

All Looking for Good Seed Grain.

The conditions of the supply of seed grain throughout Eastern Canada; due to the prolonged wet weather of last harvest season, is a question of more than ordinary importance this spring. Farmers in all of the provinces east of Lake Superior except Prince Edward Island, are this year more than in any other, looking for fresh supplies of seed oats. Their own oats stood out in the shock for weeks, being repeatedly soaked with rain. Nearly all the oats and much of the other grain was badly weathered and germination started. As a result the vitality of the grain available for seeding this spring is irregular; it differs widely on different farms, and even with the best of care in handling the crop the germination of the seed is precarious.

That the growers of selected seed have suffered much loss in common with others was clearly evident in the discussion of the first session of Canadian Seed Grower's Annual Convention, held in Ottawa last week. The area under registered seed crop was greater than in any previous year, yet the quantity of seed grain that came up to the high standard of quality demanded before the seed may be sealed in the sack with the seal of the Association and catalogued for sale, was less than last year.

Seed Fairs, and Field Crop Competitions, have done much to awaken an interest in the advantages of using superior seed grain and other seeds, and the demand for selected registered seed produced by members of the Association is much greater than the supply. How to increase the supply seemed to be a perplexing problem. Many farmers commence with the work but after one or two years experience find it difficult to maintain the high standards of quality in their crops because of the great scarcity of efficient farm labor.

The work of several of the members who have continued with the work for thirteen years, have established for themselves an enviable reputation and in consequence find seed-growing to be a remunerative industry as a specialty in farming, was highly commended, Thos. Waugh, of Prince Edward Island; Donald Innes, New Brunswick; J. Levasseur, of Quebec; C. R. Gies, and D. Carmichael, of Ontario; Dow Bros., and Thos. Thompson, of Manitoba; F. J. Dash, of Saskatchewan and others being especially commended. That they have received small remuneration for the immense benefit they have been to their respective provinces was agreed to by all.

The Association expressed approval of the co-operative endeavors of its members and others in forming local clubs for the advancement of their interests, especially in the marketing of their supplies. The Banner Oat Club, of Prince Edward Island, and the River Front Corn Club, of Essex County, were especially mentioned.

The corn growers of South Western Ontario appealed for the appointment of an expert who would devote his time to the interests of seed-corn growers. The main difficulty to be overcome is in the tendency of the growers to multiplicity of varieties. This adds difficulty in keeping the strains pure, and in securing at any one centre bulk quantities of any one kind that can be counted upon to be uniform as to quality of seed and earliness of maturity. It was proposed that some action should be taken under a strong man with a view to forming centres for the growing of particular varieties and to supervise the marketing of it, after the plan of Fruit Growers' Associations.

The Committee on varieties, appointed a year ago, met in conference and agreed that the Association should recognize only those varieties that have been tested and improved by selection.

SUCCESS FOR NEW INSPECTION SYSTEM.

The report of the Board of Directors to the general meeting commented upon the success that has attended the double-inspection system that was introduced a year ago. Seed, to be eligible for registration, must now be inspected when growing in the field and again when in the bags ready to be sold, when it is sealed by the inspector if it passes inspection. By this system purchasers have been protected, and some lots, not up to the standard, have been prevented from being put on the market as registered seed.

SEED CENTRES.

The difficulty of securing any one variety of seed in large quantities was pointed out as a drawback to the success of the Association. To correct this, growers were strongly recommended to create seed centres, by a number of members in the same locality producing the same kind of seed. It was pointed out that much success had followed the formation of Banner Oat Clubs in Prince Edward Island, by a number of growers concentrating on one variety. W. J. Lennox, reported that seed centres were being organized in Western Ontario for the production of O. A. C. No. 21 barley, O. A. C. No. 72 oats, peas and potatoes. Districts adapted for a certain kind of grain are being selected, and efforts made to induce

growers to confine themselves to one sort. In this way there is less danger of mixing, and a large supply is made available at one point. C. Sweet reported that the seed-centre idea was being worked out in Quebec by supplying registered Banner oats to be used in a competition for boys in the Cookshire District, who are to compete in growing a quarter-acre seed plot for three years.

A report was presented showing a comparison between registered seed oats and non-registered oats, the best obtainable from seedsmen of the same variety. A large number of farmers co-operated in this test, which was decidedly favorable to registered seed. Seventy-seven per cent. of the growers obtained a higher yield from registered seed, while the superiority in uniformity of type and general purity was very pronounced.

PROGRESS OF ASSOCIATION.

The report of the secretary-treasurer showed that the Association has made a considerable gain in membership during the year. In 1912 there were 152 growers who made satisfactory hand selection of seed compared with 90 the previous year, while 118 applications for membership were received, compared with 50 the year before. During the year 49 applicants made satisfactory selections, and were elected members. In 1912 there were 1,621 acres devoted to the production of registered seed of cereals, the amount produced being 33,474 bushels.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

The election of officers resulted in only two changes on the Board of Directors. J. B. Daggett taking the place of W. W. Hubbard, Fredericton, N. B., and Prof. Moorehouse, M. A. C., Winnipeg, succeeding Geo. Batho.

The Guelph Shorthorn Sale.

The tenth annual sale of purebred Shorthorn bulls held under the auspices of the Guelph Fat Stock Club, and the Ontario Department of Agriculture, at Guelph, March 5th, was by far the most successful auction yet held by the Club. The quality of the offering was good and the prices indicative of the upward trend in demand for Shorthorn breeding stock. There was a large attendance, breeders being present from distant parts of Ontario, from Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Montana. Of twenty-nine head sold, twenty-three averaged \$156. The highest price was \$325, three others selling for \$200 and over and thirteen for \$150 or over. Seventeen head went to Montana, one to Manitoba and one to Saskatchewan, the remainder staying in Ontario. The following is a list of animals selling for \$100 and upwards.

Animal	Contributor	Buyer	Price
Golden Fame,	W. C. Edwards & Co., H.		
Brown, Montana			\$150
Challenge,	W. C. Edwards & Co., H.		
Brown, Montana			180
Clipper Prince,	W. C. Edwards & Co.,		
Geo. Rankin & Sons, Hamiota, Man.			825
Ruby's King,	W. C. Edwards & Co., H.		
Brown, Montana			180
Rosy Prince,	W. C. Edwards & Co., H.		
Brown, Montana			175
Gloster Champion,	W. C. Edwards & Co.,		
Jos. W. Barnett, Moosejaw			180
Wanderer,	W. C. Edwards & Co., H.		
Brown, Montana			105
Prince Amaranth,	W. C. Edwards & Co.,		
Geo. Smith, Embro			102.50
The Sultan,	W. C. Edwards & Co., H.		
Brown, Montana			150
Banker,	W. C. Edwards & Co., H. Brown,		
Montana			155
Victor's Emblem,	A. Burnett & Son, H.		
Brown, Montana			100
Sir Wilfrid,	P. Stewart, R. Mc Allister,		
Auburn			215
Ramsden Groom,	G. and W. Parkinson,		
M. M. Wilson, Ferguson			200
Stamford Hero,	G. and W. Parkinson,		
James McQueen, Arthur			110
Matchless Victor,	Irvine B. Weber, H.		
Brown, Montana			110
Fashion Primrose,	H. K. Fairbairn, H.		
Brown, Montana			150
Golden Primrose,	H. K. Fairbairn, John		
Peary, Winterbourne			160
Chancellor Lad,	John J. Elliot, W. J.		
Isaac, Norwood			115
Lancaster Bud,	Leslie Bros., H. Brown,		
Montana			150
Bud's Victor,	W. G. Gerrie, H. Parker,		
Seaforth			175
Lancaster Sovereign,	A. F. and G. Auld,		
H. Brown, Montana			147.50
Conqueror,	James Cowan & Son, H.		
Brown, Montana			100
Sailor Joy,	Geo. D. Fletcher, H. Brown,		
Montana			240

Huntingdon Dairymen's Convention.

The 31st annual convention of the Huntingdon Dairy Association was held in Macdougall Hall, Ormstown, on Friday, Feb. 28th. It was the best convention held for some years. The President, Robert Ness, of Howick, in his opening remarks referred to the many changes in the Agricultural world since the Association was organized. The secretary's financial statement showed a balance on hand of \$80.56.

At the morning session, Prof. Barton of Macdonald College, in an address on the feeding of dairy cows said in part that most of farms are understocked with underfed, and poorly-bred animals. The right kind of roughage is not being sown and losses were heavy in this regard. Farmers should grow more silage, roots and clover. He advised not to start growing too large an acreage of corn at first but to commence in a small way and as experience was gained increase the average. He considered no dairy farmer should be without a soiling crop to supplement the pasture and recommended alfalfa, peas, oats, vetches and oats, and silage. Feeders should study more the making of a balanced ration.

At the opening of the afternoon session, Dr. Harrison, of Macdonald College, gave an interesting address on milk production from a bacterial standpoint. He considered the situation of farmers in this eastern section was linked with the milk supply of Montreal City and he described some of the methods of delivering milk in the cities of Europe, where best results were realized by companies commencing in a comparatively small way and working upward to a large distribution. He emphasized the necessity of farmers putting up clean milk and showed the connection of disease-producing organisms between the animal and the human, especially in connection with tuberculosis and kindred diseases. A great responsibility rested on the dairymen in producing clean, wholesome milk as the largest consumers were children and invalids. He advised dairymen to pay greater attention to the cleanliness and ventilation of the stable. Use only clean utensils and cool the milk thoroughly.

Louis Simpson, of Ottawa, commended the object of the promoters of the Consolidated Milk Company, Limited, as being the best method for the producers to put their cream before the consumers. He referred briefly to the labor problem in its relation to the farm and considered that the Government should no longer boom our Canadian West as the railways were quite capable of doing this, but should turn their attention more to bringing labor into the eastern country. He recommended the using of more power machines.

At the evening meeting, D. M. MacPherson, of Lancaster, the first President of the Association, referred to the good work done by the Association since its organization. In a lengthy address he went on to show how that formerly he advocated the feeding of the cow to make fertilizer to enrich the soil, to grow large crops. He had seen the fallacy of that system and had learned that the proper method was to feed the land so that it would produce large crops to feed more cows and thus increase the profit per acre and lessen the cost of production. He recommended that along with a certain amount of barnyard manure the application of a commercial fertilizer with four per cent. soluble nitrogen, eight per cent. soluble phosphoric acid, six per cent. potash and about two hundred pounds soluble lime, an application such as this would be a balanced ration to the soil, and applied early in the spring he had found it to give big returns in experiments that had been tried in the County of Glengarry during the past two years.

Robert Brodie, of Westmount, discussed orcharding and Wm. Ewing, of Montreal, dealt with the subject of clover seed. H. B. Cowan, of "Farm and Dairy" also addressed the Convention.

One of the features of the Convention was the presentation of the gold and silver medals to the successful winners in the Provincial Farms Competition in 1911, as follows:-

Gold medal, Alex Younie, Tullochgorum, Quebec; Silver medals, T. O. Bourdon, Chateauguay; John Brown, Howick; Andrew Geddes, Ormstown; John Geddes, Ormstown; J. W. Logan, Howick; J. Milne, Riverfield; Jas. MacKell, Riverfield; Robert McNeil, Ormstown.

The following are the officers and directors for the ensuing year:-

President, Robert Ness, Howick; Vice-President, Arch. Muir, sr., Huntingdon; Secretary-Treasurer, W. H. Walker, M. L. A.; Directors, D. D. McBain, Valleyfield; Wm. Scott, Valleyfield; Edward McCowan, St. Martine; Jas. Bryson, Brysonville; Thos. Drysdale, Allan's Corners; Jas. Burke, Corbin; D. H. Brown, Beth; Jas. Donaldson, Dewittville, and Thos. White.

A week's free course, on plain and fancy ice-cream making, is to be put on at the O. A. C. Dairy School, March 24th-29th, in charge of D. McMillan.