

thorough cultivation, combined with the application of ordinary foresight and intelligence in the direction of farm operations. J. E. HOWITT, O. A. C., Guelph, Ont. Botanical Dept.

A Sparrow Supper.

RATS, MICE, AND SPARROWS.

A novel competition in reducing ravages of rats, sparrows and mice was introduced during the last two weeks of the annual meetings of the Onondaga Farmers' Club, in Brant Co., Ont.

A second annual competition was inaugurated by the members of the Club, by appointing two captains, A. W. Vansickle and Wesley Gee. Each captain chose sides, equally dividing the members. Ten points were allowed for each rat, and one point for each mouse or sparrow. The losing side were to provide the oysters for the final banquet of the Club members and their wives.

The total number of rats produced at the final meeting was 572, of mice 115, of sparrows 4,829. The membership, when the competition was started, was 30. During the last two weeks of the Club year the membership was increased to 47. The oysters cost the losing side 80 cents per member. The competition will be continued. Our informant adds that the secretary of the club would not tell him who ate the rat-pie.

Problems of the Bean-growers.

The bean-growers of Western Ontario have organized. At a convention at Ridgetown, Saturday, May 14th, which was largely attended and enthusiastic, and at which excellent practical addresses were given by A. B. Cook, Owosso, Michigan; P. W. Hodgetts, Dept. of Agriculture, Toronto; J. E. Howitt, O. A. C., Guelph, and others, organization was completed. The objects of the Bean-growers' Association are as yet mainly educational, viz.: To secure and distribute information in regard to, first, seed selection; second, insects and diseases affecting the bean plant; and third, value and use of commercial fertilizers for beans. It is intended, also, that at threshing time data as to acreage and yield of the crop grown be secured. A Government experimental bean plot of three acres is to be run in connection with the Association, and M. Wade, Morpeth, was appointed to have charge of it.

Kent County, Ont., in which the convention was held, is the greatest bean-producing section in the Dominion. Over nearly the whole area of that county beans are the chief money-making crop. Their cultivation is not confined to Kent County alone, as, in a surrounding fringe of the adjoining Counties of Essex, Lambton and Elgin they are also profitably grown, but Kent County is the center, and also almost the circumference of the bean-growing area of Ontario. The crop of 1909 is estimated to have totalled half a million bushels or over. Throughout the district, the average area in beans on a hundred-acre farm is 20 acres. But many grow a much greater percentage, and crops of 50, 60 and up to 100 and 125 acres, on some of the larger farms, are reported. One unvarying rotation is general: beans, fall wheat, and clover, manure being applied to the bean crop. The average yield per acre is about 20 bushels, though some expert growers seldom have less than 30 bushels of beans per acre, and occasionally yields up to 50 bushels are heard of. The average price received by farmers for last year's crop was \$1.65 to \$1.70 per bushel, so that even an average crop can be seen to be a money-maker. Until about three years ago there was a considerable export trade to the United States, but since that time our own country has absorbed the whole crop, and the price has risen, until it equals that on the other side.

We have not space for the addresses in this issue, but will use some of them next week. Officers elected were as follows: President, Wm. E. Galbraith, Morpeth; 1st Vice-President, John McDougal, Rondeau; 2nd Vice-President, W. C. Sifton, Palmyra; Secretary, David Wilson, Morpeth; Treasurer, A. D. McDiarmid, Morpeth. Directors—Louis Bennett, New Scotland; Alexander McDougal, Rondeau; A. Wiley, Blenheim; Alex. McLaughlin, Mull; M. Wade, Morpeth; Harry Harrison, Ridgetown; Geo. Leatherdale, Ridgetown; Wm. Spear, Highgate; H. Lampman, Palmyra; Angus Thompson, Duart; Ernest Gosnell, Highgate; A. McCaughan, Rodney; John Gordon, Aldborough.

The Festival of Empire, which was to have been held in London, Eng., this year, as noted in our review of agricultural legislation at Ottawa, was to take the form of an extensive exhibition. Press despatches indicate, however, that, owing to the late King's death, it is being postponed until 1911. Official confirmation of this report is not to hand, however, at date of writing.

McMaster University has conferred the LL. D. degree on President G. C. Creelman, of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph.

A Conference Re Wool Tariff.

At the last two or three annual meetings of the Dominion Sheep-breeders' Association more or less discussion has taken place regarding the status of the flockmasters' industry, in an effort to ascertain the cause of its decline, and, if possible, obtain a remedy by which it would be brought back to its former prominence. The breeders of the Province of Ontario had already instituted flock illustration stations, which will furnish facts as to returns to be obtained from the use of pure-bred rams on fair, good grade ewes. The committee appointed by the Dominion Association, realizing that conditions which might apply to Ontario breeders might not be applicable to all other Provinces, after going into the subject very thoroughly, and looking at it from all points of view, came to the conclusion to present a memorial to the Ministers of Agriculture, Finance and Customs, at Ottawa, setting forth more particularly the disabilities under which the wool-growing part of the industry is carried on in this country. It emphasized the fact that, while sheep in the United States, under a protective tariff on wool, from 1870 to 1904, had increased 80 per cent. in Canada, with practically free wool from 1871 to 1905 they had decreased over 30 per cent. It represented that these conditions were undoubtedly largely due to the fact that, while in Canada wool now sells at from 15 cents to 16 cents per pound, in the United States wool of similar staple sells at from 30 to 32 cents per pound, the difference being attributed principally to the duty of 12 cents per pound imposed by the United States Government on Canadian wool. Attention was directed to the fact that sheep are beyond question the most valuable of our domestic animals in supplying both food and clothing, in improving and maintaining the fertility of the land, and also in the destruction of weeds, for which reasons many more sheep should be kept in all parts of the Dominion, especially in the grain-growing districts of the West, where weeds are rapidly becoming a serious menace to agriculture. With these conditions as regards the wool market, and from the great benefit which would result to the country from the keeping of more sheep, it was asked that a duty of 5 cents per pound be placed on all wools, woolen noils, woolen rags and waste, thereby furnishing a protection to the Canadian product.

The representations made to the Ministers impressed them so much they asked that the committee again appear before them to discuss the question with representatives from the woolen manufacturers. This conference took place on May 13th, when a very free and amicable discussion ensued. The woolen manufacturers claim that their industry could not stand the duty asked for; the wool producers that without it there would be no revival in sheep breeding in Canada; that wool was the finished product of the sheep-breeder, and as such was as much entitled to protection as the finished article of the manufacturer. Nothing but good should come of this conference, as the government of the day will be in possession of information as to what is best for the two interests particularly affected, in order to deal with them fairly and justly, and at the same time guard those of the consumer. Members from the Sheep-breeders' Association present at the conference were: Col. McCrae, A. W. Smith, M. P., J. Campbell, and Col. Robert McEwen.

Fruit Prospects in East Lambton.

The heavy frosts during the first week of May did considerable damage to early fruit in this county, but, with the exception of early plums and cherries, there are still, at date of writing (May 13th), prospects for a full crop. Early apples, such as Astrachans, Duchess and Wealthy, considerably injured, but, owing to heavy blossoming, will yet make a good crop. Kings, Greenings and Spies promise heavy crop, with Baldwins rather light. Peaches were slightly injured, but still promise a bumper crop. Burbank and other early plums set very little fruit, owing to cold weather during blooming period, and even what did set was much injured by frost. Late plums fared somewhat better, but this crop will be very light. Pears promise a very heavy crop. Common varieties of cherries were mostly all injured by heavy frosts in April, while the blossom buds were yet almost undeveloped. English varieties appear to have escaped injury. Early strawberries were much injured, while late varieties were not sufficiently advanced to receive much.

Cane berries wintered well, with slight winter damage to old plantations of Cuthberts. These were not advanced sufficiently to be affected by the late frosts.

Much greater attention is being given to apple orchards, owing to the influence of the Fruit-growers' Associations, and a far greater amount of spraying is being done. Many orchards were sprayed early with the home-boiled, lime-sulphur wash, to be followed later with several sprayings of Bordeaux, using arsenite of lime as an

insecticide. In our own orchard we are using both this poison and arsenate of lead, so that we may be able to compare the respective qualities of these poisons as insecticides.

We used, during the latter part of April, after the foliage was well advanced, self-boiled lime-sulphur with arsenite of lime, without the slightest apparent injury to the foliage. We find, however, that this preparation does not adhere to the trees nearly so well as the boiled preparation. From present prospects, we would surmise that the home-boiled solution, as we applied it, will keep the trunks and branches thickly coated during the entire season. This should largely assist in controlling the apple spot.

In regard to farm crops, fall wheat is mostly looking well, while meadows suffered very little winter or spring injury. Notwithstanding the early seeding, spring grain has made very little growth, owing to the cold weather during the past two weeks. Considerable damage is also being done by the wireworm. Corn ground is mostly all prepared, but planting will be delayed until better weather conditions prevail. A large acreage of this crop is grown here for silage, which is being more highly appreciated each season. E. F. AUGUSTINE.

M'g'r Lambton Fruit-growers' Ass'n.
Lambton Co., Ont.

The Fields of Waterloo.

This season, the red clover and alfalfa fields of Waterloo Co., Ont., present a magnificent appearance. Nothing could surpass the appearance of the former in the southern part of the county, the luxuriant growth of the new seedings being remarkable, notwithstanding the cold weather of May. In all directions, the strong, naturally-drained, sweeping hills are being covered with alfalfa, the value of which the shrewd and solid farmers of the county are not slow to appreciate. Of immense feeding value, its culture also helps to solve the farm-labor problem. The rapid spread and popularity of alfalfa is an outstanding feature in the crop system of the county. The corn area is increasing this year, and a host of new silos went up last season. Fall wheat continues to be a great staple here, and looks well. Beef-cattle feeding continues to hold a place of pre-eminence, and the stables have been turning out a lot of grand stock, at handsome prices. Farmers are in good heart, and will stick to the steer, which has done so well for themselves and the soil in years gone by.

A World's Record Heifer.

The Holstein-Friesian heifer Jennie Bonerges Ormsby, owned by D. C. Platt & Son, of Millgrove, Ont., has recently completed what is claimed to be a world's record of milk and butter production for a two-year-old, in a 365-days' test, made under the supervision of the Dominion Department of Agriculture. This heifer calved as a two-year-old, and gave, within a year, 16,849 pounds 3 ounces milk, which contained 832.90 pounds butter, which it is claimed heads the world's record by 70 pounds butter. We are not informed on which basis this was calculated. If figured on the 80-per-cent. standard, it would mean that the heifer's milk contained an estimated 666.32 pounds of butter-fat. If calculated on the basis of adding one-sixth, it would mean that she had given 713.91 pounds of butter-fat.

This heifer, ten months after freshening, made 14.39 pounds butter in seven days, which is also a world's record. She will drop two calves in a little over 13 months, which makes her record so much the greater.

Time to Plant Corn.

Even in Quebec I find that farmers are ready and anxious to plant corn. The weather has been such as to promote early working of the land everywhere, and they have everything else planted, and are now, no doubt, planting corn.

Now, corn is a warm-weather plant, and if planted June 1st in well prepared soil, will give better results than if planted May 1st in cold, wet earth. Farmers should be advised not to plant too early, but to get soil in better shape than usual before planting, and put the seed in the ground from May 21st to June 1st. We are pretty sure to have good weather after June 1st, but before that date it is uncertain.

Much of the corn sold for seed purposes will be all right under favorable conditions, but the best of it, unless of the crop of 1908, while it may germinate very well, is lacking in vitality, and, planted now, may never come up.

Essex Co., Ont. J. O. DUKE.

Advices from Winnipeg state that the McNaughton Fruit Exchange have made arrangements to handle the output of the St. Catharines Cold-storage and Forwarding Co. for 1910.