

side-rake and loader is doing away with the old process of curing clover. WM. WELSH.
Bruce Co., Ont.

Lessons of O.A.C. Experimental Plots.

The annual excursions to the Ontario Agricultural College and Experimental Farm, at Guelph, are being largely attended again this year. The excursions do not run over as long a period as formerly, lasting only some two weeks this year, consequently more excursions and larger numbers have to be accommodated daily. Much interest is shown by the excursionists in the various departments of experimental work, and especially in the experimental plots, which are looking very well, although the grain is somewhat shorter than usual for this time of year, owing to a long period of dry weather which the district about Guelph has experienced during the early part of this season.

The excursionists, as in former years, are given a free lunch in the gymnasium, where they are welcomed by Dr. Creelman, after which they are taken to the experimental plots, where the work in this department is explained by the lecturers in charge.

Much interest is shown in the alfalfa crops, which are thinner this year than last, the winter having been rather severe on these. The lecturer pointed out that this crop was increasing rapidly in Ontario, there being over twice as much of it sown this year as last, and stated that the plots yielded on an average about five tons of dry hay per acre. Sand Lucerne and Grimm were the two varieties giving the best results. In looking over the alfalfa plots, a considerable difference is noticeable, which is due in some cases to the source of the seed. Seed from Peru and Arabia seems to winter-kill badly, while seed from northern Russia stands the winter well, as does also that from Provence, France, and also home-grown seed.

Barley is looking well, but it is heading shorter than usual. O. A. C. No. 21 and Mandscheuri still head the list, it being estimated that over one-half a million acres of the latter were grown in 1910 in Ontario, while the former is gaining ground very fast, one grower reporting that, from one pound sown in 1906, he produced 900 bushels of seed in 1908.

Oats are a good color, but short, Siberian No. 72 showing up well, and likely to again give the largest yield.

Mixed grains are doing well. The old standard mixture of one bushel of oats to one bushel of barley, promises to live up to its former rank of producing some 200 pounds of grain per acre more than if the grains were sown separately.

Crossing of barley is being done with a view to producing a late variety that will ripen at the same time as Siberian oats. It is desirable to obtain varieties of oats and barley which will ripen together. At the present time, early oats, as Alaska or Daubeney, are used with Mandscheuri barley, but greater yields are expected if barley can be produced to ripen with the later varieties of oats.

Winter wheat came through well, and promises well on the plots, although it is short. Dawson's Golden Chaff is still a favorite, but crossing is being done to produce a high-yielding, harder wheat.

Spring wheat and rye look promising, but the rye is 1½ feet shorter than last year.

Oats are being crossed to produce thinner-hulled varieties, Joannette and Siberian being used for this purpose.

The root crops and corn are very promising, as are also the plots of permanent pasture mixtures, and the entire experimental grounds have their usual attractive appearance.

From the plots, the crowds are taken through the stock barns and receive instruction on the various classes and breeds of stock kept on the farm. This department also proves of great interest, as does the work in dairying and poultry.

A very educative feature is also the bureau of information, where instruction is given on weeds, weed seeds and destructive insects.

Farm underdrainage is explained. Altogether, a very enjoyable and, at the same time, a very profitable day is spent by most of those who attend these excursions.

Reseed the Pastures.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In a recent issue you ask for information and experience with pasture. It has been my experience in the last five years that pasture needs re-seeding quite frequently, except on the low, wet portions. The high land in this locality was more or less badly eaten or killed out by worms or drouth, or both, during the past two seasons. As our land is a light loam, our knolls are usually poor, and all kinds of grasses will fall out on them more or less every year. I have been trying to overcome the difficulty by sowing alsike crops in spring, but it does not do very well on that soil, and red clover would not last more

than one winter. Alfalfa won't stand pasturing, and I am thinking of trying sweet clover. Grasses might hold out better, but they would not enrich the soil. Of course, if one could spare enough manure to top-dress, or use artificial fertilizers, the results might be different; but, if the thinning is due to grubs, which seems almost certain, probably nothing short of breaking up will be effective. J. H. BURNS.

Perth Co., Ont.

Haymaking in Ontario County.

At this season of the year the farmer, and particularly the stock farmer, is interested in the best method of curing and harvesting his hay crop. There are various methods employed in different districts, some with a view to ease and speed in harvesting, while others place more importance on the quality of hay produced, and take more time in curing before harvesting. There is no doubt that the most important consideration is that of quality, and every grower should aim to harvest his hay in the best possible condition.

Some four different phases of haymaking are worthy of discussion, viz., the time of cutting, the method of curing, method of harvesting, and method of storing.

The time of cutting is one of the most important of these, as hay cut too green or allowed to become too ripe cannot be made into as good feed as can hay cut at the proper stage of maturity. Farmers in Ontario County have been growing large acreages of hay, principally red clover and timothy, and they usually aim to cut it about the time that from one-third to one-half the blossoms have turned brown. Of course, the first cutting is generally largely composed of clover, and the small amount of timothy present is cut a little green. It is found that hay cut at this time is more palatable and better relished by farm stock than hay that has become ripe and fibrous.

Most farmers in this district leave their meadows down two years, thus the second year the crop is largely timothy, and is usually cut immediately after the second blossom.

The method of curing is the most important consideration, as the quality of the product depends largely on this. The curing depends to a great extent on the weather, but good weather cannot be waited for, and consequently it is well to be always prepared for bad weather. Most farmers in this district cut the hay in the morning, commencing after the dew is nearly all evaporated. The tedder is used freely, especially on heavy crops of clover, and this continual stirring allows the air circulation around and through the hay to dry it without the loss of leaves. In good weather, it is found possible in some cases to get the hay raked and up in coil toward the evening of the day it is cut. To do this, the tedder is kept going steadily, and it is raked in small windrows late in the afternoon, and coiled up. Some leave it in the windrow over night, and coil it next day after the dew is off; while others who use the loaders never coil it, but leave it in the small windrows until the next afternoon, when it is ready to draw. Some others coil the hay and then throw the coils out, and use the loader on these; but where the loader is used, the hay is usually drawn on the day following the cutting; while in some cases, where the hay is overripe, it is drawn the same day as cut; this latter is not common practice, however.

As the hay loader and side-delivery rake are not very common, the larger part of the hay is still cured in the coil. Cut early in the day, the hay can be, if carefully teded, raked toward evening and placed in coil, in which condition it will turn rain quite effectively, and if the weather is fine, it is usually drawn on the second or third day after cutting. By coiling the evening after cutting, the hay is not allowed to become injured by the dew, and thus bleaching is prevented. It is found that a very good quality of hay is produced in this way.

The harvesting of the hay, when once cured, is a short job. As before stated, some are using the side-delivery rake and the loader, while hay-forks and slings are installed in nearly all the barns throughout the district. These have proven to be one of the greatest labor-savers that the farmer has, and are in general use.

Hay is stored in lofts and barns, thus the method of storing needs no comment, as would be the case if the hay were to be kept in the open.

It is also a noteworthy fact that, owing to the scarcity of farm labor, the acreage of hay is increasing in this district from year to year, as is also the acreage devoted to pasture crops.

W. TOOLE.

It is a dangerous practice to take chances on ruining the constitution of our animals for the sake of getting a few more pounds of milk. It would be far better to sacrifice something in quantity of milk to gain in constitutional vigor.—Prof. G. E. Day.

South Perth Notes.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

So far (June 10th) this season has been a marked contrast to what we have been having. Weather conditions have been more normal. Warm weather came at a more seasonable time, and has continued fairly steady, consequently, growth has continued steadily, and, but for the dry weather, would have been at the maximum. As it was, however, the growth was unduly stimulated, and, unless a check occurs, it will have a disastrous effect on hay and wheat. It seems more than probable that these crops will be light, particularly old meadows. The fruit crop has also suffered, particularly plums, but this result is generally ascribed to the June bug, it being generally believed that this depredator ate off all the bloom, and in most cases the leaves, also. The same is believed to be true of many of the apple trees; but, whatever the cause, reports indicate a scarcity. Small fruits promise better, especially strawberries. The dry weather facilitated seeding the grain crops and the planting of the root crops. The former are making satisfactory progress, though there is some indication of damage from wire or cut worms, and the roots have suffered from the drouth, particularly mangels, which were very backward. Corn is appearing thin in some fields. The milk flow is well up to the average, though pastures are rather short for this time of year. The usual mortality among chickens is reported, which seems unusual for a season of this kind. Sheep are increasing in popularity somewhat, but there is no specialty in this district, except, perhaps, dairying. Almost everyone keeps as many cows as he can attend to, and sends milk to some factory, but there are very few who do not also fatten a few bunches of hogs and a few head of cattle every year. With the exception of a little wheat and hay, the produce of our farms is nearly always consumed thereon—a system which we expect reciprocity to change somewhat. The clover-honey season is opening up auspiciously for the bees, but has come on so rapidly that but few colonies are well prepared for it. J. H. BURNS.

Perth Co., Ont.

No Energy to Think.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I was glad to read your article advising a shorter working day than the majority of Canadian farmers at present are satisfied with. Between fourteen and fifteen hours is the length of day I spend working for meat, and, since I work as hard as I am able, when night comes I have not energy left to do anything that requires force of either mind or body. I have no spirit left to play a piece of music, nor do I feel able to read any good strong book; and unless I go to the creek and take a wash, I just sit on the veranda for an hour or hour and a half, and then go to bed. This hour or so is a pleasant one, I'll not deny. It is blessed with the peace that follows a good day's work; and the soft winds now are scented so sweetly from the orchards and fields that a breeze from the south brings one near to heaven.

There is only one thing about it that I don't like, and that is its languor. An hour and a half is a long time to sit idly dreaming because I'm too tired to concentrate my mind on any immaterial object. And that rest before bedtime would be every bit as enjoyable if for an hour or two before I had been learning a new piece on my instrument, or finding out how nature has formed those stones in the barn and given them their lovely colors. Every bit as much joy would be in my rest, and more blessing, for it would be less sensual.

But it was to work for me that I hired you, at once says the farmer, "and what have I to do with you, more than to get as much work as I can out of you?" "Certainly, I agreed to work with you, and I am doing that. I take an interest in my work, and use brain and body for your profit at all times, whether convenient for me or inconvenient. And thus I spend my life, which is my all. And you, if you give me a just return for this service, give me an equal part of your life. Now, then, will I exact of you, as you do of me? Will the question of the murderers and evil spirits of all the ages come to my lips, too, and ask, 'Am I my brother's keeper—what have I to do with thee thou son of God?' No, with God's help I'll find out whether it is He has ordained it necessary for man to spend all his day working for his belly. Already the statement of the proposition leads to its proof; and I am hopeful that the proof will lead to a happier and better life than is mine at present.

Once put clearly, I can scarcely believe my employer capable of deliberately squeezing all the work possible out of his hired men. But I know there are several who do this unconsciously. They are good workers themselves, have been reared to toil, and do not feel the need of anything else in life, only their smoke and rest before bedtime. These men work as hard as they can all their lives, and are saving up their leisure to have it