

# THE O. A. C. REVIEW

"THE PROFESSION WHICH I HAVE EMBRACED REQUIRES A KNOWLEDGE OF EVERYTHING."

VOL. XXIX.

FEBRUARY, 1917.

No. 6

## The Prospective Supply of Seed Oats for Ontario

G. H. CLARK, Seed Commissioner, Ottawa.

**M**ORE than 5,000,000 bushels of oats for seed may be required in the province of Ontario next April and May. The 1916 oat crop throughout the province of Ontario and the west half of the province of Quebec was fair on areas of moist clay land where thorough tiled drainage permitted of early seeding. It is estimated, however, that the crop on fully 80 per cent. of the total area was seriously weakened in vigor as the result of extreme climatic conditions. The effect of this weakened vigor may be, to a greater or less extent, to reduce the yield of oats in the province of Ontario for the 1917 crop.

In the Maritime provinces the oat crop was satisfactory and the quality of the grain was good. Oats at Halifax, however, usually command a price equal to that of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange plus the cost of the freight. Maritime seed oats therefore may be available to the farmers of Ontario at a cost of about 35 cents per bushel more than the cost of western grown oats of the same commercial value for milling.

There is an abundant supply of No. 2 Canada Western (C.W.) oats in the Prairie provinces at the present time. In addition there is a limited supply of No. 1 C.W. oats. These two grades of oats are much in demand for the manufacture of oatmeal. Expert buyers of milling oats endeavor to select cars

that are particularly clean and of superior quality and pay a premium to get them. The quality of oats for milling is affected, to a very limited extent only, by the presence of a small percentage of wild oats. The commercial grade No. 2 C.W. oats commonly contains up to 150 wild oats to the pound.

Ten years ago one car of oats out of every seven graded No. 2 C.W. at Winnipeg was found to be free from wild oats. Now it is difficult to procure any considerable quantity of oats in any part of the Prairie provinces that will grade No. 1 C.W. seed oats, a special grade established by the order of the Governor-in-Council as follows:

"No. 1 Canada Western seed oats shall be composed of No. 1 or No. 2 C.W. oats and shall contain 95 per cent. of white oats, sound, clean and free from other grain; shall be free from noxious weed seeds within the meaning of the Seed Control Act, and shall weigh not less than 34 pounds to the bushel."

A Seed Purchasing Commission of this Department was established by order-in-council about the first of October and given authority to purchase seed of wheat, oats and barley to fill requisitions from municipal governing bodies in the rusted and frosted areas of the Prairie provinces. They have been unable to procure their requirements of No. 1 C.W. seed oats,