

prizes, and they would come many miles for this purpose. An exhibit was ten bushels of a kind, and usually this was sold at an advance of 10 or 15 cents a bushel over the ordinary price for such grain. Mr. A. Reynolds, of Scarboro Junction, said such a fair had been conducted under the auspices of the Farmers' Institute of East York for ten years, and last year 6000 bushels of seed grain had changed hands! This meant much for improved grain growing in this locality. He was going to advocate three such seed fairs in different parts of his district this year.

The McDonald Seed Grain Division at Ottawa was represented by Mr. Clarke, who said that prizes to schools were proposed, somewhat as follows:—

(1). To the rural schools exhibiting the best collection of weeds pressed and mounted; and weed seeds in ounce bottles, each specimen and bottle to be properly labeled, 1st, \$50; 2nd, \$30; 3rd, \$20; 4th, \$10.

(2). For the best collection of grain and foliage crop plants, showing stolons, branches and part of root, consisting of five complete plants of each variety * * * Open to farmers' sons and daughters, under eighteen years of age—\$25; \$15; \$10; \$5.

(3). To the rural school exhibiting the best collection of beneficial and injurious insects, mounted and properly named in groups according to the fruits or grains on which they attack—\$50; \$30; \$20; \$10.

(4) To the rural school having the best kept lawn with the most artistically arranged flower beds; said flower beds to contain such varieties of plants as may be most helpful in the study of botany. Competitors for this prize must make application before the 15th of May of each year. (The judge in this competition will be the Public School inspector, together with any other person or persons whom the Association may see fit to appoint for the purpose of visiting the competing schools during the month of September. In all competitions of rural schools, the work must be done and the collections made by the pupils themselves under the direction of the teacher.)

Failure in Spraying.—Mr. A. Rogers, of Aylmer called at our office on the 14th February. He and his son carry on a fruit farm near that town with success, cultivating small fruits, grapes, peaches, plums, &c. "How do you prevent plum rot?" he asked. "Spraying with Bordeaux mixture," was our answer. "It has been a failure with me," said he. "I sprayed six times last season, and yet the plum rot was very serious in my orchard." "How did you do it?" Well, I rode along in the wagon and sprayed from that as we drove past the trees." "Did you thin your fruit?" "No, they hung in great clusters and we did not have time to thin them out."

Plum Rot.—The secret of this gentleman's failure to prevent the plum rot is the same which explains that of many others. The spraying of a tree is only effective for that portion of the leaves or fruit which is covered. Any part of a leaf, or fruit, left uncovered with spray is subject to the attack of a fungus disease. Fruit unthinned, or trees unpruned, are not easily covered; especially is it difficult to cover each separate plum when they hang in clusters, the fruits in close contact. How can a man, dashing a little spray upon a tree as he rides along past, cover every side of every plum on such a tree? The thing is simply impossible! He must get out of his wagon and walk about the tree and carefully spray every inch of wood, leaf and fruit, and then he may hope for success.

Thinning plums or peaches, when overloaded, is absolutely necessary for successful spraying for fruit rot, for when in contact the moisture is held between them that favors the spread of this fungus.

Peaches succeed very well about Aylmer, though only a few have as yet entered upon their cultivation. Mr. Rogers has several hundred trees, including such varieties as Crosby and Langhurst, because of their supposed hardiness. "I was surprised," he