

Sugar Beets in Northern Alberta.

The accompanying photo-engraving shows a portion of a field of sugar beets on the farm of Melville Reynolds, near Strathcona.

The seed was sown in drills 16 inches apart, on June 8th, and the photo taken on August 15th. The ground was a piece of breaking, which had been well disked and harrowed, but only cultivated twice after sowing. There was no thinning done.

The seed came from Ottawa, and Mr. Reynolds is experimenting to find out if the district would suit for a beet-sugar factory.

The crop is very uniform, and the beets a splendid size for the season of the year. Provided they are sufficiently rich in sugar, there is little doubt but that the industry could be made as paying in Northern Alberta as anywhere else that we know of. Land is cheap, the soil is rich, and the average rainfall and growing season well adapted to produce a heavy crop.

Stump Lifter Wanted.

Can you inform me of any stump-puller made in Canada, and if so, what is it like? J. M. Bowsman, Man.

Ans.—The only stump machine which we know of at present manufactured in Canada is the Lemire's Stone and Stump Machine, with headquarters at Watton, Que. It is used very largely in some sections for elevating and moving stone, as well as lifting stumps. It has four large wheels, and is easily moved about. Write John Amiraux, 40 Lansdowne Ave., Toronto, Ont., for further particulars.

Dairying.

Lacombe Creamery.

The new creamery which commenced operations at Lacombe on July 25th is doing good work. Owing to the late start in the season it was found impossible to get the number of cows desired; this, by another season, will be put right, for the output from the creamery, we understand, is giving good satisfaction, and that is the card that will draw custom. The third week after starting the butter output was 1,935 pounds. A fine large Victor combined churn and butter-worker, capable of handling 600 pounds of butter at each operation, is in use.

The building is well equipped with up-to-date appliances, and has that tidy appearance which betokens success.

Dairying in Northern Alberta.

The dairying industry is gaining ground in the Edmonton district. The general productiveness of the soil, and the abundance of good water, along with cheap land and mild winters, fit it in many ways for a good dairy country. A large number of good grade dairy cows and quite a few pure-bred ones are already on the farms, and could be made the nucleus of a large paying industry. More creameries are needed, so that the coarser grains and any which failed to ripen could be profitably converted into butter. What say Northern Albertans?

Effect of Salt on Color.

Prof. G. L. McKay, of Iowa, illustrates this point as follows:

"If you were to take three samples of butter from the same churning, add no artificial coloring, salt the one lot a half ounce, the second an ounce, and the third one and one-half ounces, the third lot will be higher in color than the first lot."

This shows the importance of considering the amount of color to be used in connection with the amount of salt per pound.

Mr. J. W. Hart, who has done good service as Superintendent of the Kingston, Ont., Dairy School, takes a position in the Dairy Department of the State College of Agriculture at Urbana, Ill.

While keeping step with the most advanced agricultural thought of the age for the benefit of progressive students, it is at the same time the policy of the *Farmer's Advocate* not to "shoot over the heads" of the rank and file to furnish information that can be applied with success in everyday practice. Point this out to your neighbor who is not yet a reader, and induce him to subscribe.

Apiary.

Wintering Bees.

To winter bees successfully, one should begin by preparing for it early. After the close of the honey season, but while the weather is still warm, the hives should all be examined and the brood nests reduced to the number of combs the bees can cover well. Each hive should be weighed to make sure that it contains enough honey to keep

November, or when the winter appears to be setting in.

Coming to the question of wintering properly, the cellar seems to be the most suitable place. I am aware that bees have been successfully wintered outside in Manitoba and the Territories, that some have wintered them in garrets and others in houses built for the purpose, with double walls and sawdust filling; but the cellar seems to be the favorite place, and doubtless will be found to be the best for our climate, if for no other reason than that it is less affected by sudden changes of temperature than any place above ground can possibly be.

If the cellar is properly ventilated and of a temperature well above freezing—say about forty-five—bees will winter finely if not stuffed around in their hives so as to prevent the circulation of air and the escape of moisture from the cluster. Many people have such an idea of the cold in Manitoba that they can't realize that a room in which the thermometer stands at forty-five above is as warm as a room of the same temperature in any other Province, and so they stuff and pack around their bees and literally kill them with mistaken kindness. In such a cellar all that is necessary is to make it as easy as possible for the air to circulate.

My cellar is under the dwelling house, and is walled with stone. From near the floor a one and a half inch pipe passes upward beside a heating stove in the dining-room, and enters the stovepipe just above the stove, thus creating a forced circulation of air in the cellar at all times. When placing the hives in the cellar the covers are removed and nothing left above the bees but a cloth, woollen, if possible, but often a piece of heavy but porous sacking or burlap. A piece of old carpet does well for this. Hives with movable bottoms should also be raised from the bottoms at the back. The first row of hives is placed on a bench about sixteen inches high. Across each of these are laid slats one inch thick, on which to set the next row. In the same manner a third or even a fourth row may be placed.

Once in winter quarters there is but one thing the bees require, that is to be let alone—absolutely alone—till it is warm enough for them to fly; and unless noisy and fouling the fronts of the hives to be let alone even then till the willows bloom.

J. J. GUNN.

Possibilities in Beekeeping.

As an example of the mistaken idea which so many people have of the possibilities for beekeeping in Western Canada, the following introduction to a letter received by Mr. J. J. Gunn, Gonor, from a beekeeper in Brome, Que., is a fair example:

"I have been reading an article of yours in the July number of the 'Farmer's Advocate' regarding beekeeping in Manitoba. I am greatly surprised if you are correctly quoted, as I always thought your Province was altogether

too cold and that bees would starve to death owing to no honey plants."

The writer goes on to ask a number of questions regarding the system of wintering, the price of colonies, the home market for honey, the best location, etc., sufficient to show that he was seriously considering the advisability of going into the business in this country.

Although delusion exists elsewhere in regard to the possibilities of beekeeping in this country, and the real conditions are by no means known as they should, we do not have to go outside our own limits to find many persons who look upon beekeeping as an industry foreign to this country.

It would seem that the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association was not organized too soon. Is it not time that everyone was made to know that the busy bee can gather just as much honey here as in any other clime?

"What do you think of the census?"

"It is a questionable proceeding."



MELVILLE REYNOLDS' HOUSE.

C. Black's fine saddle horse in the foreground. About seven miles south-west of Strathcona.

the colony within it safely through the winter and well on into the spring. A colony that covers light combs will require more stores than one covering only six. This is a time when it pays to be liberal. Honey left in the hive in excess of what may be required will not be lost, and it is always better to be sure than sorry.

I have had strong colonies come through the winter with a loss of less than ten pounds, while at other times the loss would be over twenty pounds. How late brood rearing is kept up in the fall and how early it begins in the spring has much to do with this. Again, when weighing the bees into the cellar about the first week in November, we sometimes find the weights agreeing pretty well with those of September, while other seasons will show a loss of ten pounds or more in the same time. It is wise, therefore, when weighing for the first time to leave at least thirty pounds of honey to each strong colony. If



SUGAR BEETS IN NORTHERN ALBERTA.

Grown on the farm of Melville Reynolds, seven miles south west of Strathcona.

this weight is lacking, it is better to make it up by feeding sugar syrup than to give combs of honey and so have more combs in the hive than the bees can cover. This is the time, too, to unite weak colonies. Everything of a preparatory nature should be done during September, and bees left alone till weighed into the cellar in