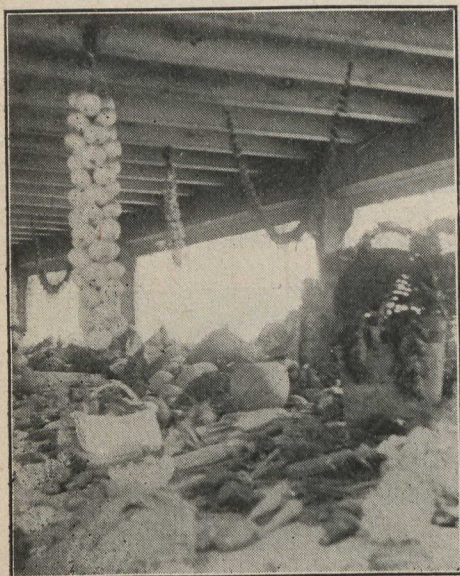


Why Not Cooperative Experiments With Vegetables?

WHY should not the Experimental Union of the Ontario Agricultural College carry out cooperative experiments with vegetables in different parts of the province? I am convinced that something should be done along



Good Things from the Garden

that line. I have looked up information on the subject, particularly that contained in the annual reports of the union for the years 1904 and 1905. The objects of the union and the manner in which the work is carried on is outlined in the following quotation from the report for 1905:

"Five years after the college was started, the officers, students, and ex-students formed themselves into an association under the name of the 'Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union.' The objects of the association, as formulated at that time, were as follows: 'To form a bond of union among the officers and students, past and present, of the Ontario Agricultural College and Experimental Farm; to promote their intercourse with the view to mutual information; to discuss subjects bearing on the wide field of agriculture, with its allied sciences and arts; to hear papers and addresses delivered by competent parties; and to meet at least once annually at the Ontario Agricultural College.' In 1886 the members of this association appointed a committee to confer with the officers of the college, with the object of establishing a system of co-operative experiments throughout the province. Letters were written to members of the union, and 12 consented to conduct experiments with fertilizers and field crops on their own farms in the year 1886. From that time to the

present, the work has gradually branched off on different lines until it has touched on several phases of agricultural work.

"In the spring of each year, circulars outlining the cooperative work are distributed by the agricultural committee appointed by the Experimental Union. Those asked to take part in the scheme of cooperation may be classified as follows: (1) The officers and students, past and present, of the Ontario Agricultural College, who pay an annual fee of 50 cents, and have control of the executive work of the Experimental Union; (2) the experimenters of former years who have done satisfactory work; (3) leading farmers, gardeners, and others, whose names have been suggested by secretaries of farmers' institutes, secretaries of agricultural societies, principals of collegiate institutes, inspectors of public schools, and others; and (4) various persons who have seen the experiments of other people, or have in some way heard of the work and wish to assist in the movement by conducting experiments on their own farms. The circulars are distributed in the order here given, starting first by sending to those who have been connected with the college and are therefore trained for the work, and finishing the distribution by sending to those engaged in some branch of practical agriculture who have not conducted experiments previously, but who wish to undertake the work."

In seeking information regarding the

work of the union, I was much pleased to find that, in 1904, Prof. C. A. Zavitz started conducting experiments in sweet corn, with eight successful experimenters, and this number was increased to 21 in 1905, and there are about 160 persons conducting experiments with sweet corn this year.

This year, also, Prof. Hutt is making a series of experiments with a dozen varieties of tomatoes, in half a dozen canning sections. But, will the canning factory make its decision from the selfish, economical side; that is, from the tomato that will give the least waste, or from the standpoint of quality when canned? Let us hope by all means that it will be the latter.

Outside of the under-glass crops, the growing of vegetables is the highest type of agriculture. It is plain that as yet there has been comparatively little done in conducting experiments with vegetables throughout this province, looking not only towards increased yield, but to what is of more importance, a higher standard of quality. If we can get that *quality* by fertilization of soil, or cultivation; or by breeding up a higher type, our labor will not be in vain. Now that the vegetable growers have a provincial association, I think it would be fitting and proper for them to appoint a committee to draft their requirements, and present them to the Experimental Union at its next annual meeting in December.—A Truck Farmer.



Exhibit of Onions at Canadian National