

The sowing of home grown seed, year after year, should, in time, give a hardy strain, but it is well to begin with a heavy yield, and one with other desirable qualities.—Ed.

Mr. Larcombe replies to the above as follows: EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

"As to your query on the growing of beans for the winter market. Yes! They may be grown with success in almost any year, and I would be inclined to think in any part of the west. The writer has only failed in ripening beans once; but there is always a certain amount of risk, as beans are more sensitive to frost than almost any other crop. They are, of course, liable to be frozen with a late June frost, or to be checked in their ripening stage, with an early September frost; but, as I have mentioned, I have only failed once. The common White Bean will be found to do very well, but there are other varieties that are earlier and heavier yielders, and only for the color of some, are just as good for table use.

"The earliest bean with me, is the 'White Valentine'. Another good variety is the 'Golden Beauty', but this is a spotted bean, and there may be some objection to color. The same will apply to 'Honey Pot' which is very early and an enormous cropper. I have never grown them extensively, that is, by the acre, or acres; but five years ago I tried several varieties by the rod, all of which ripened. 'Golden Beauty' was the heaviest in yield. 'White Valentine' was the earliest and second in yield. I am afraid I have lost track of the nine varieties, and their yields, but if my memory serves me right, I grew 78 pounds to the rod of Golden Beauty and 64 of White Valentine. The ordinary White or Harrowque bean was a few days later, and a few pounds lighter in yield to the rod, but it will be seen that the two first varieties named, worked out considerably over one hundred bushels to the acre. Of course, at this rate, it would make it one of the best paying crops, but there is the danger, if they are grown extensively, of a spring frost. We have to take some chances on almost everything we grow.

"Your correspondent should grow, say, an acre, by way of experiment, and, if successful, he may raise them in any quantities, as the market demands. But I would not like to take chances in sowing in large quantities until after the 20th of May, if there are no checks, this will give

plenty of time for ripening. I would drop a few 'Scarlet Runners' all over the plot as they are more likely to attract the bees. Bees in a bean plot are of incalculable value.

"We have tried a few bunches of mignonette in the bean plot. This may be sown either between the rows, which should be thirty inches apart, or leave a space any where in the plot, for a small bed of mignonette, the bees will find this and then go from flower to flower."

S. LARCOMBE.

FIELD NOTES

Events of the Week

A party of one hundred surveyors with men are making a survey of the country west of Ft. Churchill, and will report to the government upon the conditions surrounding the building of the Hudson's Bay Railway in January.

The first load of this year's Alberta winter wheat was sold in Lethbridge, on July 10th. It went 63 pounds to the bushel and sold for 80 cents. Much of the Alberta crop will go from 35 to 40 bushels to the acre.

The Pillsbury-Washburn Milling company, of Minneapolis, the largest concern of its kind in the world, has gone in the hands of a receiver, but the mill is still in operation. The liabilities are estimated at \$15,000,000, but there is no anxiety on the part of the creditors. Most of the capital stock of the company is held by British investors. The mills have a capacity of 38,800,000 bushels annually.

The Canadian government has refused to suspend operation of the alien labor law at the request of railways and construction contractors who desire to take advantage of the labor situation in the United States.

By a fire on the vessel Premier, at Warrens Landing, on Lake Winnipeg, eight persons lost their lives.

The total loss of property in the Fernie, B. C. fire is estimated by the insurance companies involved to be \$2,225,000.

The gross earnings of the Canadian Pacific Railway company for July, the first month of the company's new fiscal year, make a bad start with a decrease of \$704,000, representing over 12 per cent. below the gross for the corresponding month of 1907. Gross earnings for the last ten days of July decreased \$292,000. The earnings for July, by weeks, are given as follows:

	1908	1907	Dec.
July 1 to 8....	\$1,399,000	\$1,542,000	\$143,000
July 8 to 14....	1,407,000	1,551,000	144,000
July 15 to 21...	1,400,000	1,525,000	125,000
July 22 to 31...	1,990,000	2,232,000	292,000

* * *

In an illustrated description of the Fernie fire, a California paper publishes a photo of Main street, Winnipeg, and two Doukhobor women at the C. P. R. depot, and named the cuts: "Scenes from Winnipeg fire zone, Street in British Columbia city, to which homeless thousands are fleeing," and "Types of peasant women who are refugees from desolated town in Crow's Nest Valley."

* * *

Nasty feelings have been aroused between the passenger departments of the C. P. R. and C. N. R., on account of the former road stating that the harvesters they bring from the east will be delivered at C. P. R. points only. C. N. R. officials are assisting in getting hands in the west, and offering cheap rates to farmers to Winnipeg to hire men.

* * *

The Canadian government has appointed engineers to rebuild the Quebec bridge which collapsed last year.

* * *

On August 7 last a party of priests of St. Boniface college, Winnipeg, accompanied by Judge Prud'homme, discovered the site of Fort St. Charles, built in 1732 by Sieur de la Verandrye on the northwest angle of the Lake of the Woods. They also discovered the skulls of 19 voyageurs and the skeletons of Father Aulneau and Jean Baptiste de la Verandrye, all of whom were massacred in 1736 by Sioux Indians on an island in the Lake of the Woods.

For many years past the Roman Catholic church has made attempts to locate these remains, but until the present month all efforts to do so had failed.

* * *

Frost visited several districts in the wheat belt of Western Manitoba and Eastern Saskatchewan on the night of the 12th inst. The extent of the damage cannot be ascertained, but it is believed to be considerable as the grain was about ten days from being ripe.



PHOTO BY CLARK, C.N.R.

SUMMER SHADE
On the Red River Bank near Selkirk, Man.