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SWEET CLOVER---THE TRUTH.

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During the last twelve months or so the interest in Sweet Clover, shown by farmers in different parts of Canada, has assumed surprising proportions. Numerous articles in the agricultural press and still more numerous 'letters to the editors' of the agricultural papers have discussed the sweet clover question, but so far no definite conclusions as to the merits or demerits of the sweet clover have been arrived at.

A certain number of the writers cannot condemn it strongly enough claiming that it is a 'nuisance' and a 'pest' which when introduced on a farm will spread beyond control and which will lessen the value of the farms. Instances have been quoted, in which the selling price of farms has dropped as much as two thousand dollars on account of their being overrun by sweet clover, wilfully introduced by their owners.

On the other hand a great number of writers are enthusiasts who look upon sweet clover as a forage crop of extraordinary value which, unfortunately, has been misjudged and altogether underestimated in Canada. Articles have appeared in which the writers remark that 'colleges across the border are loud in its praise' and that it is a 'staple crop in Europe,' etc.

The result of these contradictory statements is that the unfortunate farmer who is unfamiliar with the plant in question is at a loss as to its real value.

In the following paragraphs a few facts will be given which, it is hoped, will help to clear the situation.

VARIETIES.

Under the name of Sweet clover are recognized a number of leguminous plants characterized by a very pronounced sweet odour. They all belong to the same genus, viz: *Melilotus*, and are often called melilots. Although called sweet clover, they have not much in common with the true clovers, represented by the Red, White and Alsike varieties. As a matter of fact, they are more related to alfalfa than to any other leguminous plant.