

### Bees in Manitoba.

The wholesale slaughter of drones on September 2nd announced the close of another season's activities in the apiary. All that remained, then, was to remove surplus combs and extract the honey from them, feed up to the necessary quantity and leave the bees snug to await the coming of winter. After such a spring as the last it was not to be expected that this would prove a successful season; still, it has not turned out quite as bad as its beginning seemed to indicate. The bad effects of the cold and backward spring are very apparent in the almost total absence of increase in colonies. Very few of our hives were in a condition to swarm at the proper season, and so swarming was rigidly suppressed, except in a very few cases, and the energies of the little workers directed towards the gathering of honey by a frequent use of the extractor.

My experience with two hives this summer may assist others in similar seasons, so I will give it. It will certainly be worth something to myself in the future. Having seen feeding in spring recommended as a stimulant to brood-rearing, I selected these two hives and on such days as the bees could not go out I fed about a cupful of syrup in the back of each hive. The result was remarkable. They came along so well that I conceived the idea of making them break the record for honey yields. With this object in view, I had by July 15th extracted 80 pounds of honey from them. This is about the date on which we usually begin to extract. On July 17th one hive swarmed, and the next day I divided the other, taking precautions, which in both cases proved successful, to prevent after-swarming. To Eastern beekeepers, swarming at such a late date would write those hives down as no good. But in spite of the fact that right in thistle bloom there were very few days on which the bees could work, these hives, with their swarms, have a credit for the season of 266 pounds of first-class honey; that is, 133 pounds per hive, spring count. Of course, it was impossible to break the record when rainy and windy weather was so prevalent during the time of thistle bloom, but the fact that the average yield from all the hives was only 60 pounds, spring count, makes apparent the value of a little judicious feeding in spring. Some men of experience even advocate treating the bees in this way at any time there may happen to be a scarcity of nectar or the weather will not permit them to work. A stop in the flow of honey always means a check to brood-rearing and consequent inability to gather and store the nectar when the opportunity does offer. It is to be regretted that there was so much unfavorable weather throughout the season, as the honey flow seems to have been unusually profuse. Whenever a day was right for them the bees simply rolled it in.

A little observation during this past summer would have been good for people who are inclined to be skeptical as to large yields of honey in this Province. Towards the end of June white clover began to bloom, and has not quite let up yet. The same is true of yellow clover (*Medicago lupulinus*). About July 25 Canadian thistles began to bloom, and continued for nearly a month. Gum-weed began a couple of weeks later than the thistle, and a few are still in bloom. Then along with these staples were two species of symphoricarpos (*Occidentalis* and *racemosa*), besides golden-rods and asters and other plants too numerous to mention, leaving not a day during the season that did not have its profusion of honey-bearing bloom. To-day, September 19th, the bees are luxuriating on French-weed. Out of the strong comes forth sweetness, to-day just as truly as it did in the time of Samson (!).

Red River Valley. J. J. GUNN.

### A Scarcity in Hay.

In our September issue, high prices for some time to come were foreshadowed for hay and other stock foods, owing to the drought in many localities and enhanced values for farm stock generally. Already we notice on a good many local markets that hay is selling higher than last season. According to an American contemporary, this condition is very much more marked through that great agricultural district known as the Middle West. "The more one travels," says the writer, "the more one is impressed with the scarcity of the hay supply. Even in the richest farming districts of Illinois no one has hay enough, and some of the largest farms have only raised a sufficiency to last their stock until Christmas. This, too, on farms that as a general thing have hay to sell. When hay is as scarce as this on farms that usually have a large surplus to dispose of, it means that before many months have passed prices for this indispensable article must reach a famine level. In England, the almost unprecedented drought in the hay-growing months cut the British crop to a very material extent, and there will before spring be an excellent demand in Liverpool, Glasgow, and London for American baled hay. No where does there seem to be much of a surplus—the entire world is short this year on the hay crop. It would therefore seem that those who have hay to buy for the coming winter's consumption would best contract for it without delay."

### Fall Fairs.

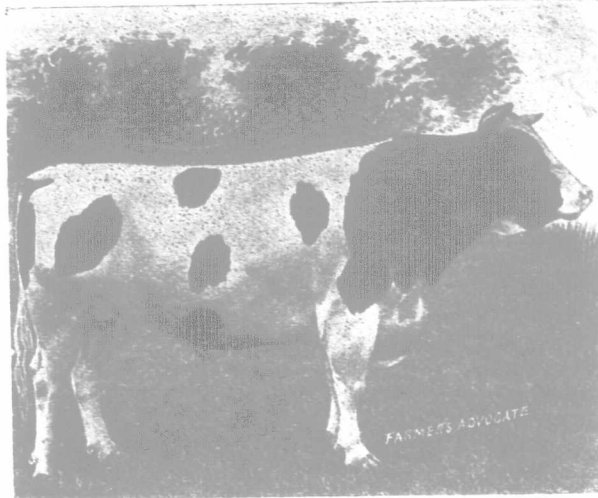
Wolseley, Assa	Oct. 10
Crystal City	10 and 11
Gainsboro	11
Belmont	12
McGregor	12

### Beekeeping.

Elsewhere in this issue we publish the first of a valuable series of articles on beekeeping, by Mr. Morley Pettit, son of Mr. S. T. Pettit, of apiary fame, whose right-hand man he has been for some years. By practical experience and research on a farm where the industry has been carried on most successfully, he is thoroughly up-to-date, and, withal, original in his methods, and readers engaged in or contemplating keeping bees, will, we feel sure, find his articles helpful. Rightly conducted in favorable seasons—because it is greatly dependent on natural conditions affecting bloom, etc.—the production of honey is a most interesting as well as a remunerative branch of agriculture. Skill and expert knowledge are essential to success, and it tends to a closeness of observation and care in manipulation, that afford a specially valuable training to those undertaking it. Mr. Pettit's first article deals with "Uniting Weak Colonies," and from issue to issue he will take up others of a seasonable character, so that in due course he will have fairly well covered the whole subject. We commend them to the careful study of our readers.

### Revival of the Sheep Industry.

Not for many years have so large a number of sheep of the different breeds been imported to Canada as have been brought out this summer. This may safely be regarded as an indication of the existence of an active demand for this class of stock. Indeed, it is well known by those in touch with the business that so heavy have been the drafts upon Canadian pure-bred flocks in the last two or three years that they have been reduced in numbers to a lower point than has been touched in the last thirty years; and the importation of fresh blood on a larger scale than usual has been felt to be a necessity if we would maintain the standard of our stock and hold the markets which the high-class character of our sheep has won for us. It is gratifying to know that so many Canadian breeders have the courage and the enterprise to assume the risk of importing on so large a scale; and we



HOLSTEIN BULL, COUNT MINK MERCEDES 221.  
Won first and sweepstakes three successive years.  
Headed first-prize herd two successive years at  
Toronto, London, and Ottawa.

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are glad to learn that commendable care has been exercised in the selections made for importation this year, and that a larger proportion of high-class stock than usual has been brought over. The magnificent display of sheep of all the principal breeds at the leading exhibitions in Canada amply demonstrates that we have a country admirably adapted to the production of this class of stock in the highest degree of perfection, and that we have practical shepherds not a few who are well qualified by training and experience to bring them out in the pink of condition and in robust health and vigor. The splendid record made by our flockmasters in winning honors at the great international exhibitions in which they have competed, notably at the Columbian in 1893, with Canadian bred and fitted sheep in their own hands, and those of others to whom they had sold, furnishes abundant evidence of the high class character of our sheep, the undoubted skill of our shepherds, and the suitability of our climate, our soil, and our stock foods for the growth and development of sheep and the production of mutton and wool of the very best quality.

In view of these facts, it is unaccountable that so few sheep, comparatively, are found on Canadian farms, that by a very large proportion of our farmers they are entirely neglected, and that the aggregate number of sheep in the Dominion has been steadily decreasing for the last fifteen years. We are confident this fact is not due to any general disability affecting the industry. We believe it is absolutely safe to say that in no other country are sheep liable to so few diseases or disadvantages of any kind. The climate is as near an ideal one for the successful raising of this class of stock as can be found anywhere in the world. All the principal mutton breeds do well with us. There is no class of farm stock the raising and care of which requires so little labor or expense as this inoffensive and unpretentious money-maker. Sheep will live

in summer largely upon pickings in the lanes and by-places of the farm, and will eat many of the weeds which infest the pastures, and thus help to clean the farm and keep it clean. No stock is so little affected by protracted drouths—they prefer a short nibble, and thrive better in a dry season than in a wet one when feed is over-flush. The fleece of wool—a volunteer crop, which never fails—which no other farm stock yields, and which is perennial during the life of the animal, amply pays for its winter's keep even when liberally fed, and anywhere from fifty to one hundred per cent. of an annual increase from the ewes may reasonably be expected, and with a little care and good management, may be realized. We doubt if any other investment in farming will pay as liberal dividends as those semi-annually declared by a well-bred and well-cared-for flock of sheep. There is generally a good steady demand for mutton sheep or lambs in the meat market at all seasons of the year, at good paying prices, considering the cost of production; while the demand for breeding stock for improving and replenishing the flocks on the farms and in the range territories of Canada and the United States is such as to make it decidedly profitable to cater to that trade, and Canadian farmers are peculiarly well situated for taking advantage of the increasing trade in this line which is bound to come our way. Many United States flockmasters look to Canada for rams for the improvement of their flocks, knowing from experience that sheep bred and raised in our climatic conditions possess the requisite stamina and quality to improve the stock they are brought into contact with, and they will continue to come here for fresh blood. The Americans are fast becoming a mutton-eating people, and it is hard to understand why the same cannot be said of our own people, for there is certainly no more wholesome meat that can be placed upon our tables. Lamb is rapidly growing in favor as an article of diet, and brings highly remunerative prices, considering its cost of production, and gives quick returns to the producer; and we may look for a steady increase in this trade, in sympathy with the prevailing preference for young meat in all lines.

While it is true that the quality of our best breeding flocks has been well maintained, thanks to the skill and pluck of the breeders of pure-bred flocks, who have nobly held the fort through times of depression without adventitious aid from outside sources, while kindred industries have been boomed by Government agencies and aided by special favors at the public expense, yet it is also true, as we have intimated, that sheep are being neglected by a very large proportion of our farmers, we believe to their own direct loss. There are few farms in the Dominion on which a small flock could not be profitably maintained. The expense of starting a flock on a small scale is very moderate, and may soon be repaid by the sale of surplus stock, while by retaining the best of the young females and purchasing, at intervals of two years, a new ram, which may often be sold at the end of his term of service for nearly if not quite the original cost, a flock can in a very few years be built up and maintained to the profit and satisfaction of the owner. We know many farmers who find their little flock of good grade sheep the most profitable asset on their farms; and from our extended experience and observation, we feel safe in counselling the keeping of more sheep by the farmers of Canada, believing, as we do, that this is a field in which our people can continue to excel. The best season in all the year to buy sheep for a foundation flock, or to replenish, is in the early autumn, when the lambs have been weaned and the ewes are generally in good condition. If deferred to a later period, breeders will, as a rule, have sold what they intended to dispose of, and have reduced their flocks to the number they aim to keep through the winter, and will then only sell for tempting prices, if they consent to sell at all. Those who buy early generally get the best selections. The sheep pens at the fairs this fall will be of more than ordinary interest, as the indications are that the number and quality of exhibits will exceed that of any year in the past, and we anticipate an unusual amount of business in that department both at the exhibitions and afterwards.

The Ogilvie Milling Co. are going to erect large elevators and a grist mill at Fort William. Another sign of the growth of the West.

### The New Brunswick Provincial Exhibition.

The great annual Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition of New Brunswick was held in the City of St. John, September 11th to 20th. The weather was ideal throughout, the attendance in advance of any former year, and the entries more numerous than in any year in the history of the Association. The live stock exhibits have increased in number and improved in quality every year, and the representatives of the dairy breeds of cattle shown here compare very favorably with those at the leading shows in any of the Western Provinces. The beef breeds are fast gaining ground also, and there were a number of high-class animals shown in most of the classes. The beef breeds were judged by Mr. Arthur Johnston, Greenwood, and the dairy breeds, sheep and swine by Mr. J. C. Snell, London.