

such as leaves, etc. The best plan to adopt then in cutting and curing is the one that will enable these valuable parts of the plant to be preserved. No definite plan can be laid down that will suit all localities and conditions. One that has worked well when properly carried out is to cut the clover in the morning after the dew is off and let it remain without tending till the afternoon, when it is gathered into windrows, and from these into bunches or cocks before the dew falls in the evening. After several days sweating, these cocks are opened in flakes, which give off moisture rapidly and the material is soon ready for the barn. In no case should the clover be placed in barn or stack when carrying external moisture, either dew or rain. This foreign moisture seems to be more detrimental to the curing of hay than the natural sap of the plant.

The Crop Outlook

The severe drought of the past six or seven weeks has played sad havoc with the hay crop in some parts of the country. The district most severely affected is that lying east of Kingston and north to the Ottawa river in Ontario and the vicinities of Montreal and along the St. Lawrence river in Quebec. These districts have been so severely scorched that there is little hope of even a medium crop especially of hay, even should rain come in abundance during the balance of the season. The hay crop in many places is scarcely three inches high and gives every indication of being hardly worth the cutting. The probabilities of a shortage in hay is so great that farmers in these districts are reported to have advanced the price of last year's hay to \$15, \$18 and \$20 a ton.

Outside of the districts we have named, which comparatively speaking form only a small part of Canada, the general outlook for crops is good. In the West everything promises well. In Ontario, west of Kingston, conditions on the whole are good. The hay crop will be much lighter than last year, though a fair average, as the crop of 1902 was a bumper one, may be looked for. Fall wheat promises well as do other grain crops. Farther east in the Maritime Provinces the outlook is good. Taken on the whole then, unless unforeseen circumstances arise, another good harvest is before the Canadian farmer.

From now on the farmer should give attention to the root and corn crops and to preparation for the coming harvest. If the acreage is large the cultivator should be kept going every day.

If you have not yet secured sufficient help for haying and harvest, write Mr. Thos. Southworth, Parliament Bldgs., Toronto. He will be able to direct some of the numerous immigrants, who are now arriving in larger numbers than earlier in the season, your way.

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The Range Steers Sold

The range steers brought to Ontario last December for experimental feeding purposes were sold on June 1st. These steers arrived about December 12th, but as they received little of anything but hay, before Jan. 1st, we count the feeding period five months. Strange though it may seem, they would scarcely touch meal or roots for some time. After a time they would eat small quantities of each. About Feb. 10th they were getting a daily ration of 12 lbs. hay, 16 lbs. roots and 4 lbs. meal. This was gradually increased until they were supplied with 25 lbs. hay, 40 lbs. roots and 8 lbs. meal each per day. Thus we see that although at first quite averse to meal and roots they seemed to relish a fair quantity after a few weeks.

Their monthly gains are not known as they were always too wild for regular weighing. Some of them seemed almost as wild when taken away on June 1st as they were when they reached Guelph last December. Their average weight at that time was slightly above 965 lbs. and when sold they averaged 1,190 lbs., giving a gain of about 225 lbs. each in the five months. Cattle feeders can judge for themselves as to whether the gain is sufficient to warrant the sending of range steers to Ontario or other eastern provinces. The government has done its share in making the experiment, the rest remains with the stockmen and feeders. There is a chance for speculation. If ranchers can supply the right quality of cattle at the right price the Ontario feeders certainly can do the feeding.

In future we would advise that the cattle be taught to eat some meal and be dehorned before leaving the West. It is also thought that they would gain more rapidly if allowed to run in a large well-fenced yard with merely an open shed facing the south to feed and lie in. Some of this experimental bunch were allowed to run outside frequently during the last few weeks and they appeared to make better gains than when penned.

A. J. H.

Fruit Meetings at Orillia

A series of meetings were addressed by Inspector McNeill of the Dominion Fruit Division, and Supt. G. C. Creelman, the first week in June, in the interests of fruit culture in the Orillia district. A number of farmers in this district, who are setting out new orchards, applied to the Fruit Division for suitable varieties. W. T. Macoun of the Central Experimental Farm furnished a list of varieties likely to do well in the Orillia district. To further investigate the matter, with particular reference to local conditions, the meetings were held.

WHEN WRITING ADVERTISERS, PLEASE MENTION THE FARMING WORLD.