

## American Apple Crop Unusually Low.

It is not in cereals alone that America is short this year, as farmers in this province who are in the habit of laying in an apple supply each fall will soon be aware of. While the condition of the apple crop in most of the great fruit producing states, shows some improvement during the past few months there is likely to be a considerable shortage in supply and higher prices will prevail. Conservative estimators place the present crop as about seventy-five per cent. of an average one. In the New England states, and Ontario the crop is large. In Oregon, California, Idaho and British Columbia it is reported excellent. But in the great central fruit belt, in the Ohio and Mississippi valleys, the outlook is less encouraging. Down through Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma the orchards are reported failures and home demand will furnish an outlet for the entire crop. Just at present it is impossible to sum the situation up accurately but indications are that higher prices will prevail.

## FIELD NOTES

## Death of Mr. J. J. Gunn.

It was with sincere regret that we learned a few days ago of the sad fatality that resulted in the removal from an earthly sphere of usefulness and activity so valued a friend as the late Mr. J. J. Gunn, East Selkirk, Manitoba. As a contributor to these columns and in other ways Mr. Gunn was known to a very large constituency of farmers in the Western province, the regret of whom no word of ours can adequately voice.

Mr. Gunn was born on April 2nd, 1861, on the original homestead taken up by his grandfather, Hon. Donald Gunn in 1823, and all his life resided near East Selkirk. He was married in 1905 to Miss Ella Flanagan who survives him. Mr. Gunn was a recognized authority on historical and agricultural subjects. He was one of the oldest and most successful bee keepers in the Province, a capable, fluent writer on beekeeping subjects, and at his death was president of the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association. His death was due to an attack from a bull which he was in the act of chaining up. The infuriated animal goring him so savagely that life was almost instantaneously extinguished.

## Sowing Alfalfa in the Fall.

A local exchange in publishing an article on alfalfa growing, evidently a clipping from some southern source, advises sowing alfalfa in the fall, we would caution our readers that unless they are looking for failure, such a practice is entirely out of place in this latitude. It may be alright further south, but it is pure nonsense to talk about sowing alfalfa seed in this country in the fall. The winter is the season most trying to the plant and the aim of the grower should be to have a good stand of the clover strongly rooted in the land by October, not a lot of weakling plants trying to establish at this season, then root systems in the soil. Alfalfa should be sown in the spring so that the plant will have a chance to make as much growth as possible before winter sets in. Anybody attempting any other system of growing it in this country would simply be courting disaster.

## Germans to Have New Paper.

An enterprise that should have considerable effect upon Canadian national life is the launching of a weekly German news and political paper in Regina. The new acquisition to the Canadian press will begin its career about the middle of this month under the name of the "Saskatchewan Courier." It will be eight pages in size, liberal in politics, and for the present managed and edited by Mr. P. M. Bredt, favorably and familiarly known in connection with his work in livestock associations and exhibitions, and for his connection with the Dominion Government in fostering German immigration. The Saskatchewan Courier, while being essentially an organ of the Germans in the Province will not suggest nor advocate any special interests for that class of the community, but will endeavor to mould the opinions of the Germans in Canada to a realization of Canadian national ideals. The Farmer's Advocate not only wishes its new contemporary success but predicts a bright future for it in our great central province.

## Seed Fairs, Seed Judging and Weed Seed Identification Contests: Outline of the Seed Division Work in Saskatchewan for the Season.

The success that attended the twenty-one seed fairs that Saskatchewan Agricultural Societies tried last winter warrants their being held again, their number and prizes at them increased, and if possible, their programme enlarged. This year, as last, the Seed Branch is prepared to do the following:— To get out posters, folders and attend to the advertising generally. To supply a judge and a lecturer, both of whom

will deliver practical addresses, the former giving in detail the reasons for his placing of the awards and the latter, a talk on some interesting agricultural topic. In return for this, agricultural societies are expected to allow the Seed Branch to arrange the date of their fair which will be done as much in accordance with the wishes of the society as the circuit it may be in will permit.

Amongst the changes for the better that might be made, the following are, it is believed, well worthy of consideration. While the prizes on the whole have been good, the total amount offered by the average fair last year being in the neighborhood of \$80.00, there is room for improvement, especially when the amount is compared with what is commonly given at the summer fair for much less important exhibits. As this is a grain growing province, that feature of it deserves encouragement and it is hoped, will receive more of it at the seed fairs.

A seed judging competition would also add to the interest and increase the instructiveness of the fair. One of these was conducted last year and was an unqualified success. A small entrance fee was charged competitors who were allowed five minutes to examine the samples of grain submitted and who were then required to go to another room where they gave their placing and their reasons for so doing, fifty per cent. being allowed for "placing" and fifty for "reasons."

At the Winter Fair to be held in Regina during the latter part of March, by which time the seed fairs will be over, there will be a seed grain department with substantial prizes and, if it can be arranged, a seed judging competition for the Provincial championship. The prizes will be good and well worth competing for. Harris McFayden will give a good gold medal to the winner of first prize in this competition.

It would also add to the interest if a weed seed identification contest was conducted in a manner similar to that outlined for the seed judging competition.

The Seed Branch will supply the samples of grain for both these contests.

## PRIZE LIST.

While the same prize list would not be suitable to all societies, as the crops that require encouragement vary in different districts, the following is submitted as a basis on which to work. Many societies will no doubt increase each of these prizes.

Class	1	2	3
1 Spring Wheat Red Fife.....	20.00	15.00	5.00
2 Spring Wheat and other variety.....	18.00	10.00	5.00
3 Oats—White.....	10.00	5.00	2.50
4 Oats—Other varieties.....	5.00	2.50	
5 Barley.....	5.00	2.50	1.00
6 Barley—Hulless.....	4.00	2.00	1.00
7 Peas.....	3.00	2.00	
8 Flax.....	3.00	2.00	
9 Brome Grass.....	3.00	2.00	
10 Rye Grass.....	3.00	2.00	
11 Timothy.....	3.00	2.00	
12 Potatoes.....	5.00	3.00	1.00
13 Collection of mounted weeds.....	2.00		
14 Red Clover (native grown).....	5.00		
15 Corn (native grown).....	5.00		

For the seed judging competition awards to the three best judges should run about \$10.00, \$7.00, \$3.00. The weed seed identification contest, say \$10.00 as a first prize and \$5.00 for second.

## SHALL PER CENT. OF GERMINATION COUNT?

In view of the fact that a considerable portion of next year's seed may be frozen and that the most satisfactory way of determining its fitness for seed is by actually testing its germinating qualities, the Seed Branch is willing to test samples. If agricultural societies wish to have the per cent. germination taken into consideration in making the awards it will be necessary to secure from prospective exhibitors representative samples of the grains they intend showing all of two weeks before the date of the fair so that there will be time to send in the samples to have them tested and to get the returns. Societies that wish to do this will be supplied with envelopes in which to send the grain, which will be carried free. To make certain that the grain sent by the exhibitor was the same as that shown at the fair, another sample will be taken at the fair and tested.

The prizes need not be paid out until the results of the tests reach the Secretary and if they differ widely from the first test the prize may be given to the exhibit testing well with a high score, as indicated by the score card, which will be left with each sample at the fair. This is the idea in the rough. The details will be worked out later for societies that wish per cent. germinations taken into account when placing the awards. As this is the first time this has been suggested in the west it might be well to confine it for this year to one class only, say that for oats. The great difficulty will be in getting farmers to send in their samples before the fair; but once the idea becomes known and its advantages recognized there should be no difficulty but for the first year its success will depend largely on the Secretary who will have to do some hustling. Kindly bring the matter to the attention of your society and let us know your decision.

HARRIS MCFAYDEN.

Dominion Department of Agriculture, Regina, Sask.

They will also get out enough neat six page folders (three and a half by six inches) to supply every member of the society. A sufficient number of posters will also be supplied and, as previously mentioned, a judge and a lecturer.

## Americans Buying Alberta Red for Seed.

Last winter the legislature of Kansas enacted a law authorizing the investigation of the seed trade of the State and the importation of seed wheat to improve their existing varieties. Prof. A. M. Ten Eyck, of the state college of agriculture was appointed to make the required investigations, and on this business made a study of the growing of winter wheat in Alberta with a view to importing hard winter varieties from that province. His report, now in the hands of the state authorities, would seem, from the copious quotations made from it by our American exchanges, a very voluminous document. With the true ideal in mind, that thoroughness should characterize every detail of his laborious investigations, the learned Professor first of all seeks to establish for his government, the geographical situation of Alberta. He finally locates it "within view of the Rockies' perpetually snow capped peaks" and, "bounded on the east by the province of Assinaboine," exhibiting in the opening paragraph of his remarks those two qualities so generally characteristic of American agricultural college professors, viz., a fondness for descriptive eloquence in places where definite facts only are required, and the usual astonishing disregard for geographical truths. However, as a review of winter wheat growing in Alberta the report is good.

The purpose of the Professor's visit was to ascertain whether it would be possible to obtain here hard winter seed wheat for his own state. He found it impracticable, however, to import any large quantity of Alberta wheat for general seeding in Kansas this fall, but strongly advises that Alberta Red may be imported in large quantities for general distribution next year. It is a significant fact that this wheat now so strongly recommended for the winter wheat states of the south came originally from these very states that are now endeavoring to purchase it for seeding purposes, and was first imported no later than six years ago. The first hard winter wheat grown in Alberta was brought in 1902 by an American farmer who settled at Spring Coulee. It was Kansas grown Turkey Red. The grain produced the first year was superior in quality to the original seed, and the wheat has continued to improve every year since. The grain has become larger and plumper, darker in color and harder in texture than the original sample, until "the Alberta Red," as it is called, has made a class for itself in the Canadian wheat market, and is recognized as one of the world's best bread wheats. They are taking it back to Kansas now to strengthen the winter varieties grown there. Considerable areas of it have likely been sown in that state this fall and it will be interesting to observe whether the variety will retain the size, color and hardness which it has developed here, or will "go back" and become what it originally was before being "hardened up" in this more northerly clime.

Although the state itself has not been able to import Alberta wheat for general seeding this fall, private enterprise has made greater progress, and at least two cars have been imported and are now being distributed to Kansas farmers. This wheat was collected and shipped by the Pacific Elevator Co., Calgary. It is being sold in Kansas at two dollars a bushel being bought in Alberta for a dollar. The duty on wheat at present is twelve cents per bushel which will likely be removed if the planting of Alberta Red proves to be to the advantage of Kansas farmers.

## Getting After Weeds.

The welcome news is to hand that the Minister of Agriculture for Manitoba, Premier Roblin, has instructed the staff of the agricultural college to proceed to organize a campaign for the suppression of noxious weeds in the Province. The Premier suggests that lectures be given during the winter and demonstrations in spraying with chemicals next summer be conducted. We firmly believe that there are hundreds of farmers in Manitoba who can tell their neighbors how to master the weed situation and who might be employed with profit to the Province to conduct discussions on the subject. There is a lot of this sort of thing to do and it is past time we were at it.

## Care of Ewes at Breeding Time.

Ewes, shortly before the breeding season, should be put if possible on fresh, good, pasture, so that they will be in a thriving condition when the ram is turned with them. If this cannot be done they may be fed a little grain, say oats and wheat bran at the rate of about half a pound of the grain per day to each ewe. Such feeding will put them into thriftier conditions, a larger percentage will conceive, the lambs produced will be larger in size and members growthier and stronger in vitality.