

### Alfalfa Spreading.

It is only within recent years that alfalfa has become commonly known to the average man, but so many are the advantages resulting from its growth that it is being introduced into all parts where modern methods of farming are followed. The Vermont Experiment Station has been giving the crop a test, and summarizes its characteristics and uses. Of particular interest to the grain-growers should be the fact that alfalfa is one of the most potent soil renovators in the plant kingdom, and adds humus to a depleted soil in a remarkably short time, even though the severe winter weather should prevent it living over from one season to another. Some of the advantages claimed for alfalfa by the Vermont Station are thus enumerated:

Alfalfa is a plant of the clover family—larger, longer-lived, and in many ways superior to the common clovers.

It is richer in digestible protein, and a better soil and manure-pile enricher than is any other plant of economic importance. It is well adapted for use as hay, silage or a soiling crop, and in some sections for pasture.

Failures to secure a crop may generally be ascribed to one or more of several unfavorable soil or weather conditions, to weeds, to disease, or to seed which is either inferior or comes from an unsuitable source.

Where alfalfa succeeds best, in California and other Western States, it serves all purposes as a forage plant—hay, silage, pasture and soiling crop. It is rarely mixed with any other clover or grass. This is partly because it grows better alone, fully occupying the ground; but chiefly because it makes a quicker growth than any other forage plants, and must be cut early and often.

In chemical composition it resembles the clovers, pea and allied legumes, in having a high protein content, but it slightly outranks any of these which are now in culture in both total and digestible protein. Where used as a hay crop it must be cut in early blossom, else it gets woody and indigestible. Since it is often difficult to cure, it is well to note that it may be used advantageously in other ways as well. It is as valuable used for soiling as for hay. Starting early, it may be cut three or four times during the summer at seasons when particularly helpful. For pasture it is unexcelled in palatability and nutrition for all kinds of stock, and, where the climate and other conditions favor, it is much used for this purpose, but close cropping,

especially during the first three or four years after seeding, is apt to injure or kill it.

Alfalfa not only improves an animal ration, but it adds value to the manure pile and fertilizes the soil. Its value as a soil enricher, however, is not due solely to its ability to gather nitrogen from the air. Its deep root system enables it to translocate plant food from lower soil levels into surface soil, where it may become available to the more shallow-rooted plants which may follow alfalfa. Its stubble is rich in plant food and in humus-making bodies, and the entire plant may be used in green manuring. It serves this purpose better than does any other legume; and no other plant is so good as a legume for this purpose.

This is so important a matter that it deserves special emphasis. It may often happen that the man who sows alfalfa and loses the plants by winter-killing the first year, has, nevertheless, secured more than full return for seed and labor in the enrichment of his soil. In this connection, data obtained at Ottawa are pertinent. The alfalfa carried, as compared with the other legumes, much more potential humus, particularly in the stubble, more nitrogen and much more ash, particularly in the stubble.

### Seed-growing Institutes.

The Ontario Supt. of Farmers' Institutes and the Dominion Seed Division have co-operated, to hold the following field meetings, beginning at two p.m. each day, in the interests of producing more and better clover and timothy seeds:

Welland, County Industrial Home, June 8th; Cayuga, 9th; Waterford, 16th; Port Rowan, 12th; Burford, 13th; Aylmer, 14th. Speakers: Henry Glendinning, Manilla; A. E. Mason, Norwich.

Warkworth, June 8th; Wooler, 9th; Napanee, 10th; Wellington, 12th; Picton, 13th; Tweed, 14th; Madoc, 15th; Peaverton, 16th; Cannington, 17th; Oakwood, 19th; Lindsay, 20th; Omeme, 21st; Sunderland, 22nd; Port Perry, 23rd; Uxbridge, 24th. Speakers: Anthony Forster, Louisa Hill; W. McKillican, of the Seed Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

Millbrook, June 6th; Garden Hill, 7th; Orono, 8th; Enniskillen, 9th; Columbus, 10th; Pickering, 12th; Unionville, 13th; Stouffville, 14th; Mt. Albert, 15th; Newmarket, 17th. Speakers: W. S. Fraser, Bradford; L. H. Newman, of the Seed Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

Addresses will be followed by discussion. Seedsmen and representatives are invited to be present, and farmers are requested to bring weeds and seeds to meetings for identification. The meetings will, in most cases, be held in fields near the town or village.

### Cattle for South Africa.

Mr. Thomas Bradshaw, Live-stock Purchase Agent for the Dominion Government, has secured fifty head of young cows, all under four years of age, and two bulls, for shipment to South Africa. The cattle were bought near Toronto, and are of the Shorthorn and Ayrshire breeds. The shipment is being made by the Dominion, in an effort to secure the South African stock trade for Canada. They will be placed on the Government farms in the Orange River Colony, near Bloemfontein. The shipment will take thirty days from Montreal to Capetown, as well as a two-days' railway journey from Capetown to Bloemfontein. A similar consignment was made last August, but it consisted of sheep, swine, cattle and poultry. Mr. J. W. Palmer is director of agriculture, and is giving exceptional satisfaction to all classes, especially the Boer inhabitants.

### Brantford Horse Show.

The Brantford Horse Show, May 24th and 25th, proved a most gratifying success. The Governor-General honored the event with his presence. The chief prizewinners were: Messrs. Crow & Murray, Toronto; A. Yeager, Simcoe; G. Pepper, Toronto; Miss Wilks, Galt; Judge Barron, Stratford, and E. H. Weatherley, New York. In the local classes W. Lloyd Harris, Messrs. Hunt and Colter, and Mr. H. Cockshutt took the principal awards. To the indefatigable efforts of Messrs. C. H. Waterous, Hon. President; Lloyd Harris, President; J. W. Wood, Secretary, and W. H. Wobbling, Assistant Secretary, the success of the show was largely due. There were entries in 45 different classes, many of them of outstanding merit.

### County Dairymen's Associations.

A deputation from Eastern Ontario waited on Hon. Mr. Montelth, Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, last week, to request that provision be made for the formation of county associations, as branches of the Eastern Ontario Dairymen's Association. It has been contemplated to have the local associations represented through their presidents upon the Eastern Association board. A similar proposition, re the formation of county organizations, will probably be discussed in the Western Association.

### Western Ontario Dairy Instructors' Meetings.

A meeting of the butter instructors in the Western Ontario Dairymen's Association is called for Friday, June 2nd, at the St. Mary's creamery. A week later, June 9th, the cheese instructors will meet at the Strathallan factory, at Hickson.

## MARKETS.

### Montreal.

Butter—After a succession of unusual fluctuations, butter has again touched a pretty high mark; salted townships creamery being worth about 19c. An explanation of this unseasonable figure is sought in the rapid growth of Montreal during the past year, as well as the growth of other important cities, which has resulted in a faster increase of consumption than of production. The shortage of butter took place this spring, and continued for a long time, notwithstanding a fairly large make. At the same time, many places throughout Canada were short of supplies, as was also New York, and all drew on stocks from Montreal. When the new-milk butter began to arrive, it came in fast, but was insufficient to meet the demand, and after several wide fluctuations, the market finds itself up at a high figure again. These fluctuations were caused largely by the attempt of merchants to put prices down as soon as receipts began to reach their normal proportions. They expected the usual surplus, and lowered their prices towards an export basis. But the surplus did not materialize, and, presently, those who were selling found themselves out of stock again. The rush to buy carried market up again; and so we have seen prices advancing sharply during the week, when the quality of butter—half grass and half fodder—was more undesirable than usual. Shipments from Port last week were 4,338 packages, against 1,472 the previous week, those since the first of May being 5,637 packages, against 2,010 a year ago.

Cheese—From a statistical standpoint, the situation would appear weak, there being apparently a fair supply on the other side and not a very active demand. At the same time, although the make here is larger than a year ago, the prices are much higher, the latter fact due, largely, to the low stocks of old cheese. Receipts in Montreal during the first quarter of 1905 were 11,921 boxes, 1,976 more than the same period last year, while receipts

during the first half of May were 52,435 boxes, or 8,550 more than for the half month of May, 1904. On the other hand, shipments from port since May 1st have been lighter than a year ago. In spite, however, of the heavier receipts and lighter shipments, the market is considerably higher than a year ago. Towards the end of last week, Quebec makes were being quoted at 9½c. to 9½c. on a declining market.

Eggs—Remarks under butter accounting for increase of consumption apply also to eggs. During the first three months of the year, the receipts amounted to 40,228 cases, or 24,708 more than for the same period of last year, while for the first half of May there were 23,624 cases, or 1,601 more than for the first half of May, 1904. Yet with these greatly-increased receipts we have a market which has been gradually advancing for a month past. No eggs worth mentioning have been taken out of the country, and but few have been pickled, as compared with a year ago. Probably more than usual have been taken by outside places. On the whole, however, the consumption of eggs this season must be away in advance of the ordinary. So great has the shortage been that, notwithstanding the fact that for the past week or more, pickling has been given up entirely in Montreal, there is more difficulty than ever in supplying the demand for consumption. Good solid straight-gathered worth 16½c., wholesale. The cost of the stock in the country is in the vicinity of 15c.

Potatoes—Firm, but no great advance expected; prices lower than for years past for this time of year. Choicest, 55c. to 60c. per 90-lb. bag, on track, car lots. Quality of most of the stock above the average.

Beans—Advance of 5c. per bushel, owing to light arrivals. Demand fair. Prime pea beans sell at 1.65 to 1.70 per bushel, in large lots or in a jobbing way.

### LIVE STOCK.

Cables quote market unsatisfactory. London cabling Canadians, 11½c. to 12½c. per lb., and best States, 12½c. Liverpool quotes Canadians firmer at 11½c. to

12c., and States at 11½c. to 12½c. Exporters dissatisfied, and freight to London offering at 25s. per head, some having been let at 22s. 6d., and exporters bidding only 20s. Liverpool and Manchester freight offered at 30s. per head; while Glasgow and Bristol are held for 40s., freight having been contracted for some time since for May and June.

Locally the market showed very little change, sheep being a fraction down for best, and hogs being a shade easier also. Hogs were offered more liberally, and prices ranged from 6½c. to 7c. for mixed, and 7c. to 7½c. for selects, off cars. Sheep were 3½c. to 4c., according to quality, while choice cattle ranged from 5½c. or 5½c. to 6c., fine being 5c. or 5½c. to 5½c., good butchers' cattle bringing 4½c. to 4½c.; medium, 3½c. to 4c., and common, 3½c. Lambs sold at \$3 to \$6 each, according to quality; calves bringing \$4 for poor, and \$5 to \$7 for best. Horses were unchanged last week, and the demand is keeping up well for this time of year. General-purpose animals, \$150 to \$200; good stout blocks, \$175 to \$240 each; heavy draft animals, 1,500 and 1,600 lbs., \$250 to \$275 each, and lighter ones, \$50 less; cheap driving animals, \$75 to \$125 each, and broken-down beasts, \$50 to \$75 each; carriage horses, \$200 to \$500, according to quality and action.

Seeds—Large-grained seed corn is selling at 80c. to \$1.25 per bushel; hayseed at \$11 to \$16 per hundred pounds, for alsike; \$13.50 to \$17 for red clover, and \$4 to \$6.25 for timothy.

Grain—The local market is very dull, but a very large proportion of the quantity of oats held here is American oats, and will be exported, so that the local market is firm. Prices are 45c. for No. 3 oats, in store, and 46c. for No. 2.

### Toronto Horse Market.

The pronounced strength and activity which characterized the local horse market the week before last has again given way to a quieter feeling, and seasonable dullness now prevails in the trade, though the aggregate amount of business passing is still greatly in excess of a year ago. The race meeting at the

Woodbine has been a deterrent factor, since the last report, and with this out of the way dealers look for a revival of interest next week. There is no important fluctuation to note in values, except for drafters, which are inclined to weaken despite the big orders which are at present in the market to supply the needs of the railroad camps in various parts of the Province. The market for drivers also shows some signs of slackening, but prices are well maintained. Carriage and combination horses, ponies and saddle horses are, on the other hand, in as brisk demand as ever, particularly those of good quality, and delivery horses also find a ready sale at firm prices.

Burns & Sheppard's weekly list of current prices follows:

|                                                         |                |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Single roadsters, 15 to 16 hands                        | \$125 to \$200 |
| Single cobs and carriage horses, 15 to 16 hands         | 125 to 250     |
| Matched pairs, carriage horses, 15 to 16 hands          | 350 to 500     |
| Delivery horses, 1,100 to 1,200 lbs.                    | 120 to 170     |
| General-purpose and express horses, 1,200 to 1,350 lbs. | 125 to 190     |
| Draft horses, 1,350 to 1,750 lbs.                       | 150 to 210     |
| Serviceable second-hand workers                         | 60 to 120      |
| Serviceable second-hand drivers                         | 60 to 115      |

The Canadian Horse Exchange, Jarvis Street, report that current prices range as follows:

|                                                         |                |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Single cobs and carriage horses, 15 to 16 hands         | \$160 to \$250 |
| Single drivers, 15 to 16 hands                          | 125 to 200     |
| Matched pairs, carriage horses, 15 to 16 hands          | 350 to 700     |
| Delivery horses, 1,100 to 1,200 lbs.                    | 125 to 175     |
| General-purpose and express horses, 1,200 to 1,350 lbs. | 125 to 200     |
| Draft horses, 1,350 to 1,750 lbs.                       | 140 to 225     |
| Serviceable second-hand workers                         | 60 to 110      |
| Serviceable second-hand drivers                         | 60 to 110      |