

lots of apples exposed for sale in the average shop window of Ontario towns, will not wonder that people turn to bananas and oranges so attractively displayed. It is no secret that those in the orange business are pushing their trade from the far distant south with renewed energy and skill; but, after all, it is the apple that our people really prize for dessert and cooking purposes—the Spy, the Blenheim, the Fameuse, the Gravenstein, the Duchess, and many others that might be named, and they will pay the price for well-grown, sound and well-flavored fruit, as the soaring quotations of the past winter and spring would indicate.

Strawberry and other small fruit prospects in Essex are also good, and there is a large acreage of tomatoes, early cabbage, onions, etc., already growing in the open air, while melons are being developed under cold frames. Stimulated by the promise of a strong demand this year, there is likely to be an unusually large acreage under tobacco, but the long spell of cold, wet weather delayed the production of plants. Planting of corn, the great field crop of this county, began in earnest last week.

### Southern Ontario Apples Again.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In your March 25th issue I noticed an article on apple-growing in Southern Ontario. Now, I don't care for what the writer himself says about the keeping quality of our apples, as I don't think he has any knowledge of the superiority of the fruit that can be grown here with the proper care and management of orchards. What I object to is that you, as the editor of "The Farmer's Advocate," seem to endorse what he says. You claim to be a practical man—if you are, and have been brought up in this Southern Ontario, can you, with a clear conscience, still claim that our winter varieties will not keep? Haven't you seen and eaten enough apples in April and May to know that they will keep under ordinary storage conditions? If you have not, you had better wake up, and see what is being done by growers who give proper care and attention to their orchards.

In your April 29th issue you have an article by Chief Alex. McNeill, stating that we can't grow winter varieties. What has he against the fruit-growers of Norfolk County that he publishes such a gross libel against them? I agree with him, that we can grow fall apples to perfection—we can grow them, and know it. We can also grow Spies, Kings, Baldwins, and other varieties of winter apples to perfection, and know it, but he doesn't seem to realize the fact. Now, when he states that our winter varieties will not keep

much past the New Year, he is either densely ignorant of the truth, or he has a wilful desire to do the growers of Norfolk County a grievous harm. When he states that our winter apples will not keep, he is making a laughing-stock of himself to the intelligent growers of apples all along the lake counties. We have no trouble in selling our winter apples for good prices. If our apples will not keep, and go bad on the buyers' hands, Mr. Editor, why is it that the latter come here, and buy every fall, and pay good prices? Why is it that the men we sold to last year are already asking us to put a price on our 1909 crop? Is it because our apples go bad on their hands, and they lose a lot of money every year for fun, or is it because they know where to get good stock, and are willing to pay the price for it? Last year our association put a card in the bottom of every barrel packed, soliciting a reply from the user of the fruit, and not one reply has been received but what is a good testimonial to the quality of apples packed. Our secretary is still getting replies from all over the Northwest, and every one is a tribute to the keeping quality of Norfolk apples. I hope you will carefully read such letters as Mr. McNeill's, before you endorse and publish them.

Norfolk Co., Ont.

G. P. SCHUYLER.

[Note.—If our correspondent can refer us to page and date of issue of "The Farmer's Advocate" in which we endorsed anything that disparages the keeping quality of Norfolk County or Southern Ontario apples, we will be surprised. Occasionally we have commented on points mentioned, directing the attention of our readers to certain phases, but never in such way as to insinuate that winter apples grown in Southern Ontario will not keep. If he will read our editorial, on page 281, February 28th issue, he will see that the matter was simply opened for discussion, with the object of assisting our readers to make a proper selection of varieties for planting, and to ventilate the whole subject fairly. To our knowledge, we have not endorsed what Mr. McNeill or others have written.—Editor.]

### Insects and Fungi.

Insects and fungous pests affecting vegetables are dealt with in Bulletin 171, recently issued by the Ontario Department of Agriculture. The insect group is taken up by C. J. S. Bethune, Professor of Entomology, while J. W. Eastham and J. Eaton Howitt, lecturer in botany, discuss the fungous diseases. Drawings are given to show the insects and fungi in the various stages through which they pass, and the damage done to crops attacked. In addition to full descriptions of the pests, approved remedies are mentioned.

### Cover-crop Experiments.

A recent drive over the grounds of the Horticultural Experiment Station, at Jordan Harbor, Ont., afforded opportunity for an interesting observation of cover-crop tests. A considerable number of cover crops of various kinds had been sown last summer, in July, one series being on light and one on heavy soil. On May 24th last the only three which stood thick, green and vigorous-looking were alfalfa, rye and hairy vetch, all of which showed good growth. Rape had made a fair growth. Millet also grew well last fall, and served to hold the snow during winter, but died down, leaving no sign of life in spring. Taking everything into consideration, alfalfa and hairy vetch appeared to be the most promising cover crops. Both are nitrogen-gatherers, in which respect they have a pronounced advantage over rye. Hairy vetch seed and alfalfa seed are expensive, but the difference between the cost of it and of rye would be much more than compensated by the nitrogen added to the soil, and the fine, mellow condition in which these crops leave the land when turned under. In the ordinary course of operations, all these cover crops should have been plowed under before the date of our visit, but the continuous wet weather had delayed work on the land. Considerable grading, and some ornamental planting had been accomplished in the foreground of the farm, which is beginning to take on quite an attractive appearance.

## THE FARM BULLETIN.

### Late Seeding.

The bulk of the seeding will be completed this week (ending May 29th), except on a few heavy-land farms, where the work will go on into June. Last week, some farmers had finished (very few), and others had not started. It has been a repetition of last spring, and much land has been sown in very bad condition. I hear some farmers sowed the grain by hand, and gave a stroke with the harrow. Should we get a prolonged dry spell early in the summer, I fear many crops will be very light. Hay and pasture will be extra good. There will be a large acreage of buckwheat sown. Fall wheat is very good. Small fruits promise well. Orchards full of blossom.

Wellington Co., Ont.

A. HUTCHINSON.

## Federal Legislation Touching Agriculture.

Very little legislation affecting agriculture was enacted during the session of the Dominion Parliament just closed. No new measures were introduced by the Minister of Agriculture, although a small number of amendments to established measures received the sanction of the lawmakers of Canada. A slight change was made in the Act governing the bonusing of cold-storage plants. In its original form the Act provided only for the bonusing of warehouses having accommodation for the cold storing of all kinds of food products. The Act, in its amended form, allows the bonusing of warehouses adapted for any food product. This change, it is expected, will encourage the building of warehouses for the purpose of storing apples.

The alteration of a few words in the Diseases of Animals Act amounts simply to a correction of the Act in regard to the proportion of valuation that may be paid in compensation for pure-bred animals destroyed because of contagious diseases. In the drafting of the bill an error was made in stating that in the case of pure-bred animals the compensation would be three hundred dollars for each horse, one hundred and fifty dollars for each head of cattle, and fifty dollars for each sheep or pig destroyed. The intention was that the valuation should not exceed these sums, and the amendment makes this clear. The compensation made is two-thirds of the valuation, whether the slaughtered animal be grade or pure-bred.

Bills to regulate the manufacture and sale of commercial feeding stuffs and fertilizers were passed by the Houses of Parliament. The two bills are practically the same in principle, inasmuch as products of neither may be sold without bearing a registered number, provided by the Minister of Inland Revenue for a fee of two dollars. The bill provides against alteration of the composition of the material registered by demanding notification of changes in the formula, when a new number will be issued. In the case of either class of product an annual license costing five dollars has to be procured for each brand sold. The right is secured to duly appointed inspectors to collect samples of foods and fertilizers for examination and analysis. Severe penalties are

provided for fraud by adulteration, substitution, or other failures to comply with the Acts.

Commercial feeding stuffs governed by the Act include articles offered for sale for feeding domestic animals, and feeds claimed to possess medicinal as well as nutritive properties, excepting only coarse fodders, roots, and whole seeds or unmixed meals made directly from the entire grains of cereals, buckwheat, bran or middlings not mixed with other substances. Commercial fertilizers affected include every natural or artificial manure containing phosphoric acid, potash and nitrogen, except ordinary stable manure.

A measure of great importance to the rural population is the amendment of the Railway Act, under which, by the joint action of the Federal Government, Provincial and municipal authorities, together with the railway companies, level railway crossings are to be gradually removed, and a constant menace to life and property thereby effectually done away with. As a provision towards this end the sum of \$200,000 each year, for five consecutive years, from April 1st this year, is to be taken from the Consolidated Revenue Fund to aid in providing safe or protected crossings. It is provided that not more than twenty per cent. of the cost of such provision shall be met from this fund, and that in no case shall the Federal appropriation thus provided exceed for one crossing \$5,000, and that no such money shall in any one year be applied to more than three crossings in any one municipality, or more than once to any one crossing. Provision is made for Provincial contributions to this fund, whereby it is hoped that safe crossing will be hastened.

The appropriations for carrying on the work of the Department of Agriculture are practically the same as last year. The items are smaller, but this is accounted for by the fact that a large number of the employees have during the past year been transferred from the outside to the inside service, and now receive their salaries from the civil vote rather than from appropriation for agriculture.

For the work of the established experimental farms \$98,000 was voted, and in addition \$30,000

was voted towards the establishment and maintenance of additional branch stations. Already arrangements are being made to locate these, one in British Columbia and another in Prince Edward Island.

For the dairy, fruit and cold-storage branch, \$90,000 was voted. This is for the regular work. An additional \$7,000 was voted to carry on experiments in the cold storage of fruit. It is probable that the work will be done in some of the large commercial storages throughout the country. As a provision for the bonusing of cold-storage warehouses, that may be put into operation for fruit, according to the requirements of the Cold-storage Act, the amendment already referred to was necessary.

No change of policy or expansion of work is provided for by the Seed Branch. The vote for carrying on the work is \$49,000. Two thousand dollars of this is set apart to secure the observance of the Seed Control Act, this item being apart from the expenses of seed inspection. The number of violations under the Act during the past season would indicate that fully this amount will be required for the purpose stated. In the opinion of vegetable-growers an amendment to the Act is required. A strong deputation waited upon the Minister and urged that it be made illegal to sell garden seeds of any kind that fall below 75 per cent. of the standard of good quality for the kind, and that the non-warranty clause used by seed vendors be done away with, so far as seed merchants can be reasonably expected to assume responsibility. It is probable that the requests of the deputation will influence the first amendment that is made to the Act, and that in addition Grades Nos. 1, 2, 3 and Rejected will be provided for in the seeds of each of timothy, red clover, alsike and alfalfa, which grades will be based primarily on the purity of the seed. As a result of the agitation of vegetable-growers, upwards of one thousand samples of field root and garden seeds have been procured from the retail trade over Canada, and their quality is being investigated.

The vote for carrying on the work of the Live-stock Branch amounts to \$52,000. It is probable