

BOYS AND GIRLS' FIELD-CROP COMPETITIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.

DEAR BOYS AND GIRLS —I am so pleased to have a chat with you. Hope we may have many more. What a grand Province this is, and such a place to grow big, strong men and women.

This little bulletin is written in an attempt to help you with your potato-plot. The best that can be done in this way is to give a few general instructions. After you have read this bulletin you should have a good long chat with father or some other good potato-grower, because there are many things about potato-growing that cannot be learned from a bulletin.

When you think it over, boys and girls and potatoes are much alike in many ways, aren't they?—Big and little, long and short, stout and slim; both require lots of room in which to grow, plenty of good food, and plenty of water, sunlight, and fresh air. Every boy and girl wants to grow up to be strong and healthy, good-looking, with strong, bright eyes, clear skin, healthy lungs, and to be "white" all through. Keep all these things in mind when working in your potato-plot, and grow your potatoes under the conditions and with those qualities you would like to have yourself.

You will find the names and addresses of all the members of the staff of the Live-stock Branch, Department of Agriculture, on the first page of this bulletin. Besides these, there is the Chief of the Fruit Branch and all his assistants, and I am sure every one of us would be so pleased to have a letter from you. Ask us questions about live-stock, dairying, poultry, soils, crops, or fruit, and we will answer your questions if we possibly can.

Hoping to hear from you,

Yours very truly,

J. C. READEY,
Soil and Crop Instructor.

SELECTION OF THE PLOT.

(1.) Any kind of soil, from a light, sandy loam to a *retained* stiff clay, will grow good potatoes, provided it holds *enough* but not *too much* water. The soil should be *moist*, but not *soaked*.

(2.) A piece of sod, preferably clover-sod, ploughed deep (8 inches) in the fall, is desirable, because the soil is likely to be rich, easily worked, porous, and in condition to hold moisture.

(3.) If possible, choose a location for the plot near to the house. It may then be seen more frequently, and less time will be required to take care of it.

SELECTING THE VARIETY AND THE "SEED."

(1.) Choose some well-tried variety. Do not pay fancy prices for something new. The same variety may not suit every district, but the Burbank for heavier soils, and the Carmen No. 1 for lighter soils, generally give good results. Your choice will be governed by local conditions and requirements and the market demands.

(2.) Before selecting the seed a study of the score-card printed in this bulletin should be made. Plant the *type* of potato you wish to produce. Considerable varia-