variety.

To serve as a guide to the growers a list of standard variety names has been prepared. In this list will be found the proper name for each of the outstanding varieties. It was deemed advisable to do this to enable the public to know the correct name for each sort and further to limit as far as possible the great duplication of varieties under other names. When new introductions are found, that possess merit they will also be placed on this approved list, after they have been tested sufficiently and passed upon by the committee of horticultural experts.

Every person interested in seed purchasing should have a copy of this list and insist upon getting the varieties under their correct and accepted name. Copies of this list can be had by writing to the Publications Branch, Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ontario.

At any time there is doubt as to the value of a variety for a certain locality this can be easily settled by writing to the superintendent of the nearest Dominion Experimental Farm or Station.

Sprouting Seed Potatoes

(Experimental Farms Note)

In order to obtain potatoes of marketable size early in the season many market gardeners follow the practice of sprouting seed potatoes before planting. An experiment to determine the value of this practice, relative to the district served by the Dominion Experimental Station at Lennoxville, P. Q. has now been conducted at that Station for five years. This experiment has each year consisted of a comparison of dormant and sprouted seed potatoes of Irish Cobbler and Green Mountain. All seed has been kept in the best available storage until the first of April. At that time one-half of the seed, of each variety, is placed in shallow trays and sprouted in the usual manner, the other half being kept as dormant as possible until planting time.

With the variety Green Mountain the sprouted seed has given an increase in yield of approximately fourteen per cent over dormant seed. There has also been an increase in earliness of from eleven to fourteen days. In no instance, however, have potatoes of marketable size been available from sprouted seed of this variety more than three or four days earlier than from dormant seed of Irish Cobbler. Accordingly, of Irish Cobbler seed potatoes are available there would be little gained in earliness of crop by sprouting Green Mountain potatoes. Owing to the normal lateness of the variety the vines, if properly sprayed, usually remain green and healthy until killed by frost. The additional start given the plants by sprouting accordingly permits of a longer growing season and a consequent increase in crop. In general, however, it is doubtful if this increase would prove sufficient to compensate the grower for the additional expense of sprouting and extra work of planting.

With Irish Cobbler the results have been somewhat different, the yields from sprouted and dormant seed being practically the same. With the sprouted seed, however, an average increase in earliness of eighteen days was obtained. Accordingly, it would seem that if the price for very early seed potatoes is sufficient high

Presentation To Mail Courier

A PLEASING FUNCTION

A well deserved tribute was paid to the courier of R. R. No. 5, Charlottetown-Mr. Wm. Horton, when over one hundred friends and boxholders met at the Orphanage at Mount Herbert to do him honor. Mr. Martin Power took charge of the musical programme, accompanying the vocalists and also singing a number of Scotch songs in his own inimitable way. Mrs. Leo MacDonald, whose well trained voice always gives pleasure, rendered two very pleasing solos. Mr. Callaghan also contributed a number of popular Irish airs.

In the unavoidable absence of Mr. J. F. Whear, P. O. Inspector, Mr. J. Walter Jones presided in his usual witty manner, and towards the close of the meeting gave an interesting talk on his recent trip to Paris. Amidst great applause Mr. Horton was presented with a purse of \$100, together with the following address: Mr. W. H. Horton, Mail Courier R. R. 5.

Dear Mr. Horton, as boxholders on your mail route it affords us great pleasure to have you with us this evening. For seventeen or more years you have faithfully served us. Despite weather conditions you were always on the job, ever courteous and obliging, often aiding the busy doctor in his rounds, and we are not unmindful of your many acts of kindness. We have been waiting for Cupid's announcement for some time to give you a chance to show our appreciation, but as you seem to be slow starting off in double harness, we take this opportunity of presenting you with this purse as a tangible expression of our good will and hope you will long continue to serve us in His Majesty's service.

Signed on behalf of boxholders, Ernest Mich, L. J. MacDonald, Harry Wood, Leigh Ferguson, Herbert Heagan, Eugene Trainor, Leo Trainor, J. F. Trainor.

A word was read from Mr. Whear who regretted that he was not able to be present and concluded "I have always looked upon Mr. Horton as one of our best mail contractors. He has proved himself to be perfectly reliable, is of good character, is prompt and careful in the performance of his duties and in the winter season especially he has shown his interest in serving the public by starting out on days when other couriers would not attempt the roads. The postal employees of Charlottetown appreciate very highly the fact that his faithfulness is being recognized by the patrons on No. 5 route and join with you in wishing Mr. Horton every success in the future, whether he sees fit to retain his connection with the Postal Service, or in whatever other branch of activity he may engage."

Mr. Horton replied in suitable terms thanking the boxholders for their kindness, and the party then partook of a bountiful supper provided by the ladies of the district, from which the scriptural baskets remained over for the kiddies. The gathering disbanded at midnight after singing "Auld Lang Syne" and God Save the King."

Many expressions of regret were voiced that the nurse in charge, Miss Eva Beens, was unable to take her usual active part owing to sickness, but her Deputy chief, Mrs. Adams, took charge in a very gracious manner, assisted by the Staff and the ladies visiting.

It must be gratifying to the public interested to know that, such is the efficiency of the management, a building devoted to an onerous work like the caring for little children, could be thrown open to such a representative gathering at practically a moments notice.

to compensate for the necessary additional expense the practice can be recommended with Irish Cobbler,

Canadian Cattle And The United States

The effect of the proposed increase of duty in Canadian cattle going to the United States is disputed. On the one hand it is feared that the new duty will reduce or possibly stop our exports and deprive Canadian farmers of the advantage of that market.

The farmers of the western states who are agitating for an increase of duty undoubtedly expect that it will reduce or shut off Canadian competition in their home market. On the other hand it is claimed that as the production of beef in the United States is declining the people of that country must import more of our beef even if they have to pay a higher price for it.

Some light is furnished by a bulletin entitled "Meat Production and Consumption in the United States, 1900-1928," issued by the department of agriculture at Washington. The figures show that an abundance of pork and an increase of supplies of lamb and mutton averted a possible shortage of meat last year. Beef slaughter declined by 744,000,000 pounds in 1928 and another 632,000,000 pounds in 1927. The total meat production in 1928 was 83,000,000 pounds more than that of the pre-

ceding year, but that increase was not sufficient to maintain the per capita consumption at the 1927 level. The per capita consumption of all meats was 139.7 pounds, whereas in 1928 it fell to 138 pounds. "The per capita totals "have been falling steadily for several years," says the bulletin. "With the population increasing at the rate of almost 100,000 annually an increase of 200,000 pounds of meat each year "is necessary to hold the per capita "at the present level. Under normal "conditions the United States still "has a large exportable surplus of "pork and lard, but there has been "no such surplus of beef or mutton "for a long period."

The higher prices of beef naturally attracted importations, but it is stated that the total import of 121,000,000 pounds of dressed beef is only one pound per capita of the population. Apparently the high prices of beef tend to discourage the use of it. Under present conditions the people will turn to other meats or decrease the consumption of beef rather than pay for it much more than they do now.

Live Stock Shipping In P. E. I.

(The Farmer's Advocate)

During the year recently ended, co-operative live stock shipping in Prince Edward Island made greater progress than in any equal period in the past. As a matter of fact it had no past; it's in the initial stage. True, we have for many years enjoyed the benefits of co-operative dairying, eggs and poultry, and last, but by no means least, the potato industry. But co-operative live stock handling is of recent origin. Previous to 1923 no attempts along this line were evident. No permanent machinery was in existence to guarantee regular shipments from any district. During the winter of 1924 a special effort was made to place co-operative live stock marketing on a more permanent basis. The principal objects of this attempt were as follows:

1. To encourage a better type hog by marketing according to grade.
2. To eliminate the costly system of marketing through unnecessary drovers.
3. To encourage all-year-round production of hogs and earlier marketing of lambs.
4. To encourage as far as possible the supply of live stock in order that sheths must be avoided.
5. To make possible a system of community breeding.

To encourage all-year-round producer and the packer in order that storage eggs were well maintained under a good demand.

Receipts Saturday were 878 cases. An easier feeling developed in the market for Prince Edward Island potatoes and prices were reduced two cents per bag. Green mountains sold at 78c and whites at 73c per 90 lbs. in bags. New Brunswick grades were unchanged.

Canadian handpicked beans sold down ten cents per bushel at \$5.56. Yellow eye grades were steady at \$4.40 per bushel.

An active business was done in butter and prices were firm. Receipts were 45 packages. The demand for cheese showed a slight improvement and the undertone to the market was firm. Receipts were 364 boxes.

MONTREAL, Mar. 4—Cattle receipts 929. Cattle sales were slower and from just steady to about 25c lower. One load of good steers averaging from 1,100 pounds sold for \$10 and fairly good steers \$9 to \$9.50. Common to just medium quality steers weighing under 1,100 pounds brought around \$8 to \$8.50. Good cows sold up to \$9 with the bulk of the medium kinds from \$5.50 to \$7 and thin cows down to \$4.75. Canners and cutters were from \$3 to \$4.50, bulls had not been weighed up.

Quotations butchers steers good \$9.25 to \$10, medium \$8.75 to \$9.50, common \$7.50 to \$8.50. Cows \$7.50, common \$6 to \$7. Butcher cows good \$7.50 to \$8, medium \$4.75 to \$7, canners \$3 to \$3.50, cutters \$3.50 to \$4.50. Butcher bulls good \$7.25 to \$8, common \$5.50 to \$7. Calf receipts \$40. The calf market was easier and trading slow. The best lots of good veals brought \$14.25 with common veals down to \$11. The bulk of sales were made around \$13. Fall fed calves were sold for \$9. Grassers were from \$6 to \$6.25. Quotations—Good veal \$13.50 to \$14.25, medium \$12.50 to \$13.50, common \$11 to \$12.50, grass \$6 to \$6.25. Sheep receipts 145. Common to medium lambs including bucks sold for \$10.50 to \$11. Sheep were a shade stronger. The few sheep offered brought from \$6 to \$8. Quotations: ewes from \$7 to \$8.

the farmer might receive a greater share of the price paid by the latter. With these objects in mind live stock shipping clubs were organized in the largest producing districts. During 1923-24, the first year of operation, the total volume handled by such clubs was not large, but from that on until the present this volume has increased beyond all expectations. The total volume of hogs for each year is as follows: 1926, 6,000; 1927, 11,000; 1928, 13,280.

During the year up to 1926 lamb shipments through the shipping clubs were not of such importance, these being handled by the local district institutes, but in 1927 the P. E. I. clubs handled 8,000 head. In 1928 this volume increased to 16,000 head with the added advantages obtained through the Maritime Marketing Board, of which J. K. King is Manager. Co-operative shipments have increased at such a rate that now the bulk of the Island output is handled by the shipping clubs. This increasing volume is the greatest evidence that the producers are receiving a service which cannot be obtained by shipping in any other manner.

The volume of the combined 31 clubs for 1928 give a total as follows: Hogs, 13,193; lambs, 16,000; cattle, 139; grand total, 29,576. J. A. MacDonald, Prince Edward Island.

Common lambs \$10.50 to \$11. Hog receipts 580. Hogs were steady to a shade stronger. Sales were made from \$11.75 to \$11.90 with the bulk between \$11.75 and \$11.85. Sows were mostly \$9 to \$9.25.

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We now have in stock a limited supply of the following well known brands of Flour

- PURITY
- ROBIN HOOD
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- ALSO
- BRAN
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 - WHITE MIDDINGS
 - OLIVE CAKE MEAL
 - SUGAR BEET MEAL
 - COW CHOW
 - SCHUMACHER FEED
 - FEED WHEAT
 - CORNMEAL
 - CRACKED CORN
 - ROLLED OATS
 - OATMEAL

During Farmers' Week we are offering the above at specially close prices for Flour in 5 and 10 bbl. lots and Feed in ton lots.

Call—phone or write for prices.

A. Horne & Co.

Seed Potato Inspection Office

A great many farmers visiting the city between the time of train arrival and departure during the winter months, and desirous of getting as much business done as possible, frequently wish to discuss matters relating to Seed Potato inspection, disease problems and so forth with the Seed Potato Certification officials at the Laboratory of Plant Pathology, Experimental Station. This they are unable to do in the limited time at their disposal, and consequently either go home without the information they require, or endeavour to obtain it elsewhere. This matter was brought to the attention of the Department at Ottawa by the Potato Growers' Association, with the result that Mr. Peppin, the Senior Inspector, has been authorized to locate office space in the city. This, no doubt, will prove of much benefit to many farmers who, heretofore, have found it inconvenient to pay a personal visit to the Experimental Station.

Potato growers and others wishing information relating to inspection, certification, tags, disease control measures etc., are cordially invited to obtain same from Mr. S. G. Peppin, Senior Inspector for Seed Potato Certification work in Prince Edward Island. The office is located in the same building as the Potato Growers' Association, Corner Kent and Great George Streets, Telephone 1000.

The Rat is Man's Foe

(By "N. M. R." in Overseas.)

The rat is on his way to the conquest of the world. For the last two centuries, owing to the multiplication of commercial transportation, he has been crossing the seas and invading our ports. He breeds in vast numbers in city and country. He devours the grain that we export and import in our ships, or store in our docks. He attacks our crops in the field. Not only does he levy a ruinous toll on agriculture, commerce and industry, but he spreads disease. He has become the travelling agent of the germs of death.

The rat menaces the peace of the world, and we should blame not the rat, but ourselves. We supply him with shelter and food, lacking which he would die out. "All mankind," says Mr. de Varigny, writing in La Science Moderne (Paris), "is a huge association for feeding and housing the rat. He can be exterminated if we set about it. It has nearly been done in Denmark already, and very simply. In time of peace prepare for war. Now is the time," he tells us, "to institute a campaign of destruction against him. We should not wait until a great epidemic of plague drives us to it—too late!"

The rat's depredations are unlimited. Before the war—Gabriel Pettit, of the society of Comparative Pathology, tells us—the United States estimated that the cost to their agriculture was more than a billion dollars a year; in France the bill came to 200 millions of francs; in Great Britain to 15 million pounds; in Germany to 200 million marks. Today in France the rat costs the farmers alone 10 million gold francs yearly. He attacks the granaries everywhere, and the world's warehouses provide merchandise, fabrics, carpets and upholstered furniture to make his nest.

In Denmark, Mr. de Varigny tells us, efforts to eradicate rats have been methodical and ingenious. No great expense is necessary, no campaign of defence when an epidemic breaks out; simply permanent preventive measures. A bacterial culture called "Ratin" developed by L. Bahr, has been used as an effective weapon in the campaign against rats. The Ratin bacillus has high virulence, and kills by blood poisoning. Instead of being hunted, the rats are offered poisoned dainties. They die at the rate of 80 per cent in eight to eighteen days. When this does not suffice a stronger preparation is used, "Ratinine," a violent poison, killing in twenty-four hours.

This method is quite satisfactory and large numbers are destroyed—fortunately without harming man and without injurious effects on domestic animals. "Chloroquin" has also been suggested as a poison. It has the advantage of killing the fleas on the rats, even before the rats perish. This is very important, for if the flea survives the danger of plague and other diseases remains.

A male and female rat will produce, in one year, 800 to 900 offspring. They have courage and intelligence and know how to avoid traps and keep their distance. They mature in four months and their life cycle is usually one of about three years. They have many admirable traits of character, but they are uncontrollably a scourge and must be destroyed.

2-5-GithenSt.

Cleaning Grain

(Experimental Farms Note)

The cleaning of seed grain should be one of the most important operations on the farm, and the farmer who retains clean land and produces clean grain year after year must follow the practice of thoroughly cleaning all grain before seeding.

The machinery necessary for cleaning and the way of doing this work must be governed by the weed seeds and other impurities to be removed. Impurities such as broken straw, chaff, and weed seeds which differ markedly in size and shape from the grain being cleaned can be readily cleaned out by most fanning mills properly operated. The weed seeds which are of much the same size as the grain being cleaned are the main difficulty and where such separations are to be made special machines are necessary. In special cases, as separating oats from oats, the only thorough method of cleaning is by hand picking.

The cleaning out of inert matter and weed seeds of widely different size from the grain needed not be discussed extensively in this article as nearly any make of general purpose cleaner properly operated will do good work in such cases. Care must be taken to operate at the right speed and to feed within its capacity as when the sieves are overloaded no machine can do good work.

The cleaning of grain where the impurities are similar in shape presents greater difficulty and in many cases special cleaners are required to do a good job. In any district where a central cleaning plant is available the farmer is advised to have his grain cleaned at such a plant unless he raises sufficient seed to warrant installing a plant of his own. A fairly satisfactory small cleansing plant can be fixed up by a farmer by combining a fanning mill and an indent or disk machine in line. The fanning mill will blow off or separate the inert matter and widely different sized seeds and the special machine for the purpose will make the finer separations. Some farmers use a combination of three machines, the last two being suited for special purposes.

To determine whether the machine is doing the work you wish, spread out a quantity of cleaned seed on a table where weed seed can be more readily seen. A sample may also be sent to a seed laboratory where an analysis of the impurities will be made.

All seed should be cleaned before seeding and cleaning should be done early enough in the spring so that the work does not have to be hurried.

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CENTRAL CREAMERIES LIMITED HOLD ANNUAL MEETING

Most Successful Year as Shown by the Financial Report—Over Ninety-five Thousand Dollars Paid to Dairyemen for Cream—Board Directors Elected

The annual meeting of the Central Creameries Ltd. was held on Wednesday in the company's office, at which there were a large attendance of shareholders.

The report of the Secretary-Treasurer showed the company to be on sound financial basis, the interesting fact being shown that \$95,842.17 had been paid to the Island dairymen for cream.

It was shown that the total amount of butter manufactured was 277,134 lbs., of the gross value of \$102,312.77 with the net value to the farmers and dairymen after all charges had been paid of \$95,842.17. The net average price paid per pound for butter fat was 41.50 cents.

The Central Creameries are now operating branches at Souris and Wellington, which gives the advantage of being in a position to better serve their patrons than by the old method of shipping their cream long distances by rail.

An outstanding feature of the success of the company and which contributes greatly to the quality of their product is that strict attention is given to the buying of cream. This, together with the grading system encourages the farmer to furnish their best.

The plant at Souris is operated all the year round and is doing a flourishing business under the capable management of Mr. A. H. Hub-

ley; the Wellington plant is open only during the summer.

It may be interesting to note that Perfection butter won first prize at the Provincial Exhibition of 1928 as in other years, and carried off first honors also in the competition conducted by the Provincial Department of Agriculture when a lot of butter was taken each month.

The high standard of Perfection Ice Cream is well known and greatly appreciated by hundreds of customers throughout the Island.

New additions and equipment have recently been added to the plant in order to better serve the many customers. A machine for washing sterilizing milk cans and ice cream containers is one important unit recently installed. This comprises a tank of warm water in which are sets of double brushes—the big ones for the milk cans, and smaller ones for ice cream containers. One brush is inserted in the cap handle pressed down and a flat bar lowered on the outside, thoroughly cleaning the can inside and out. The work does not finish here. The cans are then placed over rows of jets on side of the vat and live steam released into them thoroughly sterilizing each one.

It must be remembered this company is composed of the best farmers and dairymen of the province, every one of whom is a booster for Island products.

Why The Difference Between Buying And Selling Price?

Federal Law Only Permits Sale of Graded Seed of Certain Definite Standard—To Meet This Sometimes As High As 50 Per Cent Of Original Value Must Be Screened Out—Sand, Chaff and Weed Seeds.

Until we arrive at that perfect condition where there will be no more weeds and no more poor clover and grass plants, and the threshing machines will be able to clean out every particle of sand, chaff and light seed, there will always be a great difference between the price paid to the farmer for his clover and grass seed in the Fall and that asked by the seedsmen for seed fit to sow in the Spring. When the selling prices of seed are announced in March and April, there is always a lot of discussion regarding the spread between these and the buying values which prevailed a few months previously. "Why should I have to pay \$18.00 per bushel for red clover seed from seedsmen when farmers all around me only get from \$3.00 to \$11.00 at the thresher last Fall?" is a common question heard at this time.

On the surface, it looks as if the seed trade were doing very well indeed and the only wonder would be that more people were not engaging in this business. But a trip through the nearest seed-cleaning plant answers the question very thoroughly. Seedsmen point out that there are no Government regulations in regard to buying and while they are trying to encourage only buying of farm cleaned-up seed, this does not mean by any means that the clover, alfalfa and timothy purchased from the producer in the Fall is in fit shape for selling. The Federal law however, is very strict about the kind of seed offered for sale. In fact, in some quarters, it is considered too strict as the standards are set so high that it makes the seed very expensive to reach them and in consequence there is a great temptation in the country for producers to buy cheaper and ungraded seed from their neighbor.

The home fanning mill cleans out a great deal of the sand, chaff and other large, heavy or very light material, and when the seed is cleaned up in this manner before being offered to the seed merchant much of the hazard of the old style of buying "in the rough" is removed, and the producer of the good crop gets a premium, as he should, over the producer of the poor quality crop. The seed merchant prefers to buy this cleaned up seed, but his work is just beginning after he gets it. It will not grade No. 1 for sale in Canada if it contains a single primary noxious weed, and only 5 or 10 secondary noxious. Other clovers than the one being cleaned, too, must be got rid of some way or other and in the case of sweet clover, which is a very serious factor in this respect, it is sometimes impossible to get rid of it. There is little difficulty in get-

ting rid of the regular weed seed when it is easily distinguished, but when we come to mustard, false flax weed, and in the West, Russ thistle, which are almost exactly the same size and weight as the clover they can only be removed by a very expensive and highly complicated process, and in many cases will grade more than No. 2 or No. 3 at the seedsmen has gone to all the trouble.

The amount of foreign material clover seed often runs as high as 15 per cent of the total amount of crop in the rough, though the average is probably between 15 and 20 per cent. In practically every case the seed as it comes from the thresher would not grade No. 3 and there practically no market for this kind of stock in Canada. This means that the average lot bought in the field is unsaleable until it goes through the modern seed-cleaning plant where, as before stated, an average of 20 per cent of its bulk removed. Moreover, practically the foreign material removed, dockage, is not only worthless but liability, as it has to be carted somewhere and burned. To further enhance the price, there are always many lots of seeds which look right but when analyzed are found to contain some weed seeds that cannot be removed, making such seed almost a total loss to the buyer.

He is in a position to export to some distant country where the restrictions are not so rigid as our own. There is a great deal more overhead expense in the seed business than the man on the street is aware of. The dockage, of course, which sends the gross price automatically up at least 25 per cent of that paid to the grower is the chief item, but there is also the cost of providing cleaning machinery, storage and distribution facilities, transportation charges, country merchant selling charges, financing for two months in the year a business who activities are confined to less than six months in the year, and final the building up of an organization which will collect supplies from here and there, all over the country, and then into shape for selling and fine market for them not only in this country which takes but a portion of the seed grown, but in the United States and Europe as well.

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LIVE HOGS

We are taking live hogs daily, except Saturday, paying highest market prices.

Davis & Frase