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sod. He may not know that such is scientific farming, but it is all the same, and the more of it we have the better. It is the knowledge of the difficulty in many districts in securing a uniform catch of seeds that has inspired this article and the invitation to our readers to give their views on the subject for publication, in order that others may share in the wisdom that comes from counsel with practical men who have had successful experience.

The advocacy of sowing clover seed alone, without a nurse crop, would doubtless be considered by most farmers heterodox, or at least in advance of the times, but it seems to us that whoever first gave the name "nurse crop" to the grain crop with which clover is usually sown, must have used the term in irony, as instead of nursing the tiny clover plant it surely robs it of food and drink, shading it unduly, and leaving it often a weak, sickly thing, to droop and die when exposed to the sun after the grain is harvested, if the season happens to be dry and hot. We have not a doubt that clover would grow stronger and be a more certain crop if sown alone. It would probably be necessary to run the mower over it once or twice the first season to keep down weeds, and it could be used to a limited extent for pasture the first year. The experiment could readily be made on a small scale with little risk, and it is strange that it has not been tried in more instances, as the value of the crop would seem to warrant it. If this is not found to be profitable or practicable, the next best thing would appear to be to sow the grain as thinly as the circumstances will justify without injuriously affecting the crop. This would give the clover more sunlight and air and probably more moisture, ensuring stronger plants, which would more successfully pass the ordeal of drought after the grain harvest. We have an idea that, as a rule, more seed is sown per acre for grain crops than is necessary for the best results if a proper preparation of the soil and distribution of the seed is observed. A light top-dressing of barnyard manure on the land intended to be seeded to clover with spring grain will go far towards re-

taining moisture and feeding the young clover, and is a safe system to follow. We shall be glad to have our readers discuss this question thoroughly, and to receive any useful hints that may be given to help those who have experienced difficulty in this connection.

Beet Sugar Interests.

This season will probably witness several large beet-sugar enterprises inaugurated in the Province of Ontario. For the benefit of farmers who will begin beet-growing we have published a very complete series of articles on the practical aspects of the subject. Other phases of the question are bound to attract attention at an early date. Just now we notice a great conflict is in progress in the United States over the proposed tariff for the relief of the Cuban cane-sugar industry, the output of which seeks freer access to the U. S. market by means of lower duties, which the beet-sugar interests are resisting. The average American wants Cuba, but a good many don't like the competition of Cuban sugar. Before the Congressional Committee, Mr. Henry T. Oxnard, President of the American Beet Sugar Association, made a statement to the effect that \$30,000,000 is now invested in the U. S. beet-sugar industry; that it has forty factories scattered over eleven States, and that it is now producing 150,000 tons of refined sugar per annum, and paying out yearly \$7,000,000 to American farmers for beets. If allowed to develop for ten years under existing conditions, he said, the industry would probably be able to furnish all the 1,500,000 tons of sugar now lacking to supply consumption, and which is imported from foreign countries. The present average cost of producing beet sugar he put at four cents per pound, though in a circular letter which he issued in 1899 he declared that beet sugar could be made at a profit for three cents per pound, which he explained by saying that it was based on assumptions that were not realized. Now he contended beet sugar could not hold its own against free Cuban sugar.

Turning to Europe, we find some interesting facts with regard to the production of beet-root sugar brought out at the Brussels conference on bounties. Nearly every country on the Continent now produces more than the home demand. Calculations accepted as accurate estimate the total beet-root sugar production of 1901 in European countries at 6,470,000 tons, while the consumption in these countries is only 3,600,000 tons. The excess is 2,870,000 tons, of which Great Britain receives nearly 1,700,000 tons. A portion of the remainder went to the United States, and what was left entered storehouses, where, controlled by the cartels or syndicates, it has an important influence in regulating the European market. The members of the Brussels conference find that the entire situation is in the hands of Great Britain, and, although it is not expected such a course will be adopted, great apprehension is felt in France lest she should adopt a policy of countervailing (or counteracting) duties. From such a policy the greatest sufferer would be France, where syndicates do not exist. She cannot raise the home-selling prices of sugar and at the same time reserve for the sugar refiner a part of the profit in such a way as to allow exportation at a price lower than the cost of production.

A Word to Educators.

Teach the children, if you must, of the sowing of the dragon's teeth, but also teach them of the sowing of clover and peas, which can double the yield of corn in Illinois and greatly increase the yield of cotton in Georgia. Tell them the story of the wooden horse, if you wish, but be sure to give them more horse sense than the Trojans had. Teach them all you know of the milky way, but do not neglect to teach them the way to milk. That is, lead them as far and soar with them as high as you may, but be sure, all the time, to let their feet rest on the earth, for it is from the earth that all are sprung, and upon it yet there are untold pleasures, undiscovered beauties and marvellous strength for the soul of mankind.—Ex.

The articles on horse-show judging, clover, alfalfa, the cheese industry and hogpen construction in this issue are of supreme importance to the farmers of this country, and are worthy of careful and thoughtful perusal.

Death of Mr. James I. Davidson.

The death of Mr. James Ironside Davidson, which occurred on Feb. 15th, 1902, at his beautiful home at Balsam, in Pickering Township, Ontario, has removed from the scenes of this life a good man, and from the roll of Canadian pure-bred stock breeders one of its most prominent, successful and interesting figures, a man of sterling character and unsullied honor, of splendid physique, kindly disposition and genial manner, and one who numbered on his list of friends a host of lovers of good stock in Canada and the United States, and also in the Old Land, from which he came. Born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, in 1818, he emigrated to Canada in 1842 and settled on the farm on which he died.

His specialties in stock-breeding were Clydesdale horses and Shorthorn cattle, of which he was a sound and safe judge, an eminently successful importer and breeder, and a liberal and judicious feeder. Mr. Davidson began breeding Shorthorns about 1860, but it was in 1871, when the Shorthorn world was going wild on line-bred cattle and paying fabulous prices for paper pedigrees, that, rightly reading the signs of the times, he made his first importation of composite-blooded cattle from the herd of Mr. Amos Cruickshank, of Sittyton, which subsequently won a world-wide fame on its merits, and has played a prominent part in modifying the type of the breed the world over, bringing it more into conformity with the requirements of modern markets. This consignment comprised five heifers, and transferred to America some of the most valuable blood of the Cruickshank herd, from which have descended a large number of the best cattle in the breeding herds of Canada and the United States, and predominates largely in the most successful show cattle of the present day.

Enjoying the personal friendship and confidence of Mr. Cruickshank, Mr. Davidson became for some years the principal importer and distributor of his cattle on this side of the Atlantic, and from 1881 to 1887 had practically a monopoly of the handling of such stock as could be spared from the Sittyton herd for the American trade, his operations being on an extensive scale, totaling nearly 200 head, and bringing to him considerable wealth, although he was never extortionate in the naming of prices, but always aimed to give good value to purchasers, and rejoiced to learn of the success of the stock after passing from his hands.

While Mr. Davidson was a loyal disciple of the sage of Sittyton, he entertained no undue prejudices regarding pedigree formulas in breeding, and made no protest against the use of a sire of other strains, provided he had individual excellence and came from a line of good ancestry. This liberality was well exemplified and amply rewarded in his selection in 1873, in company with Mr. John Miller, of Pickering, of the bull, Crown Prince of Athelstane 2nd 456, born in 1872, bred by Hon. David Christie, sired by the imported Booth bull, Knight of St. George, and out of Crown Princess of Athelstane, of Mr. Christie's notable importation of 1864 from the herd of Mr. Douglas, of Athelstane. This bull, bred to some of Mr. Davidson's best Cruickshank cows, proved one of the happiest hits in American Shorthorn breeding at that period, his offspring being noted for their constitution, thrift and feeding quality, and contributing some of the most successful breeding and show cattle of their day. Mr. Davidson, who later became sole owner of this bull, knowing his value as a sire, always refused to price him, and retained him in service until his death, which occurred at seven years of age.

Mr. Davidson was a modest man, of retiring disposition, and had no ambition for office or public life, but there came a time when his political friends were agreed that he was the only man in the constituency who could carry it in their interest, and reluctantly accepting a nomination, he was in 1891 elected with a comfortable majority to represent the riding in the Canadian House of Commons, which he did with credit, bringing his sound judgment to bear upon public problems with good effect.

Mr. Davidson was a useful and consistent member of the Presbyterian Church. He married, in 1841, Barbara Hendrie, of Aberdeenshire, who died two years ago, and to them were born four sons and one daughter, all of whom survive, namely: John, of Ashburn, Ont.; James I. and Mrs. Wm. M. Miller, who lived with their father, and Andrew and George, of Monticello, Iowa. Mr. Davidson was blessed with a strong and vigorous constitution, and with the exception of failing eyesight, enjoyed good health up to within a week of his death, when he had an attack of pneumonia, which could not be controlled, and he passed away peacefully, in the 84th year of his age, honored and esteemed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.