

Clover Seed Prospects Poor.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Reports from the Ontario red-clover districts show that the prospects for seed are extremely poor. Even in the Lake Erie counties, the dry weather during May and June shortened the hay and pasture to such an extent that much of the second growth will be used for fodder. Where the first growth blossomed well, considerable seed is forming, which is not usual. However, the clover midge is taking some toll. I believe the farmers of the Ottawa Valley and St. Lawrence counties would find it profitable to use their second-growth clover for the production of seed. If it blooms well, the harvest should be good; if not, it can be turned into hay or pasture. It is easy to harvest clover seed. Mow it when the straw is tough from dew or rain. After it has lain two or three days in the swath to cure, rake it up into good-sized bundles. It should be damp with dew when raked, in order to prevent shelling. It may be housed in a week or ten days. In December, an ordinary threshing machine will thresh it satisfactorily. Put a hardwood board behind the cylinder attached to the machine on the left. Bring it to within a foot or so of the other end of the cylinder, then close up the front of the cylinder on the opposite end. This drifts the straw through the whole length of the cylinder. If plenty of concave surface is used, and the first row of teeth removed to create a draft, the seed will be very well hulled by going through once. If a Winchester Springs farmer can grow 5½ bushels per acre on 4½ acres, realizing over \$55 per acre for seed, besides the value of the first cut of hay, it will surely pay others to consider this crop.

T. G. RAYNOR.

Ontario Representative Seed Branch, Dominion Department of Agriculture.

Specialists in Agriculture.

Under the regulations of the Ontario Department of Education, a number of Normal School teachers-in-training who obtained second-class certificates on the result of the Normal School examinations at Easter last, attended the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, for courses in elementary agriculture and horticulture. The following are the names and addresses of those who completed the course and passed the final examinations:

Miss Olive Aiken, Gore Bay; Miss Helen B. Allen, Rylstone; Miss Ruth I. Alves, Carling; George N. Anger, Walsingham; Miss Annie Armstrong, Clarksburg; Miss Eva E. Armstrong, Mt. Forest; Miss Violet S. Armstrong, Brockville; Miss Etta Baker, Collingwood; Miss Mabel Bailie, Dunganon; Miss Lillie Bearse, Aylmer; Miss Lena G. Bicknell, Dunnville; Miss Elizabeth J. Binnie, Bunessan; Miss Agnes C. Blackburn, Middleville; Miss Agnes Bowman, West Toronto; Norman R. Boyce, Blake; Miss May E. Brown, Greenwood; Miss Mabel Brown, Cairngorm; Miss Anna W. Cameron, Thamesford; Miss Freda B. Davey, Cedarville; Miss Beatrice B. Delahunt, Moorefield; Miss Annie B. Drever, Collingwood; Miss Myrtle Edmiston, Princeton; Miss Sarah Fletcher, Newbury; Miss M. Veronica Foley, Lindsay; Miss Millicent Freeman, Godfrey; Miss Agnes Hall, Plattsville; Miss Elizabeth Harvey, Bruce Mines;

Miss Wilhemmine Hastie, Shegulandah; Miss Margaret A. Henry, Eberts; Miss Freda C. Hess, Zurich; Miss Florence Howey, Leamington; Miss Bertha M. Inglis, Maple Hill; Miss Annie Jamieson, Renfrew; Miss Elsie M. Kilgore, Kinburn; Miss Mabel G. Kinnear, Melville; Miss Ethel M. Leake, Chatham; Miss Aletha Lymburner, Basingstoke; Miss Reta L. McCombe, Durham; Miss Margaret McDonald, Wyoming; Miss Annie E. McGirr, Durham; Miss Alwilda F. McKenzie, Leamington; Miss Hazel T. McMullen, Anson; Miss Jean McPharlin, Essex; Miss Margaret Madill, Shelburne; Miss Adele Archand, Windsor; Miss Emma L. Mason, Mt. Brydges; Miss Audrey S. Mathews, Petrolia; Miss Agnes Monahan, Brantford; Miss Annie B. Morison, St. Mary's; Miss Rubena Munro, Apple Hill; Miss Ethra V. F. Nattress, Woodbridge; Miss Ada Neelands, Forest; Miss Louise Park, Alvinston; Miss Annie Patterson, Alliston; Miss Blanche Porter, Gore Bay; Miss Maude E. Payne, Whitebread; Miss Rose Quinn, Ferguson Falls; Miss Luella Redick, Park Hill; Miss Ethel Ross, Martintown; Miss Janette L. Rowe, Ridgetown; Miss Florence Scovil, Athens; Miss Mary Searson, Hyndford; Miss Rose Shephard, Beamsville; Miss Bertha A. Shields, Caistorville; Miss Ruby E. Slater, Watertown; Miss Sybil Smirle, Morewood; Miss Maggie Sterritt, St. Mary's; Miss Florence Stewart, Whitby; Miss Katie Stewart, White Lake; Miss Melissa I. Taylor, Castlemore; Miss Gwendoline M. Teskey, Appleton; Miss Katherine Thrush, Dunnville; Miss Margaret J. Wilson, Harrington; Miss Mary E. Wilson, Snelgrove; Miss Edith Winters, Pembroke.

Nova Scotia Notes.

No rain to mention since first of May, and this is the last week of July. Digging post holes in the field, the earth comes up from 30 inches below the surface as dry as ashes, without a trace of moisture. Besides being very dry, we have during July experienced the hottest weather we have had in many years. One day, in a back yard in town, at two o'clock, the writer saw a thermometer registering 120 degrees in the sun, while my own thermometer has gone to 99 in the shade and 106 in the sun. This weather, of course, has had its effect on crops. Hay on worn-out uplands will give 60 to 75 per cent. of a crop. Marshes and intervals or meadows will fare better, some lowlands giving more than an average crop. The same truth will apply to grain. In ordinary years, grain on land which would have proved too wet is a good stand, while grain on higher land is light. Potatoes have missed badly, there not being sufficient moisture in the land to start them. The root crop has also suffered because of drouth.

Two years ago we had an exceptionally dry summer in the Annapolis Valley, differing from the present one in that we had abundance of rain until the first of June, but no more till the first of October, then everything grew for a month rapidly, and our crops did not suffer so much. This year, however, the drouth began earlier, and the season will be more disastrous if we do not get rain earlier.

This year we have to report a bumper crop of clean apples. This is partly due to the reaction

from the small crop of last year, and also to the exceptionally favorable season during blossoming, as well as a more thoroughly up-to-date orchard practice. One of our most conservative growers in King's Co. is responsible for the statement that Nova Scotia will harvest 250,000 barrels of Gravensteins alone—good clean, juicy, best-flavored Gravensteins, the best apple on earth. According to this, we will exceed the million-barrel mark this year. In 1920 this little valley will raise two million barrels. In 1930—perhaps I had better stop for the present.

In the past six months hogs have declined in price because of overproduction, but the inevitable result is taking place: brood sows are being disposed of, and next year the pendulum will swing again, and we will get a greater demand and higher prices. For the same reason, butter is lower this summer than for some years. The dry weather, with its effect on pastures, however, is bringing up the price, and we will probably get better prices during the fall and winter. Beef is still high and scarce, but the scarcity of hay will probably lead to a selling off of stock, followed by a fall in price of beef. We are all waiting for reciprocity as a means of steadying prices.

Annapolis Co., N. S.

R. J. M.

The U. S. Cattle Situation.

"A remarkable cattle situation exists in the United States," says M. F. Horine, statistician of the Union Stock-yards and Transit Co., Chicago. "Until recently all markets were full of fat cattle. Now the supply situation shows a radical change. Ohio, Pennsylvania and Kentucky have marketed their crops of fat cattle, and Eastern points are not getting enough good cattle to supply their local needs."

"The character of receipts at Missouri River points shows the Western supply of fat cattle has been cleaned up, which leaves Chicago about the only place on the market map of the United States where buyers can get adequate selection, and that is likely to be the case for a long time to come."

"The present situation had its origin in the drouth conditions of last summer, which forced all the regions west and south-west of the Missouri River to prematurely market young and growing stock, which was largely absorbed by Illinois and surrounding States. Then followed a magnificent corn crop and a splendid winter-feeding season, resulting in abundance of fat cattle."

"The supply is lasting much longer in the territory directly tributary to Chicago than either east or west, simply because conditions for a year past have favored an abundance of good cattle in this territory, and will make Chicago from now on until the next crop is fed the chief and almost the only supply point for fat cattle."

"Domestic demand for beef is increasing, and there will be a strong and constant demand for beef of good quality."

"Adequate rains during the remainder of the season, and another good corn crop will reveal the shortage of growing cattle in the country more sharply than at any time for twenty years, and prices of both young and fat cattle must almost certainly advance materially in the near future."

GOSSIP.

Kyle Bros., of Ayr; Captain T. E. Robson and nephew, London; H. N. Gibson, Delaware, and H. J. Davis, Woodstock, have claimed September 20th, 1911, as the date of their big combination sale of Shorthorn cattle, to be held at Woodstock, Ont. The railways will give those wishing to attend the sale half-fare rates.

A neat booklet of the "Minutes of the Annual and Directors' Meetings" of the Canadian Ayrshire Breeders' Association of 1911, is just to hand. This booklet contains the scale of points, rules and regulations for Record of Performance, together with some fine cuts of noted prize-winners and high-record animals. The constitution of the association is given. All the animals having been admitted to the Record of Performance since 1907 are listed, with their numbers and records. A list of members of the association shows 632 names.

TO ENCOURAGE BETTER PLOWING.

An association known as the Ontario Plowmen's Association has recently been organized, with J. Lockie Wilson as Secretary. Plowing is one of the most important operations of our agriculture, and should be well done. Furrows well turned, and of uniform depth and width, straight and level, make a far better bottom for subsequent cultivation than do badly turned, uneven furrows. The ob-

ject of the association is to establish branch associations throughout the Province, and encourage and interest members (farmers and farmers' sons) by awarding premiums and promoting county and township plowing matches to practice more thorough cultivation of the soil. Any person can become a member by paying one dollar per annum, and a single payment of ten dollars constitutes a life membership fee. The usual officers and board of directors constitute the governing body. Branch associations may be formed in any township in Ontario, and must have not less than twenty members. Each branch is entitled to a grant from the central association. This is a very commendable undertaking, and should do much to improve the plowing and cultivation of the soil. Anyone interested can get full information by applying to J. Lockie Wilson, Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

TRADE TOPIC.

TEACHING THE BLIND.—When a grown person loses his sight through accident or disease, he should be taught at once to read with his fingers. Learning to read occupies the mind and prevents despondency, and gives the blind man faith in himself; he believes that he can do various kinds of work, which makes him a useful and independent member of society. F. H. Gardiner, Principal of the Ontario Institution for the Education

of the Blind, Brantford, has a device of his own by which any sighted reader of ordinary type can, without study or preparation, teach a blind person to read the raised characters known as New York Point. He will be pleased to supply the same free of charge to anyone in Canada who may require them. In the case of blind children, it is better that the teaching should be done in the school maintained by the Government at Brantford. An ordinary public-school education can be obtained, as well as instruction in knitting, sewing, domestic science, basket and hammock making, the use of carpenter's tools, music, piano-tuning, etc. Anyone whose eyesight is so defective as to render him unable to read ordinary type will be admitted. Any reader of "The Farmer's Advocate" who knows a child whose sight is defective, will confer a favor by sending the child's or the parents' name to H. F. Gardiner, Principal O. I. B., Brantford, Ont.

"It is just as essential for a country boy or girl to know about the alfalfa root as to know about Greek roots; about King Corn as about King Henry VIII. or King Oscar. No system of agricultural education is complete without a school garden, and it is entirely feasible to maintain one where enough scholars come together. Such a garden will arouse an interest in the school work that nothing else can."—Iowa Agriculturist.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

1st.—Questions asked by bona-fide subscribers to "The Farmer's Advocate" are answered in this department free.

2nd.—Questions should be clearly stated and plainly written, on one side of the paper only, and must be accompanied by the full name and address of the writer.

3rd.—In Veterinary questions the symptoms especially must be fully and clearly stated, otherwise satisfactory replies cannot be given.

4th.—When a reply by mail is required to urgent veterinary or legal enquiries, \$1.00 must be enclosed.

Miscellaneous.

THE DEPTFORD PINK.

W. L.—Haldimand. Will you kindly tell me the name of the enclosed weed, and give the best means of eradicating it? It grows in the meadow, and has a small, rose-colored flower of five petals.

Ans.—The plant sent is the Deptford Pink, known to botanists as *Dianthus Armeria*. The plant is an annual, with somewhat hairy, narrow leaves, and, as W. L. states, five-petalled, rose-colored flowers, marked with white dots. It suggests the garden Sweet William, to which it is closely related. This plant, a native of Europe—is now extensively naturalized in Eastern America, but it seldom attracts attention as a weed. The roots do not live over winter, and the seeds have not a long, persistent vitality like those of mustard. An infestation of it would not likely survive a season of hoe-cropping.

J. D.