

critics how much money I wasted on the foundation stock.

We need something in the country to encourage farmers to "grade up" their stock. We need more fairs and exhibitions in our small towns. This I think is a great help to farmers, especially to farmers' sons who are beginning to take some interest in the stock, etc. It is to be hoped our local Government will give us the grants which they saw fit to cancel last year. This matter should be brought to the attention of our Government through the medium of our Farmers' Institutes, and the Government should be urged to continue the grants this fall as in past years. Now, when the prospects are bright, everything possible should be done to encourage farmers to "grade up" their beef herds.

Prince Co., P. E. I.

L. P.

THE FARM.

Superior Types of Rural Schools.

Continued from page 1093.

agencies which receive credit for twenty points, include corn club, pig club, garden club, cooking club, sewing club school fair, victrola or similar instrument, promotion exercises, field meet, debating society, rural community club or school improvement club, hot lunches, supervised play, playground equipment. A standard school must secure 100 points out of a possible 125, and a school reaching 115 points will be placed among the schools of "Merit."

It would be an excellent thing if all our Provincial Departments of Education would adopt a score card for marking the efficiency of our rural schools and have various points thoroughly understood by school trustees, parents and tax payers. They would then know whether their school was really as efficient as they believed it to be, and if it could be improved in some particular of which they were at present ignorant.

But after all, these "Standard" and "Superior" schools are dependent for their success upon a live teacher with gifts for leadership and with a rural spirit. The present difficulty in rural school work is the problem of retaining efficient teachers in a one-roomed school. This will always be a difficulty, but where consolidation has been adopted and where teachers' residences have

through the clubs, ordered sparingly as they didn't want to be loaded up with high-priced seed to carry over for another year. Many of the dealers tried in vain to find out what farmers would need but the farmers refused to tell them, so when seeding time came on there was a rush for red clover, and the demand was found to be away beyond the supply. This created a greater demand for alfalfa, alsike and sweet clover. Prices commenced to advance on them and they were soon brought up so that, of the small bulk seeds, timothy was the only seed of which there seemed to be enough to go round. From such circumstances it would appear good policy to buy early and avoid the rush.

Another drawback growing out of a scarcity of any one seed when prices go soaring is to use more of the lower grades of seed. Consequently, it was observed that more number two and three grades were in evidence than usual and, as one might well expect, there were some line samples in these grades put out which would be too close to the limit in both appearance and weed seed content. This again led to some questionable devices in handling those kinds of seed which require to be graded both by wholesalers and retailers. For instance, a local dealer was misled to label a certain standard timothy, which grades No. 2 in appearance but No. 1 in purity, put up by a large Chicago firm, as No. 1 seed. The seed was bought from a jobber in seed from Montreal, a wholesale grocer, who said he sent out the seed just as it came to him. The misdeed was a violation of Section 7 of the Seed Control Act, which says that other designation marks than those required must not overshadow them. In the case referred to, No. 1 for purity was printed with darker material and was more conspicuous than Grade No. 2. Consequently the local dealer had placarded his pail sample of seed as No. 1. When his attention was called to it he saw his mistake and remedied it. This was different from another case where on two bags of alsike the figure No. 2 had been deliberately changed to look like No. 1. Some dealers who had one and two grades of seed would have the bags which graded No. 1 placed so that it was quite conspicuous, while the No. 2 grade had its markings to the wall. Again, cases were noticed where sample bottles or cans with seeds in them for advertising would have grade No. 1 on what graded No. 1, but the other lots which graded lower had no designation on them other than the kind of seed. Apparently the object in both these cases was that pro-

of good alsike seed. The wet weather means too much growth for seed. The soil may be too wet to pasture off the rank growth. Clipping this rank growth may be practicable. However, as one extreme follows another, and last year was an excellent one for alsike seed production, this may be reversed this season. However, it may be a fine season for the production of red clover seed, as the crop last season wasn't very heavy nor of the best quality. At any rate, the markets are so bare of seeds that every effort should be taken to produce these seeds in quantity. Present conditions point to an excellent growth of grass and hay, consequently a good second growth of red clover is looked for. There are many parts of Ontario where excellent clover seed could be produced some seasons, but little or no attention is paid to it. It is high time to correct such mistakes. The hope is expressed that this year, at least, this may be done.

Seed Branch, Ottawa.

T. G. RAYNOR.

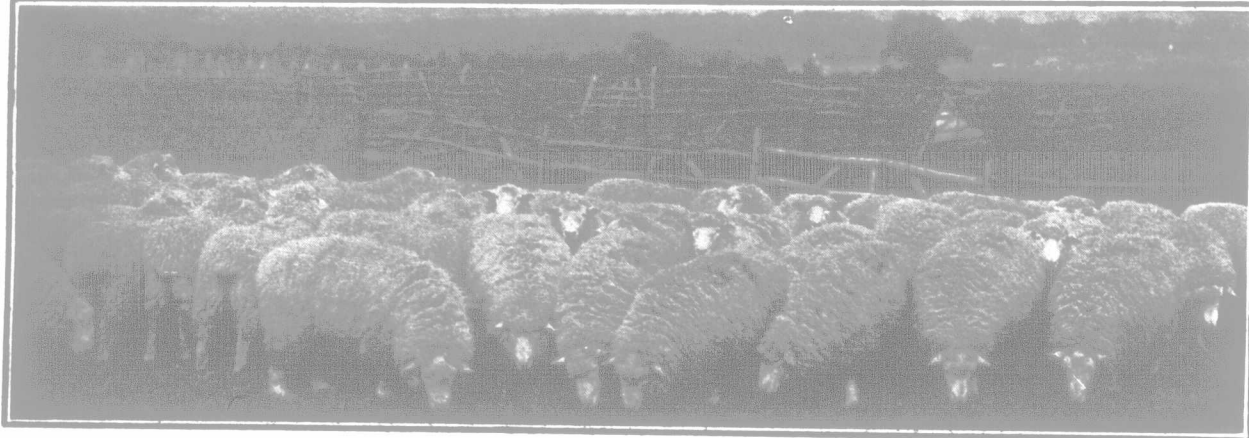
Making Sweet Clover Hay.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

As it is nearing the time for sweet clover haying, I feel I should give my experience along that line. Last season we started the mower on June 14—none too early for here—and cut 30 acres as fast as we could. As soon as the first field was well dried in the swath, which took three days, we raked it in light windrows early in the day as soon as the dew was off, but we did not allow it to become so dry and crisp but what all the leaves remained on. Using the hay loader, we put it in quickly and kept it well distributed through the barns, not tramping it any more than could be helped. This hay came through in perfect condition, and was relished by all the stock. In thirteen cuttings of alfalfa we never had better hay than this crop of sweet clover. It is the best rough feed for milch cows we have ever had. We have two 12 by 35-foot (or twin) cement silos, one of which containing last season's corn is not touched and will supply next winter's feed of silage. Thanks to the sweet clover hay for this saving, we will have no corn to hoe this summer. We have 25 acres of sweet clover looking fine for this coming crop. In the year 1916 we had 20 acres of this clover, very heavy, and which got rather coarse before it was cut, near July 1. We raked this up in light windrows with a side-delivery rake, in the forenoon of the second day; in the afternoon we turned it over with the same rake, throwing two rows together and coiled it up. We let it stand three days, with no rain, then hauled it in and mowed it in deep. It kept perfectly and made grand feed. It is better run through a cutting-box when coarse as that was. In 1917 we cut the crop about the middle of June and handled it the same as in 1916, but the rain came every day after it was coiled, soaking it to the ground, and considerable of it molded. The same year the red clover around here, which was cut early to obtain a crop of seed, met the same fate. Corn is called king, but sweet clover is a strong rival. It is better feed, more cheaply handled, enriches the soil, and grows well where corn will do nothing.

York Co., Ontario.

W. J. LEGG.



A Flock of Romneys in Their Native Land.

been built, this difficulty has been very much lessened and almost removed.

If a country community cannot obtain a consolidated school which is the ideal, it should certainly strive for a school with a status of a standard and superior school. The requirements in each case to be laid down by the Provincial Department. The old red school house with no standards should cease to be the source of education for our young Canadians in rural districts.

Problems of the Seed Trade.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Now that the season for handling farm seeds is practically over, some observations may be in order as to how the trade was carried on during the season, and what lessons one may learn from the year's experience. The season has been a peculiar one in many respects, and there have been a number of surprises both for buyers and sellers. The bulk of the seed went out this year in a wonderfully short time, and a good deal of it was shipped by express to meet the rush orders for clover and grass seed. While the warning went out last summer that the supply of red clover seed was bound to be short, there were many farmers who did not take the matter seriously, and who might have saved a lot more of the second-growth clover for seed than they did. However, a good deal was saved, but it was sold last autumn for very moderate prices compared with what has prevailed for seed this spring. Many farmers who didn't grow any seed, but who usually buy, had the impression that there would be plenty of seed from some source and postponed buying until they were assured as to how the new seeding would come through, and after that they thought that prices couldn't possibly stay so high so they waited until the last minute, so to speak, before they bought their stock, which this season proved too late for many. The farmers' clubs, too, figured most conspicuously this year and added a lot of uncertainty to the retail trade. The local seed merchants, not knowing just how much would be needed outside what was being supplied

spective purchasers could draw the inference that all the seed handled by such dealers was No. 1. Still another case was where "choice" was used with No. 2 grades. All such acts might very well be considered as violations of Section 8 of the Seed Control Act, but which might be hard to prove to the satisfaction of a magistrate if tried out in the court. One dealer this year, who was fined the maximum amount for violating the seed law and whose co-operation it has been very hard to secure, as this was his fourth or fifth offence where he has been before the court, to say nothing about some cases which may have been overlooked on previous occasions, was found to have rejected seed of red clover in a wholesale seed firm's sack and marked No. 2. There might be some difficulty in satisfying the court that this was the same seed as was shipped in this bag, if it should go to court.

What lessons may the purchasers of seeds learn from these acts? Not by any means that all dealers have done these things, but there has been a tendency on the part of too many to err in this direction. Dealers are often found who think, to judge from their remarks, that they are handling a better grade of seeds than they really have, for when asked what grades they are handling they say No. 1 grade, or No. 1 and 2 grades. Often the bags and invoices show nothing above No. 2 grades. Consequently no purchaser of seeds should take everything for granted, but they should investigate for themselves and see how the bags are marked, etc. If any suspicion arises they should notify the Seed Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, that an inspector's services were wanted to examine the seed, or they should take an official sample themselves and send it to the Department to be reported upon. If any test number is on the package that should be mentioned on the form of complaint. Seed grain of all kinds has been plentiful in Eastern Canada and of good quality. Seed corn, too, has been plentiful and of excellent quality for the most part. From all present indications it would be wise for farmers who may have suitable clover fields for seed to keep them for that purpose this year, in order to have enough seed to go around another season. So far the season doesn't look favorable for a crop

Price Control in Agriculture.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Not long ago I saw in one of our dailies a very good cartoon in which "Food" and "Wages" were standing on a high scaffold with a ladder leading therefrom. Each of these worthies was pointing to the ladder and urging the other to "go down first." Food, wages, transportation and manufacture seem so inextricably interwoven in their welfare and existence that it is difficult to say what the future holds out in the way of profits and prices. Primarily the production and price of food governs or is used as an excuse to govern the rise and fall of wages, transportation tariffs, price of manufactured goods, etc. During the last three years the buying power of a dollar bill in food alone has dropped very materially. The wage earner wants to live as well as he did three years ago, so he says to his employer, "I must have more dollars to buy food and clothes." And he backs up his demand with a union strike. To keep things going, the employer adds a percentage to the freight tariff or the cost of the manufactured article as the case may be.

Now if the farmer were as favorably placed as the working man and the so-called "Big Interests," when these put up their prices he would say, "The commodities I cannot raise and have to use in my work and life, the cost of getting my stuff on the market, my men's wages have all risen in price; I must have more for my produce or go out of the business. I will combine with my brother farmers and hold my produce until the consumer gives me enough for my goods to give me a living profit." Then the other interests would take another hitch up, and who knows where the thing would stop?

But Providence has ordained that farmers shall only by unremitting toil and strict economy make enough to keep soul and body together by selling as fast as they produce. The fact that they furnish a product more or less perishable also robs them of any independence they might otherwise obtain through union. So that in the last analysis it is food or rather the helplessness of the farmer that keeps prices down, and not the agency which causes them to soar. They have to sell as soon as they produce and take what a grudging trade will give them, in prices based, not on value or

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