

evidence of any agricultural backing was painfully evident. The amendment of the Act is desired by feeders in Aberdeen, Fortar, and East Lothian, in Scotland, and Norfolk and part of York, in England, but outside of these localities the attitude of farmers is either actively hostile or sapine. They do not care a pin-point whether the Act be modified or not—only they know what they have, but they do not know what they might expect if the policy of 1896 were reversed. Two Canadian gentlemen addressed the meeting in London—Mr. Simpson from Moose Jaw, N.-W. T., and Mr. Greenwood, who, we suspect, is interested in the Canadian cattle trade. Mr. Simpson told the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Fellowes, that the present policy was enriching the shipping combines and buyers, while it was robbing the poor ranchers. He drew a harrowing picture of the condition of certain ranchers who tried to get a share of the profits, but were effectually shut out by those gentlemen who imagine all they have is sufficient justification for the methods by which it has been secured. Mr. Simpson's words were useful, affording first-hand evidence of the state of feeling among the N.-W. T. breeders on this question. The other gentleman who spoke was Mr. Greenwood. He was vehement, and denounced all those who did not take his view in somewhat severe terms. He would be quite an exceptional speaker, if he only knew a little about his subject. The upshot of the matter is that no steps will be taken by this Government to bring about a modification of the existing law. The agitation is to be maintained, a method of fighting being resorted to which might do big damage if the public could be got to believe that beef was really dearer than before 1896. Everyone knows that it is not so, and hence the certainty of the continuity of the British policy.

"SCOTLAND YET."

FARM.

Importance of Good Seed Corn.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Corn in this locality is practically all grown for husking purposes, very little for fodder alone. Last year in Ontario there was raised for husking 329,882 acres of corn, and for the silo 193,115 acres, and I think I would be safe in saying that Essex County raised at least one-quarter or maybe more of the corn grown for husking. Our land is mostly loam, with some spots of both clay and sand. We have, until the last year or two, always planted in hills about three feet eight inches apart each way, but some are now planting in drills, where the land is free from weeds. It takes a little more seed, but you get a little larger yield. In hills it requires about 12 to 15 pounds per acre, but in drills it takes 16 to 18 pounds.

Crows are one source of trouble that of late years have bothered us very little.

We prefer a clover sod, plowed in the spring. We then roll, disk harrow, and drag until we get a good seed-bed; then plant as soon after the 10th of May as possible. After it is planted the land is seldom touched until the young plants are three or four inches high, when we start the two-horse cultivator, such as Massey-Harris or Cockshutt, with which we work the land from three to four inches deep until corn gets too high. We then go through it once, at least, with a one-horse cultivator to keep down the late crop of weeds, and also to make the vegetable matter in the soil available for the plant.

We never hand-hoe corn to amount to anything, because where one man works from 15 to 25 acres there is little time for hoeing; but where it is well cultivated it does not need it so badly. I should say a man and team could earn at least \$5.00 a day cultivating corn, increase in yield considered.

There is still one of the most important points in raising corn, either for husking or fodder, that has not received sufficient attention, namely, the selection of good seed. The old maxim that "Like begets like," is just as true in this case as any other. We are paying more attention to the subject each year, and we have always had the advantage of the Eastern farmer in that we select or buy our seed on the ear and so see what we are planting, whereas the Eastern farmer buys his seed already shelled from a seedsman, who has probably sent away for so much white or yellow corn, and it is usually picked by the scoop-shovel plan; he gives it a name and sends it out, and very often it is some other kind altogether, or has been shipped from the South, where they have a longer season and it is not suitable for our climate. Therefore, I would strongly advise those who cannot grow their own seed to get some reliable corn-grower to send him hand-picked seed, shipped in the ear, from some locality as near his own as possible.

Essex Co., Ont.

CHAS. URE.

Clipping Alsike Clover.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

The writer is perfectly familiar with the methods adopted by the late Mr. Horace Henry, of Woodburn, who succeeded in producing large quantities of alsike seed for many years. In fact, Mr. J. Murray, seed merchant, of Cayuga, claimed to have secured from him the best sample of seed he ever handled.

His method was principally to pasture, which gave better satisfaction than clipping, providing the ground was sufficiently firm that the animals would not tramp the field to its injury. Cattle pasturing seemed to give better results than sheep, as they did not bite so closely. Clipping was resorted to when the timothy threatened to become a nuisance. In this manner the timothy was checked and made later, in consequence of which the seed was lighter, and much of it could be blown out in cleaning.

The pasturing should be done quickly (that is, by a large number of animals), else the knolls will be eaten off and the low ground, which requires treatment more than the former, will escape. Some seasons Mr. Henry pastured as late as June 10th, saving other pasturage and making abundance of beef, but one must watch the season, and be governed thereby. The object is to remove the first growth of leaves, which shade the ground and hinder the production of heads. These leaves injured, by any means, the result is more stooling out and more heads—the same as a slight frost or hail affects young plants of wheat or barley. The ground not being unduly shaded by superfluous foliage, the seed is plumper and of a better color—generally more bushels and less bulk to thresh.

If clipping is done, it should be before any signs of heading. It is the leaf which should be removed, and not the stalk.

The heads present not containing seed might be due to several causes. Lack of sun or moisture, or an overabundance of either, just when in blossom, has a damaging effect. Also, a good yield cannot be had when there is insufficient wind or bees, either of which distribute pollen, and without which the blossoms cannot become fertilized.

Mr. William McEvoy, of Woodburn, Inspector of Apiaries, is most emphatic in his belief that the honeybee is decidedly instrumental in increasing the yield of alsike. These two should go side by side, for each helps the other. I would be pleased if he would express his views on this subject through your valuable paper. It is a fact worthy of note that the fields nearest the apiaries are the most abundant alsike yielders.

Wentworth Co., Ont.

READER.

Growing Clover to Meet Requirements of New Seed Bill.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—To meet the requirements of the new seed bill coming into force in September, it is necessary that the farmers of Ontario make preparations to grow clover seed free from weed seeds. The export trade of red clover and alsike seed is now a very large item from the Province of Ontario alone, and there is no reason why this cannot be materially increased if our farmers would give special attention to cleaning the land of weeds and weed seeds before sowing with clover, intended for the growing of seed.

Hoe crops (roots and corn), kept thoroughly clean, make a good preparation for seeding with clover. The following rule should be observed after the roots and corn are harvested in the fall. Instead of plowing, rib the land with a double-mould plow, or a ribbing attachment fastened to the frame of a riding cultivator, which makes three ribs at a time about twenty inches wide each. Do not go any deeper than the land was cultivated during the summer, and so avoid turning up any weed seeds that may be in the soil.

The following spring level the ribs by harrowing and cultivating before sowing, preferably with a grain drill, say, barley 1½ bushels per acre, oats or spring wheat 1½ bushels, red clover seed 14 pounds per acre. It is important to sow all clovers and grass seeds in front of the grain spouts of the drill, so that the grass seeds will be scattered between the rows of grain. If sown behind the grain spouts the grass seeds fall in the creases with the grain, and are liable to be choked. After seeding give the land a stroke with a light harrow or breed weeder. If required to leave in sod two years, a mixture may be sown for hay or pasture the second year, say, 8 pounds red clover, 3 pounds alsike, 4 pounds timothy.

When sowing alsike which is to be grown for seed purposes, 12 pounds per acre is required. This should be free from other clovers and grasses.

If any weeds or timothy appear in the alsike crop, they should be weeded out without cutting the early heads off the alsike, as these have usually the best seed.

York Co., Ont.

WILLIAM RENNIE, Sr.

Protection Against Lightning.

Already stock casualties through the agency of lightning have been reported from different parts of Canada, and it behooves the provident farmer to take such steps as he may to avert calamities from this cause. It will be noticed that, during a thunderstorm cattle usually bunch themselves about trees or in a corner of the field close to the fence. In the latter case, if the fence be wire, the chances are that, if any part of the fence be struck, a number of the cattle are likely to be killed, i. e., unless the wire be properly grounded. The reason of this is that, while wire is a very good conductor of electricity, the wooden posts are very poor conductors. The current thus runs along the wires seeking some means of getting into the ground; the bodies of the cattle being better conductors than the fence posts, afford this outlet, and the damage is done. In order to avert this condition, take pieces of wire, connect each one closely with the wires in the fence, then push the free end down three to eight feet in the ground—far enough to be sure that it reaches moist earth. The connection may be made either by wrapping the wire round each strand, or by stapling it to the fence post in such a way that each strand of the fence will be brought in close connection with it. In inserting the wire in the ground, simply dig down, say a foot, fill this with water, then run a rod down as far as possible. Pull the rod up and fill this hole with water, and proceed in the same way until a depth sufficient for the wire has been reached. Wires need only be inserted say at every fifth or sixth post, and if carefully done, this simple precaution will transform a dangerous wire fence into an excellent lightning-rod system, which will prove an effectual safeguard to all animals in contact with the fence.—[Wallace Farmer.

Propagation of Trees from Seed.

By Judson F. Clark, Ph. D.

I.: SPRING SEEDERS.

The growing of trees from seed is a part of agriculture in which the average farmer has had but little experience. Yet, so far as the deciduous-leaved or hardwood trees are concerned, it certainly presents no difficulties which may not be readily overcome by any farmer who can grow a crop of turnips or carrots successfully. The growing of evergreen seedlings, such as spruce and pine, is somewhat more difficult, and may, in most cases, best be left to the professional nurserymen or the Government Provincial nurseries, though there is no reason why any farmer or farmer boy who has a taste for gardening, may not grow his own planting stock of these also.

The trees which mature their seeds in May and June include all willows, poplars, elms, soft maples, and the river birch. Of these, the willows and poplars may best be propagated by cuttings. The river birch is of no particular value to the farmer, and may also be dismissed without further remark.

The silver maple is also of minor importance as a wood-lot tree, but is extensively planted for ornamental and shade purposes. The red maple is a better tree, its wood being superior to the silver maple both as fuel and for general purposes, and it is equally beautiful and satisfactory for ornamental and shade-tree purposes. The elms, however, are by far the most valuable of the spring seeders, and the rock or cork elm is the most generally useful and valuable of all elms.

The elm and soft maple seeds mature in the latter part of May and the early part of June. This season being a backward one in some sections, they will be somewhat late in maturing. All spring-ripening seeds must be planted promptly on falling, before they have become dry, hence it is very desirable that the seed-bed should be prepared in advance.

A deep sandy loam makes the best seed-bed, but any good garden soil will give good results. Cultivate deeply and thoroughly, as you would for a root crop. Plant the seeds in rows about a foot apart, covering to a depth of two or three times the diameter of the seed. Then cover the bed with a two-inch mulch, preferably of forest leaves. This mulch is not absolutely necessary, but is very beneficial in that it keeps the soil evenly moist and of even temperature, insuring greater uniformity of germination. It must be removed as soon as the first seedlings are seen to be finding their way through the soil.

If the seedlings are too thick, they should be thinned to about three inches apart in the rows, the poorer plants being removed wherever possible. The bed should be kept free from weeds, and well cultivated on the surface soil, especially if the season be dry. If the season and soil be favorable, the seedlings will be large enough to be set out in the wood-lot or in permanent plantation at the end of the first season. It is usually better, however, to heel the plants in over winter in a well-drained spot, and set them out permanently the following spring.