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MONEY TO LOAN

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SEED TESTING AND ITS RELATION TO AGRICULTURE.

The testing of seed for purity and vitality by scientific methods has been an important factor in the agricultural progress of Germany, Switzerland and other European countries. Laboratory methods for seed testing were devised by Dr. Nobbe of Tharand, Germany, thirty years ago, since which time seed-testing stations have been established in nearly all European countries and the United States. Canada has now one modern seed laboratory equipped with the necessary apparatus for testing the purity and vitality of seeds.

The fact that Germany alone now maintains thirty-nine seed control stations shows that seed testing is highly valued as a means of safe-guarding the interests of agriculture in that country. The results of the work that has already been done in the Dominion Seed Laboratory reveal a great need for active work in seed testing as well as persistent efforts to protect Canadian farmers and fields from the many evils that are connected with the seed trade.

Early in the spring of the present year, G. H. Clark, B.S.A., who is connected with Prof. Robertson's staff, and who is now in charge of the Seed Laboratory, planned to make an investigation of the conditions of the trade in grass and clover seeds. With the assistance of Agricultural Associations, Institute workers and other interested persons, over five hundred one-half pound samples of Timothy, Alsike, and Red Clover seed that was offered for sale by local dealers were procured from the seed laboratory. With each sample was enclosed a statement showing the name of the dealer, the place at which it was offered for sale, the price per pound or per bushel, and the origin of the seed.

In the Seed Laboratory these samples were subjected to two examinations, one for purity and one for vitality. In making these examinations the rules adopted by the Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations were followed in detail.

Evidence of wilful adulteration was found in a few instances. One sample of Alsike obtained from Prince Edward Island contained 26 pounds of colored sand per hundred pounds of seed. From ten to twenty per cent. by weight of sand was frequently found in samples of Alsike and Timothy seed. On the whole there has not been serious cause for complaint because of low vitality. It is the large quantities and noxious nature of the weed seeds found in most of the samples that render the evils connected with the trade in grass and clover seeds of more than ordinary importance to agriculture. The number of weed seeds per pound of seeds as marketed, ranged with Timothy from 0 to 237,690; Alsike from 90 to 180,450; and Red Clover from 0 to 45,505. The approximate number of seeds in a pound of Timothy seeds is 1,350,000; Alsike 750,000; and Red Clover 300,000. The weed seeds named in the order in which they most frequently occurred consisted of Foxtail, Ribgrass, Lamb's Quarter, White Cockle, Sheep Sorrel, Curled Dock, False Flax, Peppergrass, Mayweed, Canada Thistle, Common Plantain, Lady's Thumb, Pigweed, Black Medick, Ragweed, Charlock or Wild Mustard and Perennial Sow Thistle.

The trade in red clover and alsike is, undoubtedly, the most fruitful medium for the dissemination of weed pests. The steadily increasing demand for these seeds for both the home and the export trade has encouraged their production on farms that are foul with weeds. Canada exports annually large quantities of alsike and red clover seed to European countries where a thorough system of seed control has become established and where only the best re-cleaned stocks can find a market. The screenings from these imported seeds are much in demand on our home markets and are retailed by local dealers. There are few agricultural mercantile articles the real value of which is so difficult to judge from appearance as grass, clover and other small seeds. Competition is said to be the life of trade but fair competition in the seed trade is possible only when the seeds are sold according to fixed standards of quality, or under a definite guarantee based upon a standard method of analysis. The seed trade in Canada has been passing from the hands of reliable seed houses into the hands of incompetent and irresponsible local dealers whose main business is of an entirely different character. There are far too many jobbers dabbling in the seed business and the result is that competition has been confined to prices alone. Unfortunately most farmers as well as seed merchants are not acquainted with the impurities that commonly occur in grass and clover seeds, and when making their purchases are content to screw down the price and trust to luck. As long as there is a demand for cheap seed, a worthless low grade article will be offered; and until Canadian farmers have come to know that the highest obtainable quality of seed is always the cheapest, the best quality of our home grown seeds will be exported to countries where the seed trade is conducted on a more business like basis.

F. W. Hodson, Live Stock Commissioner.

A Pointer Towards Happiness.

"The only absolutely infallible rule for how to be happy though married is to stay single," says "Dorothy Dix" in an article entitled "A Guide to Happiness." "There is never a man or woman like the one we did not marry, and it is only in old bachelors' and old maids' dreams of wedded life that there are no family jars and scrapping matches. There is trouble a-plenty in married life. There is loneliness without it. It is one of the things that, whether you do or you do not, you are apt to regret. But happiness in matrimony, like happiness elsewhere in life, must be manufactured by the individual for his own use. To do this one has only to love much, and get a little love in return, to give without demanding compound interest; to be quick to praise and slow to blame; to be kind to virtues and blind to faults; to give to others the charity we expect ourselves. No man or woman who does this finds marriage a failure. The trouble is, we think matrimonial happiness is an orchid to be found only in strange places, whereas it is a domestic plant that flourishes best in a well-tended kitchen garden."

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Are Kept in Suffering and Many

Die Owing to False

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Thousands of women are kept in sickness for months and years owing to false treatment and the use of worthless medicines, and we are inclined to believe that Milton thought of this class of almost dying women when he said:

"The angelic guards ascended, mute and sad."

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"A month ago I was very sick and happened to see one of your publications, in which I read of others being cured. I concluded to try Paine's Celery Compound myself, and I now thank God for the wonders it accomplished for me. I was suffering from heart disease, kidney trouble and general weakness, and some days was not able to stand without experiencing great pain. Since I used the compound I am able to get about the house and work, and can now eat anything put before me."

The Newfoundland Treaty.

Newfoundland, it is announced in the reciprocity treaty just negotiated with the United States, has abandoned the privilege of giving a tariff preference to British goods. That a Crown colony of Great Britain which has been a diplomatic sore spot for so many years should do anything so unfriendly to the Mother Country and to their sister colonies, is certainly to be regretted. If the rumored stipulations are correct, in its trade and preferences Newfoundland will throw in its whole weight with the United States. But the rumors may be wrong, and no matter to what extent the Premier of Newfoundland has permitted his desire for a reciprocity treaty to carry him, it is by no means certain that the New England States, where the fishermen are strongly opposed to the entry free of duty to the Newfoundland catch, will not so strenuously resist the ratification of the treaty in the United States Senate as to cause its defeat.

The Ideal Home.

Dr. Lyman Abbott in extolling and portraying the ideal home well says, that one of its chief qualities is a refuge. If from being tossed about in the fogs and storms which surround and overtake us we can come into the home as into a beautiful land-locked harbor; if husbands can come from their offices and business perplexities into a peaceful, sunny atmosphere, bringing with them the spirit which shall exercise care and make home a refuge to them, and if wives and mothers welcome them into such homes where the very air as the doors are opened seems fragrant with love and restful sympathy, and pure and refreshing with cheerfulness, such a home is ideal and a refuge for all its inmates. It is such homes that keep the church alive and develop the same old reverence and faith and hope and love which have blessed the world ever since Abraham built the first altar to Almighty God in the long ago.

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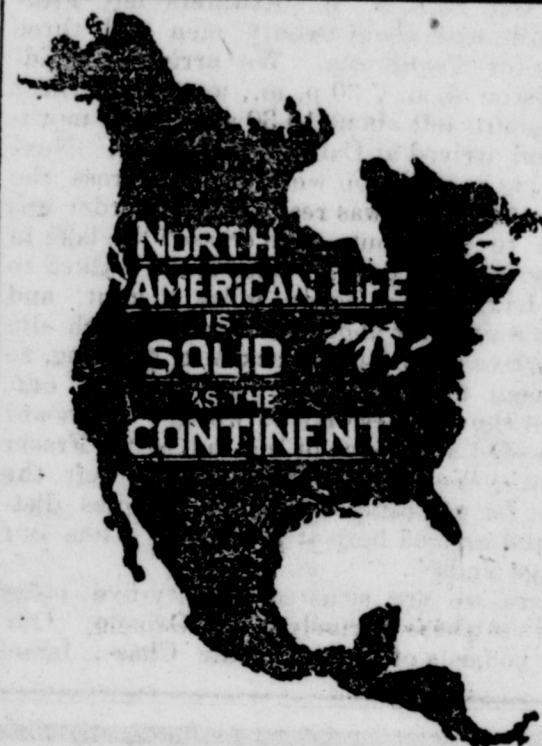
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