

did more or less damage to the seed crops. The hardier weeds got a good start of the clover as a result. Timothy seemed to have got a better start with new seedling than usual, as it is a rare occurrence to see a clear red clover field. Consequently the clover haying will be later this year, and the second brood of the midge may do more injury than usual. The alfalfa bumblebees seemed quite plentiful the first bloom was not at all prolific. There do not appear to be many blank spots in the meadows of mixed timothy and clover, but there are a good many poor spots in the alfalfa fields, and the straw is considerably shorter than last year. The prospect for a good crop of seed I do not consider so bright as last year.

HOW THE SEED CONTROL ACT WORKS OUT

While most farmers know there is a Seed Control Act, many are not aware of its application in protecting them in the purchase of seeds of first quality. For instance, a dealer would show his customer a bag on which was a lead seal and perhaps a cord, saying the seed was government standard. The purchaser, who naturally might jump at the conclusion that the seed was No. 1. While there was plenty of No. 1 seed to be had, there was plenty of government standard seed which would not grade No. 1 under the Act. Government standard was a term used by the seedsmen and might mean anything from No. 1 to what would be prohibited from being sold for seeding purposes, viz., when there would be more than 2 noxious weed seeds to the 1,000 seeds of the sample. Many farmers did not look in buying seed grain, such as oats, barley or wheat, for a label which should give information as to what weed seeds were in a sample when present in a greater proportion than one to the pound, which is the present margin of tolerance. It is up to the dealer who handles the material grains for seeding purposes to place on the package offered for sale his name and address, the kind of seed grain, and the common names of any weed seeds mentioned in Sec. 3 of the Act, which may be present, if as stated above, there be more than one to the pound. He should do this for his own protection, as well as for the information of the purchasing public. There is yet another point on which many farmers are not clear and that is, that it is just as unlawful for a farmer to sell low grade seed of timothy, red clover or alsike to his neighbor for seeding purposes as for the dealer to sell it. He has no special privilege to sell seeds containing the weed seeds mentioned in Sec. 4 of the Act as he has for dealing in those mentioned in Sec. 3 of the Act. Clause 2, under Sec. 3, however, restricts him to selling home-grown seed and to delivering it on his own premises, where he is selling it to a neighbor for seeding purposes. It would be better if all farmers who had small seeds to sell would sell it to the trade for re-cleaning, and, if necessary, to buy the re-cleaned, guaranteed seed of the seedsmen, in order to ensure safety from weed seed contamination. They do not seem to know that the Seed Branch is open to test samples of their seeds for them free of charge, and that even a postage stamp is unnecessary, as the letter O.H.M.S. will act as well as a stamp when directed to the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

CROP PROSPECTS

Very many of the old meadows suffered severely from the exposure last

winter, and the freezing of water into ice in such a way as to smother vegetation. Consequently many old meadows were plowed and prepared for a grain or clover crop. Those which were left, owing to the slow spring growth of April and May do not promise very much hay. Some of the meadows thickened in the bottom during June, but the crop of timothy hay is bound to be lighter than last year. Where fall wheat did not winter kill, and compared with other years it was not bad in this respect, the crop is a very promising one. The pea crop, which is much larger than usual, was suffering in most parts from too much wet weather, more particularly on poorly drained

clay soils. There evidently had been too much rain in many parts, and crops on the wet, undrained clay soils were either suffering severely, or were at a stand-still in growth.

In sizing up the crop prospects as a whole, there seems to be promise of a good average one at least.

There were some localities in which smut was showing up a good deal. However, an encouraging feature is, that more farmers every year are treating their seed with some of the well known applications, such as blue-stone and formalin, and will in this way increase their yields per acre.

T. G. RAYNOR.

A Pioneer in Seed Selection

The institution of the Macdonald-Robertson seed grain competition a few years ago, to be followed later by the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, has given an increased impetus to seed selection and the improvement of grain crops generally in Canada. But long before this forward movement started there were individuals here and there who had practiced seed selection and demonstrated most clearly its great value in seed improvement. One of these was Mr. Lewis J. Coryell, Oshawa, Ont. He was born in the Township of Whitley in 1834 and is still residing in that locality.

Mr. Coryell became interested in seed selection a few back as 1863. The first grain, and, in fact, the only one that he gave special attention to was peas. Like Mr. Jesse Trull, whose work in clover culture we gave a short account of in our June 15th issue, he confined his energies

attention to having the seed pure and spent so much for extra help to "cull" the inferior plants in the field and to pick out the inferior seed in the granary, that it is doubtful if Mr. Coryell ever received for the seed what it was really worth, as people in those days had not started to appreciate the value of good seed as they do to-day. However, he succeeded in establishing a continental reputation for the production of seed peas. Among his regular customers for many years were such well-known firms as Chase Bros, and J. Vicks & Son, of Rochester, N.Y. For a number of years he supplied the canners of the United States with their seed.

Mr. Coryell was a stickler for thorough cultivation. In later years, as his business grew, he was compelled to secure the assistance of other farmers in the district in growing seed peas. His plan was to supply the seed and buy back the product in the fall at a stated price, which, however, was always sufficiently high to enable the grower to make good money out of the transaction. But he insisted on the soil being well cultivated and in proper condition before he would allow any one to grow seed for him. So persistent was he in this regard that better methods of cultivation became more general in the neighborhood, to the great benefit of the farming community. He aided the farmers of the district in other ways. During the agricultural depression of some years back his co-operative seed growing plan helped to tide many a farmer over a trying period, by loaning the seed until the crop was grown.

But while his main business was the growing of seed peas on a large scale, he managed to find time for special work in the direction of selecting new varieties, his experimental plots often covering as much as ten acres. His first work was with the Marrowfat and little white pea. By selection and cultivation he was able to bring about a great improvement in these varieties. A special work of his was the testing and originating of new varieties. He originated the Blue Beauty pea, which he sold to Peter Henderson & Co., of New York. Indeed, his work in this respect had to do with so many varieties that it is impossible to more than refer to it here. During the forty years in which he was engaged in it, he accomplished a great deal for the agriculture of his district. By patient labor and study and by applying his energies to one thing at a time, he was able to make a distinct success of his work and has left a name that will be remembered always as long as peas are grown in this country.



Mr. Lewis J. Coryell

in this direction to one thing, and made a distinct success of it. He possessed to a marked degree those qualities of thoroughness and strict attention to detail which characterize every successful experimenter. He made selection a special feature of his work, though his methods were somewhat different from those followed by members of the Seed Growers' Association. The latter select the best plants, or rather seed, from the best plants, and by continuing this selection process year after year bring the seed up to a high standard of excellence and vitality. Mr. Coryell's plan, and it was about the only one that could be followed in growing seed on a large scale, was to go through the pea field and pick out all plants that did not conform in length, color, etc., to the standard recognized for the particular variety grown. In this way, and by picking over all seed before it was sown, he was able to supply his customers with a distinctly pure quality of seed. In fact he gave so much care and