

Problems of the Farm

Contributed by Grey County Department of Agriculture

What Grade of Seed Do You Buy?

Farmers all over the Province are now purchasing their supply of seed and therefore a few pointers on the Seed Control Act may be helpful. The lack of knowledge re this matter was increased last summer when on a holiday in Waterloo County, a retired farmer, a barn raising was very much concerned about the "Government permitting sale of seeds which were full of weeds." Upon inquiry it was plainly seen this man did not know the difference between the grades of seed offered.

Here are a few suggestions to follow: All seed exposed or offered for sale by merchants must be inspected. Therefore do not ask for "Government inspected seed," as it must be, and such a question is unnecessary. However, be sure to ask for the grade of seed. This is the important matter. How many farmers know the number of grades there are on the Canadian market?

There are four. These are named as follows: (a) Extra No. 1, (b) No. 1, (c) No. 2, (d) No. 3. All seeds which will not go into these grades are rejected.

Naturally, the inquiring mind will at once desire to know wherein the difference occurs. Before such explanation can be given it is understood there are two different types of weeds—the noxious weed and the non-noxious. In all grades these are placed under the two headings, therefore, of Noxious and Total Weed Seeds.

Extra No. 1 seed has no noxious weeds such as Bladder Campion, Buckhorn, Sow Thistle, etc., but may have a total of 30 weeds per ounce such as Shepherd's Purse, Chick-weed and Smart Weed.

No. 1 has 5 noxious and 100 total. No. 2 has 20 noxious and 200 total. No. 3 has 80 noxious and 400 total. Note that the number of weed seeds are to be found in one ounce.

That will make 16 times as many in a pound because there are 16 ounces in a pound. Multiply this by the number of pounds sown per acre and you will know how many weeds you may have.

The extra price between No. 1 and No. 3 amounts to about \$1.00 per bushel. This is not worth considering and any farmer who studies the Seed Control Act will see why high-grade seeds are cheapest.

Weight of Chicks. One hundred baby chicks when hatched will usually weigh between seven and eight pounds. When the chicks have reached the age of 12 weeks they should weigh between 175 and two hundred pounds. For sake of comparison we will take a calf at birth with a weight of 80 pounds. Should the calf make the same rate of gain as the chick, it would at twelve weeks of age weigh a ton. This will help one to understand why broods of chicks vary so much and will also assist the feeder to appreciate the opportunity at hand to display his skill, so says Professor W. H. Graham of the O.A.C. poultry department.

Hopper Mash for Chicks. The mash used in the Poultry Department O.A.C. in the hoppers where the chicks are raised consists of: 150 pounds of corn meal, 100 pounds crushed oats, 100 pounds shorts, 100 pounds bran, 67 pounds meat scrap, 20 pounds bone meal.

The whole grain hopper feed usually consists of 50 per cent. each of wheat and cracked corn. If milk is given to drink, one half, if not more, of the meat scraps may be omitted from the mash.

The pullets stay on range until ready to lay, which period is when they are about six months old. If they prefer roosting in trees to the hen house, they are allowed to do so; in fact, rather prefer that they would roost in trees. Shade, tender green feed, plenty of clean drink, and enough to eat, are essential.

Feeding Chicks With Hens. Where chicks are being reared with hens and have access to tender grass or other green feed, a very good feed is raw or cooked Johnny cake made with an egg in it. Says Prof. W. H. Graham, O.A.C.: Give milk to drink and have a quart or so of gravel near the coop to supply grit. Move the coop every few days. When the chicks are a few weeks old, gradually change to ordinary feeds.

Raise the chicks on new ground. Keep off the old ground that has had chicks running upon it year after year. Keep the hen free of lice. Dust with sodium fluoride or use a small amount of blue ointment. A piece one half the size of a kernel of corn placed on the skin below the vent, will usually kill many of the lice.

Importation of Bees. The following is a copy of a regulation recently received at Markdale re the importation of bees: "To prevent the further introduction of American foulbrood and other diseases which affect the broods of bees, the importation into Canada of bees or combs or of used or second-hand hives and bee supplies is prohibited. The importation of bees in combless packages is also prohibited unless such packages are accompanied by a declaration signed by the shipper that the food supplied to the bees and carried in the package is free from disease."

Castrate the Lambs. The Department at Markdale is in receipt of a letter from the Industrial and Development Council of Canadian Meat Packers, saying that "the price cut of \$1.50 made last year on unaltered lambs in Ontario

was not as effective as it was hoped would be the case. In the fall of 1923 all markets were flooded with uncastrated lambs and their marketing was difficult. This year buyers have decided to cut the price \$2.00 a hundredweight, to begin July 15."

The Markdale Department, working with Mr. James Teller and assistants, of the Dominion Department castrated over 4,400 lambs in Grey County. Owing to the cutting down of all possible expense by both the Provincial and Dominion Departments, it may be impossible to give much assistance this year as men may not be available, but with the work which has been done there should not be much need. Only direct applications will be considered. The sale of unaltered lambs has meant the dumping on our markets of a strong-tasting, coarse meal, which has done more to kill the demand for lamb with the result that the producers cannot receive the price which real first-class lamb is worth. Moreover, the nuisance and menace to the rest of the flock is such that the market stock will not gain when worried. Every farmer stands in his own light who does not castrate. The packers have made a move which will result in higher quality with the subsequent higher prices to the farmer.

Canadian Bacon Gaining.

Because of the results of Hog Grading Ontario's Agent General in Great Britain has this to say re Canadian Bacon—"The market for bacon is better than it has been, and prices have remained fairly steady the past week or two after a long period of depression, caused by very large supplies which were in excess of the public demand. Canadian bacon, particularly leanest, is in good request, and appears to be growing in popularity with the public. The only thing against any very marked improvement in bacon prices is the fact that heavy supplies are still coming in. However, the outlook for bacon generally speaking is good.

One of the remarkable features about bacon prices just now is the comparative strength of Canadian. Leanest Canadian is now selling at 76 to 86 shillings per cwt.; last year at this time the price was 76 to 85, so that the lowest price for leanest Canadian has not fallen at all. On the other hand, leanest Danish is now 93 to 96 shillings a cwt., against 105 to 108 a year ago; and Irish 93 to 94 shillings against 112 a year ago. Canadian cured American is practically the same price now as a year ago—namely 70 to 74 compared with 68 to 78 this time last year."

Any farmer who thoughtfully reads this report cannot do other than support the Grading of Hogs. Higher prices will assuredly come if the Canadian farmer produces the Selects in sufficient quantity to supply the demand which will grow when the quality warrants.

Boys' Competition Work.

The usual notice of Boys' Competition Work has just come to hand. The notices of such are sent forward in the hope that some young men under 26 years of age may take advantage.

There are three Competitions viz: Dairying, Beekeeping, of Farm Profit, and Acre Profit. These are valuable for the training of young men in Farm Accounting, Feeding of Stock and Soil Management.

The prize is a two weeks Course with Railway Fare, Board and Lodging at the O. A. C. at the Short Courses in Stock and Seed Judging, Poultry Raising, Horticulture, Farm Dairying, Beekeeping of Farm Doves. All Courses are held during January and February. How many Grey County boys will take advantage of this work?

Value of increased acre yields.

According to the reports of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, the increases in the acre yields of Barley, Oats and Winter Wheat for the last twenty-one in comparison with the former twenty years,

amounted to 269,730,411 a total of \$161,049,877.71. This is over thirty times as much as the net expenditure of the Ontario Agricultural College from its commencement in 1874 to the present time. Undoubtedly, the general use of these high yielding new varieties of good quality has been the greatest factor in bringing about this general increase in acre yields throughout Ontario.

TOWN COUNCIL

(Continued from page 1.)

Orangemen Get Privileges.

Mr. George Noble was present in the interests of the local Orangemen requesting permission to erect a platform on the municipal grounds near the local town hall for the purpose of speech-making next July 12. The society also felt that they, in bringing a large number of people to town on that day should have the control of the booth privileges so far as outsiders were concerned. On an occasion like the 12th of July, it was considered quite a lot of money to put on the celebration and the deputations thought it only fair that the Council would give them the control of the booths so far as these outside parties were concerned, who would come to town, make money at the expense of the local Orangemen, who needed all they could get to finance the celebration. The request of the petitioners was granted.

Council Discuss Fire Problems.

While the discussion on the accommodation to be given the firemen at the fire hall was under way, Councillor Murdoch stated that he thought the Council was not doing its duty in not providing the firemen with a proper place to dry their fire hose after use. The old tower that had been blown down some years ago had never been replaced and Mr. Murdoch was of the opinion that the town was losing more in fire hose depreciation each year than would provide such a necessary addition to the firemen's equipment. The Property and Fire and Light Committees were instructed to look after the matter.

The Finance Committee at this juncture presented its report, and recommended the payment of accounts amounting to \$343.45.

A request from residents on South Court street, Messrs. McFadden and Knechtel, for a sidewalk, was dealt with and the sidewalk will be built on the frontage tax basis, the same as all others in town.

The next thing to come before the Council that required quite a lot of talk to settle was the renewal of his insurance on the Jackson building. Two policies of \$1,500 each had fallen due, the premium for which had been raised considerably. The previous rate of 4 per cent. premium had been raised to 5.39, and it was felt that perhaps the town should not carry so much insurance. Councillor McQueen said that this was the very best rate that he could get from an old line company, but said he could cover both policies for \$145 per annum in a mutual company, but this would necessitate the signing of a premium note for \$288. The Reeve was opposed to doing business at all with a mutual company, and the majority of the Council thought the best plan out of the difficulty would be to renew one of the policies, and let the other lapse, which was done.

The by-law for the sale of cigarettes in the municipality was passed, the license being fixed at \$25, with a fine of not less than \$5 and not more than \$10 for breaches of the by-law.

Councillor McFadden as chairman of the Board of Works was instructed by the Council, whose opinion he has seen fit at the C.N.R. tracks on the road leading to the agricul-

tural grounds. The Reeve brought up a complaint he had made to him about the properties along East Saddle Street in the vicinity of Smith's sawmill being blocked with logs. The Board of Works chairman will straighten this out.

The civic dump at the West end of the town also came in for attention. Councillor Bell thought it was a disgrace and that persons using it should be compelled to put their refuse on the dump and not on the street.

The annual question as to who was to pay for the oiling of the front street again came up. Reeve Calder thought it should be a frontage tax, but he and Councillor Hunter could not agree. Mr. Hunter insisted that the Reeve was but paying to the gallery when he advocated about Lambton street, which is being done by the county. Would he be willing to pay a frontage on this? To this the Reeve, however, countered that it was not a parallel case at all and made quite a lengthy explanation which no doubt was suitable to himself, but which only caused a broad grin to spread over the features of Mayor and Council.

Mr. Hunter maintained that the business street was as much the property of the back street as of the front. He had lived under the frontage system in the old days and had always paid his full share. There were, however, some who did not, and this was the cause of a lot of dissatisfaction. He was firmly convinced in his own mind that the cost should be spread over the whole town. He himself lived on a back street, and was fully satisfied to help pay for the oiling of the business street of the town, both for his own convenience and as a matter of civic pride. He was not in favor of oiling only the business section, but was of the opinion that the whole connecting link from the cement corner to the Review corner should be oiled.

The discussion on the oil situation disclosed the fact that the front street, at least part of it, was not in fit shape to oil and would have to be repaired. The Council here were instructed the Board of Works to purchase a road "hone" and also the oil for the oiling of the business section.

The Library grant was another account paid, amounting to \$200, but

to the request of the Treasurer, Mr. Peter Ramage, that the tax roll be extended, the Council said "no." All taxes not paid forthwith will be now collected and costs added.

Though not in regular order, a petition from Mr. William Styles was heard in which he registered a complaint about the condition of the wooden retaining wall in front of his residence on the Garafraza hill. Mr. Styles says this is the third year in succession that he has appeared before the Council, but they will have to do something this year

or his verandah will be rolling down the hill. The Council agreed with Mr. Styles that something should be done and it is more than likely that work on a new retaining wall will be commenced without delay.

A letter from Barrister C. C. Middlebro' was read by the Mayor asking the Council to put a valuation on the Town Hall building if they desired to sell, as he had a client who was desirous of purchasing for manufacturing purposes. The Council appointed a committee to wait on Mr. Middlebro'.

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THE ANNUAL EASTER SUPPER Varney Methodist Church will held in the Orange Hall on Mon April 21. Good supper from 7 to 10, followed by good program. Money from Durham and local talent, dresses from neighboring parishes. Admission 35c. and 20c.
NOTICE
Under the provisions of "The tario Companies" Act the Dur Furniture Company, Limited, hereby gives public notice that it will application to His Honor The tenant-Governor of Ontario for acceptance of the surrender of the charter on and from a day to be by the Lieutenant-Governor Council.
Dated at the Town of Durham 7th day of April, 1924.
H. R. KOCH, Secy.