

## Silage Crops for Nova Scotia

(Continued from page 4.)

tons per acre, the Compton's Early and Longfellow giving about 15 tons and the Canada Yellow eight to 10 tons.

## Corn Desirable in Some Districts.

In the Annapolis Valley and in some of the counties along the South Shore of Nova Scotia very much better results have been secured than at Truro and in the eastern parts of the

province. In the more southern parts of the province, the season is longer and fall frosts are often delayed a month or more after they have destroyed the corn of the province. In those parts of the province corn for ensilage purposes is grown in larger quantities each year and should be increased at a much faster rate. Last summer a farmer in the vicinity of the Agricultural College grew White Cap Dent from seed which he secured from Ontario, and we were

quite surprised to see a little larger growth and more maturity than in the flint varieties which were grown on the College Farm. It is our intention to grow some of this variety next year. For several years, we have made the attempt to grow our own seed corn and so aim to breed up an acclimated variety. Unfortunately frosts have regularly interfered with the progress of this work.

O. P. V. Ensilage.

Recognizing the uncertainty of the

corn crop for ensilage purposes, we grew last year on the College Farm some five acres of peas, oats, and vetches, which was cut and put into the silo. This crop yielded at the rate of about 11 tons per acre and contained when put into the silo 23.2% dry matter, in comparison with 13% of dry matter in an adjoining field of corn which yielded at the rate of about eight tons per acre. The labor expended upon this crop was less than half that spent on the corn and the ensilage produced is being fed most satisfactorily. At the present time we are of the opinion that this crop will prove a most valuable, possibly the most valuable, ensilage crop which can be grown in the Eastern and Northern parts of the province of Nova Scotia.

The complete analysis of the ensilage from oats, peas and vetch and from the corn is given below:

O. P. V. Silage Corn Silage			
Water	71.85	80.00	
Protein	2.31	2.37	
Carbohydrate	23.42	15.33	
Fat	0.35	.88	
Ash	1.59	1.42	
	100.00	100.00	

It will be seen from this analysis that the oat, peas and vetch silage contains 26.56% of total nutrients while the corn silage contains only 18.55%. The yield of dry matter per acre was 6,193 lbs. on the oats, peas and vetch and 2,990 in corn silage. It is true that this was a poor corn year, but it shows the condition in this section about three years out of four.

The protein in the oats, and peas is not any higher than in the corn, which is surprising at the first glance. It will be noted, however, that the corn was very green and evidently contained more nitrogen than would be the case for mature corn. This would be partly amide nitrogen and not as valuable as that in the mature crop. The protein in mature corn silage is about 1.4. It would seem, therefore, that the oats and peas are more valuable for this section than corn.

The results of three years trials with O. P. V. and corn, 1914-16, have given us an average yield of nine tons of corn and 10 tons of O. P. V. per acre, with about eight per cent. more dry matter in the O. P. V.

The O. P. V. cures perfectly in the silo and the corn cut as it readily as they do the corn.

The O. P. V. is sown on grass land (clover and timothy seed) plowed in the fall. The seed is put in as early as the land can be worked—two bushels of oats, three-quarters of a bushel of Golden Vine field peas, and one-third bushel of common vetch. This is cut when the oats are just beginning to enter the dough stage, before much yellow shows in the straw. If left too late it will not pack well in the silo and will mould. We cut it with a mowing machine, pick it up as cut from the swath with forks, and haul it directly to the silo, where it is run through the cutter.

## Our Experience with Grimm

(Continued from page 6.)

alfalfa. As far as we can judge our Canadian winters and springs have no effect on it whatever. This is more than we can say for the variegated alfalfa, though it, too, is hardy.

The yield of the Grimm has been equally satisfying. When ready to cut (but we allowed ours to go to seed) one would not know that it was planted in rows, so dense was the growth. It stood against high all over the field; a better showing than we have ever had with any other variety of alfalfa. The cost of seed is still high, but if a stand will last for even six years, the cost of seed per year is trifling; cheaper than

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