

had everything they required and good buildings, including a large barn almost completed, and everything was paid for to the last cent. All was gone. Not an axe left of any use—and these men were no longer young!

There were many instances of this kind, but far worse ones. Cases of the most pathetic kind possible to conceive. A father returning to seek his wife and little ones finds them all charred corpses, huddled together in a small root-house which had fallen in on them, his home and every earthly possession for which he had struggled completely destroyed. A whole community who sought refuge in a railway cut, every one suffocated and most burned to a crisp. The soldier at the front suffers unspeakably in some cases before death comes to his relief, yet he dies for his country and kindred, giving his life for others.

Is the terrible unnecessary loss of life in this North Country to be in vain? Can such horrors ever again be enacted? I say they can and will be unless something is done, for there are still large tracts of country untouched by fire where settlers have already found homes. The country which was burned over last July is not all burned to such an extent that there remains no further danger.

Whose duty is it to find a remedy? Is the sacrifice of hundreds of lives to be for nothing, and settlers invited to take up land while the chances are so great that they amount almost to certainties, that in the future, be it near or far, another appalling fire will sweep the North Country again unless adequate preventive measures are taken. The settlers are warned to be careful with fire in the process of clearing the land. Anyone familiar with conditions in New Ontario knows that it is almost impossible to stop fire spreading if only one stump is fired in a dry time. Every root is a conductor, the earth itself is a mixture of fine "touch wood," dry vegetable matter and much besides that will burn. Digging may cut it off, but the first high wind soon fans it until it bursts into flame and sparks are carried to another spot, and in half an hour ten men could not stop it, and in a few hours an army of fire-fighters would be helpless.

Now is the time to study this question and formulate plans for prevention; not next spring or later. Next spring is the time to carry out preventive measures. The people of Northern Ontario look to the Government to move in this matter, and to formulate their plans for the protection of the settlers before the winter is past, and go ahead and do something before the dangers which another summer will bring, to those who so far have escaped, are turned into deadly realities.

New Ontario.

H. W. PARSONS.

### Clover Seed Production in Kenora District.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

About growing clover seed in the Kenora District a great deal might be written; however, it is not the writer's intention, in this short article, to treat the matter in detail but simply touch on a few of the most important phases of the work as carried on at the present time.

To begin with, an industry, or particular line of farming, carried on in any section, must have origin. Referring to the origination of the industry under discussion, it might be said, that it owes its very being to the keenness of vision and foresight of one of the early settlers, near Oxdrift, named Benjamin Brignall, who, being from Ontario County in the East, and having had some previous experience in the production of clover seed was quick to realize by the way the clover was growing along the roads and in the fields that the district possessed unlimited opportunities and possibilities undeveloped in this particular line. On account of it being located in a new country, free from weeds, and also far north it would be possible to produce an article of superior quality. At one time this settler was somewhat discouraged; but filled with new hopes and visions as a result of the excellent growth of clover he once more determined to succeed and commenced clearing land for the sole purpose of clover-seed production. Two years later Mr. Brignall had 10½ acres of red clover which yielded him 87 bushels or a little better than 8 bushels per acre. He had also ½ acre of alsike which yielded five bushels and 40 pounds, or better than 11 bushels per acre. Being the first producer of seed, quite naturally it fell to his lot to purchase the first clover huller. However, owing to the large increase in the production of seed this implement soon became a very paying investment and now it has been laid aside, and three other newer and more up-to-date hullers are doing work in the district, and pressing need exists for more of equal capacity.

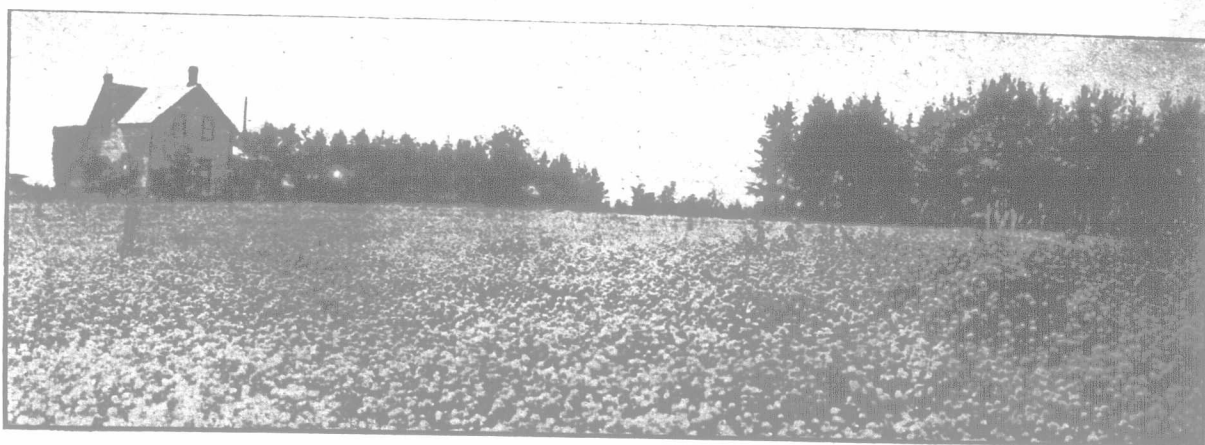
When the large clover-seed fields became so prevalent, it dawned upon the Dryden Agricultural Society that this would be a good crop to use in connection with Standing Field Crop Competitions, and accordingly for the last three years a large number of entries have been made in this connection; and to quote the words of the judge this season. "This District has certainly any other beaten that I have ever seen for the production of clover seed, and just imagine, out of the 14 fields which I have judged, not a noxious weed has been found in any of them; it is something remarkable." This however, may seem a small item to the outsider; but to the careful and watchful farmer who is desirous of securing seed entirely free from noxious weed seeds and comparatively free from weed seeds of any sort it is of great moment.

While very little of the seed from this district has ever been shown in competition at either the Guelph or Ottawa Winter Fairs, nevertheless what was shown gave a good account of itself and was successful in winning first prize on alsike and third prize on red clover. These two samples were entered by Wm. Devoe, Oxdrift, and John Reid, Dryden, respectively.

This season a new addition has been added to the already successful record of the district, Frank Shapland of Minnitaki has been successful in the production of 140 pounds of Grimms alfalfa seed. This seed was grown in rows 30 inches apart, got no protection during the past winter and should prove to be very desirable seed for foundation stocks being, without doubt, doubly hardy owing to the Northern District in which it was grown.

Regarding the culture of the clover plant for seed production, there are so many and varied systems of rotations, methods of seeding out, etc., that space will not permit of a detailed description of each. Suffice it to state that the clover grows here very abundantly, and although termed a biennial by botanists has been known to live and thrive for many years. In some cases, individual plants have been selected out and after having survived three or four of our severe winters are still in a healthy condition. The soil is a heavy clay and it seems to be well adapted to the growth of the clover plant and as we would naturally expect, owing to the fact that clover is a nitrogen-gathering plant, the land keeps improving, both mechanically and chemically the more crops of clover it produces. Surprising perhaps to many Eastern farmers the clover seed is produced, both in the case of red and alsike by the first crop. One system of turning the wild and woolly forest into a flourishing alsike field which some have practiced with good results might be summed up as follows:

Small timber chopped down (Jack Pine and Poplar), and stumps grubbed or blown out during summer of 1914; land broken same fall. In spring of 1915 land well-cultivated, and seeded to alsike about June 1st, without a nurse crop. Nothing further was done until the harvesting of the crop 1916 which was certainly a credit to the owner.



Field of Alsike.

This crop is growing on the farm of Alex. Skene, north of Dryden in the Kenora District.

We come to one of the most important phases of the whole story, namely, marketing. Heretofore it has been the practice to sell all seed produced to speculators at or soon after threshing time. In 1913 a yield of 2,004 bushels was disposed of in this way. While this system of marketing gave fair satisfaction, yet its weak points were many. In the first place the identity of the seed was lost and hence Kenora District received none of the credit for producing same. Again, the price was too much below that paid by the Eastern farmer the following spring; and accordingly, owing to large increase in production and in order that better satisfaction might be had, and more harmony exist between the producer and consumer, as in this particular instance, they are both worthy tillers of the soil, the farmers of Kenora District have organized themselves into an organization known as, The Kenora District Co-operative Clover Seed Growers' Association, with head office at Oxdrift, and T. J. Latimer of Oxdrift, has been secured as Manager and Salesman. A large power Clipper cleaning mill has been purchased and installed and it is the intention of the Society to clean, grade and store their seed until sold in a retail manner to the Eastern and Western farmers of Canada.

Kenora District, Ont.

L. H. HANLAN,  
District Representative.



Red Clover.

Field on Alex. Skene's farm north of Dryden.



Clearing the Land.

Field on Arthur Thomas' farm in Kenora district being prepared for growth of clover seed.

### "He Can Who Thinks He Can."

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I wis lookin' through a Yankee magazine, that had happened tae come intae the hoose some way or ither, the past week, an' I cam' across an article wi' this for a title: "He can who thinks he can." The chap who wrote it made oot that gin a mon had faith in his ain abilities, an' will-power enuch tae keep him on the job, there was naething on this earth he couldna' accomplish. "Weel," says I tae mysel', "that's a pretty strong statement," an' I began tae think o' a' the inventors that hae tried tae bring aboot perpetual motion, an' tae mak' gold oot o' brass or money oot o' hens an' sae on, an' says I, "it will be juist as weel tae tak' that statement wi' a wee bit o' salt."

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