

Some Observations on Seed-inspection Work for 1916.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

It has been quite a common remark by retailers of seed in Eastern Ontario, that "I never had such a good season in selling clover and grass seeds."

When we consider the high prices asked and paid for red clover this year the foregoing statement is somewhat remarkable, for the best grades of red clover retailed at 30c. per lb. and more. Even timothy seed brought from 11c. to 15c. per lb. retail. There must be some reasons for these conditions. They couldn't be found altogether in the better quality of the seeds, although the Nos. 1 and 2 grades of red clover were quite uniformly good this year in both vitality and purity. A great deal of the red clover was imported from other countries. A lot came from the Western States. Some from England and elsewhere. The Dominion Seed Law would only make it profitable for bringing in the best grades and these were the ones purchased and put upon the market. Much of the Ontario-grown seed of last year, except the Northern Ontario seed which was also chiefly, was inferior stuff. It was not only bad in seed content, mostly foxtail, but it had a poor appearance owing to the uneven and variable growth of last summer induced by the late summer rains and prolonged growth in the autumn.

What, then, were some of the reasons for its increased use? It seems to me one reason is that as stock can be handled with less labor and is strikingly remunerative now that land seeded down can be handled with less labor. Labor-saving machinery in harvesting the hay crop is an important factor. Then, heretofore, many farmers have been discouraged in seeding down because of the uncertainty of securing a crop. It was either summer-killed with drouth, winter-killed with ice or the spring heaving frosts or white frosts finished it.

This spring there was great encouragement because the new seeding nearly everywhere came through winter conditions so well. It seems to me that these are the chief factors in the change. Farmers are not slow in adjusting their methods of late years to meet the ever changing conditions. Usually the line of least resistance is followed too.

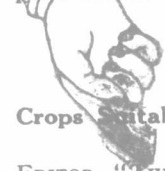
In working out plans this spring farmers nearly everywhere, have been greatly handicapped owing to the extremely wet condition of the soil. Never has the value of good surface drainage, and better still, good underdrainage of the soil shown to better advantage. On poorly drained land even where seeded the crop is suffering extremely and even the new seeding will suffer on the heavy soils. Where the working of the land has been delayed until so late in the season the grass and weeds have made surprising progress. Quack or couch grass, especially, has been taking advantage of the favorable conditions for its growth. However, on heavy land, it should be dealt with quite satisfactorily yet this season. It is beginning to shoot the head and if it is plowed down deeply, the surface well cultivated and rape is sown in drills and cultivated it should make a good finish of it. Even buckwheat

sown on it after thorough cultivation will hit it hard and so will corn and millet.

It is fortunate again this year that seed corn is so good. There are very few bad lots in evidence in the trade where it is really seed corn. Some fodder corn that a few farmers are trying will be very disappointing. Last season the sowing of fodder corn did well because of its maturity in the fall of 1914. But last year's corn wasn't so well matured and with the muggy weather it is hard to keep it fit for grinding, let alone keeping it for seed this year. The corn of the seed merchants this year consists to some extent of the 1914 crop or they are securing kiln-dried stuff. In some places too they are not buying so much corn on the cob as last year. The shelled corn often did as well last season as the corn on the cob and in a few cases, owing I believe to a better chance and better cultivation it even excelled it. Consequently some cob corn experimenters of last year are reverting to the use of shelled corn this year. Some of them may find it was a big mistake.

We shouldn't be discouraged though much of the land this year is yet to seed in some parts as we can fall back on buckwheat, emmer and millets. It isn't too late for them at all. These are cleaning crops too. It may not be a bad policy to summer-fallow some and where convenient fall wheat may be sown on it when the seeding down can yet be done with security. There is always compensation if we look in the right place for it.

T. G. RAYNOR.



The Wet Spring.

Crops suitable for Late Sowing in Ontario and Quebec.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

In some parts of Ontario the continued wet weather that has characterized this season up to the present has prevented the sowing of some of the usual crops at the usual time, and has had a tendency to discourage the farmer. Such, however, should not be the feeling, since the possibilities of producing crops on land not yet sown are practically as good as ever, provided the weather improves a bit and the right crops be sown in the right way and properly looked after.

Among crops sure of proving satisfactory, even at this late date, are barley for grain, peas and oats for forage, buckwheat, millet, Hungarian grass, corn for forage or ensilage, Swedes, white or flat turnips and rape.

Barley would likely do well even yet on fairly well-drained land. Sow about 2 bushels per acre.

Peas and oats sown 3 bushels oats and 1 bushel peas per acre, to be cut green for hay, may be expected to give profitable returns if sown anywhere before June 25.

Millets and Hungarian grass have wonderful possibilities as forage producers, and even for seed for poultry or swine if sown before July 10.

Buckwheat may be sown up to July 10 with cer-

tainty of profitable returns on almost any kind of land where water does not stand.

Corn for forage. Early or flint varieties (Long-fellow, Compton's Early, etc.) should be chosen. Sow thinly up to June 25.

Swedes thrive in such a season as we are having, and may be expected to give good returns if sown anywhere before the end of June.

Flat turnips or white turnips, while not so satisfactory as Swedes for most purposes, do well if sown even as late as the end of July and are most excellent cattle feed, being particularly suitable for dairy cows. They do not keep as well as Swedes.

Rape for pasturage is of great value for swine, sheep or beef cattle.

With late seeding most thorough preparation of the seed bed is absolutely necessary if success is to be hoped for. If land has to be ploughed, turn a shallow furrow, and in case land is grassy it will be much better to plough again even if already ploughed last fall or early this spring. After ploughing roll, disc two or three times and harrow before seeding. After seeding roll again if surface is very dry. In any case get the seed in well, and what is quite as important in the case of hoed crops above mentioned, see to it that they are kept absolutely free from weeds for the next two months. Neglect in this important detail means failure when crops are sown late.

If a choice of crops is possible, sow corn, buckwheat, turnips and Hungarian grass on the lighter soils, and other crops on other kinds of soil, that is, clays, clay loams, peaty or mucky soils, etc., but any one of these crops will do quite well on almost any kind of land.

J. H. GRIDDALE,
Director of Experimental Farms.

The Passing of Senator Derbyshire.

Senator Daniel Derbyshire, the "Eastern Ontario Cheese King," passed away at the General Hospital, Brockville, last Sunday evening at 7 o'clock. Senator Derbyshire was 69 years of age, and had enjoyed good health up to about 10 days before his death from apoplexy. He was for many years President of the Eastern Ontario Dairymen's Association, and was a dominant figure at each and every meeting. He was instrumental in the introduction of factory inspection work in Eastern Ontario, and was always an advocate of better cows and more feed for them. The "Cheese King" was born in Leeds County, Ontario, in the center of the dairy country of that part of the province. Senator Derbyshire entered business in Athens in 1874. In 1879 he removed to Brockville. He was mayor of the town in 1889 and 1890, and in 1904 was elected to Parliament. He was three years later made a Senator.

Eastern Ontario will miss its big man of the dairy industry. The Eastern Ontario Dairymen's Convention will scarcely be the same with the "Old Guard" so broken into, and all Canada will join with the dairymen of that portion of the province in sorrow at the loss of another leader in agricultural welfare.

Toronto, Montreal, Buffalo, and Other Leading Markets.

Toronto.

Receipts at the Union Stock Yards, West Toronto, from June 17 to June 19, numbered 2,178 cattle, 642 hogs, 331 sheep, 335 calves, and 982 horses. Good butcher cattle sold at \$9.40 to \$9.85, one choice lot bringing \$10.75; cows and bulls firm; choice, light, butcher sheep, \$9.75 to \$10.50; heavy sheep, \$5 to \$6.50; lambs, 16 cents; hogs and calves unchanged.

The total receipts of live stock at the City and Union Stock Yards were:

	City	Union	Total
Cattle	566	4,017	4,583
Hogs	547	8,589	9,136
Sheep	462	1,494	1,956
Calves	168	1,118	1,286
Horses	220	590	810

The total receipts for the corresponding week of 1915 were:

	City	Union	Total
Cattle	41	556	597
Hogs	217	3,137	3,354
Sheep	645	7,946	8,591
Calves	318	1,033	1,351
Horses	102	827	929
	179	5,495	5,665

The combined receipts of live stock at the two markets show an increase of 1,229 cattle, 515 hogs, 625 sheep, 257 calves and a decrease of 181 cars and 4,855 horses.

Last week was, exclusive of Easter and Christmas offerings, a week of record prices on Toronto market. Receipts of live stock were fairly large, and there was a strong tone to the market throughout. Market was active on all grades. Finished, dry-fed steers are pretty well out of the country. Prices were firm on grass-fed lots.

Supplies were cleared up at the weekend.

Heavy Cattle.—Very few offered, and prices ran up to \$10.35.

Butchers' Cattle.—Offerings light on choice stuff. Bulk of sales were made \$9.60 to \$10.00. A few at \$10.15 and \$10.25.

Stockers and Feeders.—Market was relatively firm all week, and prices ranged up to \$8.25 for stockers, and \$9 for feeders.

Milkers and Springers.—Trade was better for all milk cows, orders being numerous from outside points.

Veal Calves.—Calf market held strong, there being little change to report.

Sheep and Lambs.—Sheep and lambs were all taken readily at prices quoted.

Hogs.—Hogs advanced, and the week closed with the market strong and firm. Feeling was strong to steady.

Quotations:

Heavy Steers.—Choice, \$9.75 to \$10.35; good, \$9.25 to \$9.75.

Butchers' Cattle.—Handy, \$9.60 to \$10; medium, \$9.25 to \$9.60; common, \$8 to \$8.75.

Cows and Heifers.—Choice, \$7.85 to \$8.75; good, \$7.25 to \$7.75; medium, \$6.50 to \$7.25.

Bulls.—Best heavy, \$8 to \$8.85; medium, \$7 to \$8; light, \$6.15 to \$6.75.

Stockers and Feeders.—Best feeders, \$8 to \$9; best stockers, \$7.75 to \$8.50; good, \$7.50 to \$8; medium, \$6.75 to \$7.50; common, \$5.50 to \$6.50.

Cutters.—Best, \$5 to \$5.75.

Milkers and Springers.—Cows in milk, choice, \$80 to \$105; medium and common, \$50 to \$80; springers, \$60 to \$115.

Veal Calves.—Best, \$10 to \$12.50; medium, \$7.50 to \$9.50; common, \$6.50 to \$7; grass, \$1.75 to \$6.25.

Sheep and Lambs.—Lambs, \$9.50 to \$13; spring lambs, 15½c. to 16½c. per

lb.; light ewes, \$8 to \$10; heavy ewes and bucks, \$7 to \$8; culls, \$5 to \$6.

Hogs.—Weighed off cars, \$11 to \$11.15; fed and watered, \$10.75 to \$10.80; f.o.b. country points, \$10.25 to \$10.35.

Breadstuffs.

Wheat.—Ontario, No. 1 commercial, \$1 to \$1.01; No. 2, commercial, 98c. to 99c.; No. 3 commercial, 92c. to 93c.; feed wheat, 85c. to 87c. Manitoba (track, bay ports)—No. 1 northern, \$1.17; No. 2 northern, \$1.16; No. 3 northern, \$1.11½.

Oats.—Ontario, No. 3 white, 48c. to 49c. Manitoba oats (track, bay ports), No. 2 C.W., 53½c.; No. 3 C.W., 52c.; extra No. 1 feed, 52c.; No. 2 feed, 49½c.

Barley.—According to freights outside, malting barley, 65c. to 66c.; feed barley, 60c. to 62c.

Peas.—According to freights outside, No. 2, \$1.70; according to sample, \$1.25 to \$1.50.

Buckwheat.—According to freights outside, nominal, 70c. to 71c.

Rye.—According to freights outside, No. 1 commercial, 94c. to 95c.

Corn.—American (track Toronto), No. 3 yellow, 81c.

Flour.—Manitoba first patents, in jute bags, \$6.70; second patents, in jute bags, \$6.20; strong bakers', in jute bags, \$6. Ontario, winter, according to sample, \$4.10 to \$4.20, track, Toronto; \$4.10 to \$4.20, bulk, seaboard.

Hay and Millfeed.

Hay.—No. 2, per ton, best grade, \$18 to \$20; No. 2, per ton, low grade, \$15 to \$17.

Straw.—Car lots, per ton, \$7 to \$8, track, Toronto.

Brans.—Per ton, \$20 to \$21.

Shorts.—Per ton, \$24 to \$25.

Middlings.—Per ton, \$25 to \$26. Good Feed Flour.—Per bag, \$1.65 to \$1.70.

Country Produce.

Butter.—Butter remained about stationary on the wholesales during the past week. Creamery, fresh-made lb. squares, 29c. to 31c. per lb.; creamery solids, 28c. to 30c.; separator dairy, 27c.; dairy, 25c.

Eggs.—New-laid eggs firmed slightly, the case lots selling at 27c. per dozen, wholesale; cartons bringing 29c. to 30c. per dozen.

Cheese.—Old, 21c. to 22c. per lb.; new, 18c. to 19c.

Poultry.—Live weight—Spring chickens, 35c. per lb.; spring ducks, 25c. per lb.; turkeys, young, 20c.; fowl, 17c. to 19c. per lb.

Squabs.—\$3.50 to \$4 per dozen.

Hides and Skins.

Lamb skins and pelts, \$1.20 to \$1.25; sheep skins, city, \$2 to \$3; sheep skins, country, \$1.50 to \$2.50; city hides, flat, 20c.; country hides, cured, 18c.; country hides, part cured, 17c.; country hides, green, 16c.; calf skins, per lb., 30c.; kip skins, per lb., 28c.; horse hair, per lb., 43c. to 45c.; horse hides, No. 1, \$5 to \$5.50; horse hides, No. 2, \$4.50 to \$5; tallow, No. 1, 7c. to 8c.; wool, washed, 40c. to 44c.; wool rejections, 33c. to 35c.; wool, unwashed, 28c. to 32c.

Wholesale Fruit and Vegetables.

Canadian strawberries are beginning to arrive more freely, but are not of very good quality, and are now selling at 12½c. to 15c. per box.

Imported strawberries are arriving in large quantities, twelve carloads coming in in one day. They are of

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