

bears out the result of tests conducted in our seed laboratory with fresh seeds of cucurbits, radish and other cruciferous seeds and such kinds as are known to have a relatively hard seed coat, as clover seeds and others. Samples of red clover and alsike seeds that are sent in for test in the fall of the year, directly after they are harvested, are expected as a rule to give a low percentage of germination and a high percentage of seeds that remain sound and hard. Ordinary storage for a period of six months apparently breaks down the natural condition of the seedcoat of clover seeds which renders them difficultly pervious to water. One sample of red clover seed, produced in the province of Manitoba, when submitted to the usual germination test, showed only 17% of growth during the first month and less than 50% at the end of three months. From the original sample 50 grains were taken and artificially clipped (without injuring the embryo,) in order to secure the admission of water. From these 50 seeds made pervious to water by artificial means, 50 plants were promptly produced, when submitted to the ordinary methods of germination.

The question of how this difficulty may be overcome with commercial seeds has apparently occupied the attention of expert seedsmen and brewers. It is well known that these freshly ripened seeds are entirely satisfactory in respect to their germination after they have had a rest period of six months or a year. Radish seeds, for instance, are known to be more satisfactory, from the seedsman's standpoint, when they are fully one year old. It is known that some skilled seedsmen are able, within a few hours, by treating their supplies of cruciferous seeds (and other seeds which, when fresh, show delayed germination) to secure as satisfactory results as by keeping them over in storage for a year; and it is believed to be a quite common practice on the part of some seedsmen to kiln dry their fresh stocks of such seeds for a few hours, at a temperature that is not dangerous to their vitality. That is done also by brewers with some lots of barley of mixed varieties, for the purpose of reducing the barley to a uniform rapidity of germination."

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L. H. N.

Mr. Norman Criddle, who has been in Ottawa for the last three months, left on the 5th August for his home at Aweme, Man. Mr. Criddle has been a member of the Club for many years, and during his stay he attended most of the spring excursions and did much to make them a success.