

sunk a Japanese transport and injured another. At present the whereabouts of the squadron is not known, and there are many surmises as to whether it will attempt to effect a junction with the Port Arthur fleet. Recent reports say the Japanese have captured some of the outer forts of Port Arthur.

NOTES AND NEWS.

The crew that will represent the Winnipeg rowing club at the Royal Henley regatta left for England on June 14th.

John Elijah Dowle, disgusted with his reception in London, where he was refused admittance by all the hotels, has gone to France.

London.—King Edward has conferred upon Mme. Melba the decoration for science, art and music. She is the first woman upon whom it has been bestowed.

If starting to breed pure-bred poultry, you will find it an advantage to have a copy of the Standard. A new edition is about to be issued, well illustrated with representations of typical birds. Wait for it, it will be out shortly.

Winnipeg.—The contract has been let to Robert Fairbairn, of Essex, Ont., to erect three hundred miles of wire fence along the Canadian Northern Railway system. This is the biggest contract of the kind ever let in the West.

Gen. Cronje, of South African fame, who is at present in the Boer camp at the St. Louis Fair, is to marry Mrs. Steetzel, the widow of one of his war companions, who is also at the Fair. General Cronje is sixty-eight years old.

Mr. Brodeur, the Minister of Inland Revenue, has received a cablegram, informing him that the bill making the metric system obligatory in England has been adopted by the House of Lords. The adoption of the system in Canada, it is thought, will be only a matter of a few years.

Dr. Edward F. Wells, of Chicago, in a recent address delivered at a meeting of the American Medical Association, stated that pneumonia is a virulently communicable disease, and that its prevalence is alarmingly on the increase. He recommended that patients should hold moistened cloths before the face and nose when sneezing and coughing, in order to prevent, as far as possible, the distribution of the microbes.

The new steamer Turbinia, which is the first turbine vessel that ever sailed in St. Lawrence waters, and the first mercantile turbine to cross the Atlantic, arrived at North Sydney on June 11th, having crossed from the Tyne in six days. During part of the voyage the Turbinia encountered very stormy weather, and her owners are delighted with the seaworthy manner in which she weathered it. She is destined to run on the Toronto-Hamilton route, and will begin the service immediately.

The difference between the Government and Lord Dundonald, which has been causing so much comment in military and political circles recently, has resulted in His Lordship being relieved of his position as General Officer Commanding the forces in Canada. Lord Aylmer, Adjutant-General, will assume the office, pending further arrangements, which may result in the substitution in the place of the General Officer Commanding of a Military Council, with an Imperial officer as Inspector-General.

New York.—The Board of Directors of the Lake Superior Corporation have elected a very strong Executive Committee, as follows: President, C. D. Warren, Toronto; Vice-President, Chas. E. Orvis, New York; Vice-President, Thomas J. Drummond, Montreal; John T. Terry, New York; J. Tatnall Lea, Philadelphia; Francis B. Reeves, Philadelphia. In the reorganization of the company, which, President Warren states, will start with a capital of \$4,000,000, Mr. F. H. Clergue figures as one of the Board of Directors.

The many Canadians who were delighted with the playing of Kubelik, the famous violinist, during his tour through Canada, will be somewhat amused at the result of the suit which he recently engaged in against Dr. Gehrman, the music critic of the Frankfurter Zeitung, because of the fact that Dr. Gehrman had referred to him as a "stupid-looking man, of superfine, effeminate appearance," referring to his playing also in terms less complimentary than those to which Kubelik has been used. By the verdict of the court at Frankfurt-on-the-Main, the case was dismissed, and Kubelik obliged to pay all the costs.

As a result of the dissatisfaction which has existed among the members of the British National Rifle Association over the manner in which the Palma Trophy was won by the American National Rifle Association at Bisley last September, the latter has decided to return the trophy to the British Association. The dispute in question arose from the fact that the rifles used by the Americans at the contest was slightly different from that in use in the regular American army. The incident was productive of considerable feeling on both sides of the water, and it is hoped that the result will have the desired effect upon a certain class of the Americans who in the past have exercised an unsavory influence in international competitions.

Canadian Seed-growers' Convention.

The meeting for the organization of the Canadian Seed-growers' Association was held in the Imperial Building, Ottawa, on June 15th and 16th. Prof. Jas. W. Robertson, Agricultural Commissioner, in the chair; Mr. G. H. Clark, Chief of the Seed Division, Department of Agriculture, Secretary. The object of this Association as set forth in the preamble of the constitution is to encourage the general use of improved seed, with a view of improving the yield and quality of the field crops of Canada. This movement is an outgrowth of the Macdonald-Robertson Seed-growers' Association, which had its origin in this prize competition throughout Canada, in selecting the best heads of grain out of plots, sowing the grain from these, and, in turn, selecting the heads from these again, and so on. In demonstrating this idea, Prof. Robertson had the liberal aid of Sir William Macdonald, of Montreal. The competitions were conducted in all parts of Canada, and, in order to take advantage of the work so initiated, and to systematize the growing of high-class, clean seed by a number of persons in every locality, the meeting in Ottawa was called. The idea was expressed that in time ten farms on an average in every county, or electoral district, might make a specialty of such work. Not only would these persons derive the advantage of a very much better price for their crop sold for seed, but their own crops would be greatly increased and improved. Among others present were: Geo. H. Greig, Winnipeg, Man.; Jno. Mooney, Valley River, Man.; G. A. Putnam, Supt. Farmers' Institutes, Toronto; C. A. Zavitz, Experimentalist, and Prof. R. Harcourt, Chemist, Ontario Agricultural College,



"Charge all the Traffic will Bear."

Guelph; Walter Simpson, Bay View, P. E. I.; S. Waugh, North Bedique, P. E. I.; G. A. Gigault, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Quebec; Donald Innis, Tobique River, N. B.; W. L. Davidson, Bethel, P. Q.; Lockie Wilson, Alexandria, Ont.; J. H. Smith, Langbank, Ont.; J. H. Grisdale, Agriculturist, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa; W. Thompson, London, Ont.; F. L. Fuller, School of Agriculture, Truro, N. S.; Leon Gerin, Coaticook, P. Q.; W. L. Smith and J. W. Wheaton, Toronto, Ont.; A. P. Ketchen, W. A. Clemons, Jas. Murray, J. C. Cote, and L. H. Newman, Ottawa.

A great deal of time was devoted to perfecting the constitution and rules under which the organization will carry on its work. In the main, it will be directed by the Chief of the Seed Division of the Department of Agriculture and the Commissioner of Agriculture, advised by a Board of Directors, and more directly by a small executive committee, chosen by the latter.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES.

Prof. Robertson directed attention to the fundamental principles of plant life and growth—individual power and environment—in accordance with which seed must be produced. The plant grows by taking in, by absorbing and by assimilating. Primarily, the quality and perfection of the plant depends upon the character of the seed and the protoplasm. Characteristics of seeds include the sex power, constituents, such as protein and starch, and the essential oils to preserve. Man grows a plant with the power, under certain conditions, to produce what he wants. To illustrate, he said, by careful and continuous selection of seed, and careful growing, the percentage of sugar in beets in France had been raised from nine to fifteen per cent., and the yield nearly doubled. The Sir Wm. Macdonald seed-growing competition was an effort in that direction, and never had \$10,000 been

spent in Canada to greater advantage, and the result was the growing of larger and more vigorous crops. The Association now proposed was not designed to engage in plant-breeding by crossing, nor yet to be exclusive, and say that such other lines of work were not useful. He congratulated Mr. Clarke, the Chief of the Division, upon the success which was attending his efforts and said the Government was willing to aid the movement now undertaken by furnishing funds. Three partners, then, were represented in this educational movement for the advantage of agriculture—the Government, the Association and the general farmer, working together with good will. (Applause.)

Mr. Clark submitted a detailed report of the work of the Macdonald-Robertson Seed-growers' Association, in which a large number of persons had completed the three years competition work. It was now proposed to divide Canada into four great districts—(1) Manitoba and the West to B. C.; (2) Ontario, (3) Quebec, and (4) the Maritime Provinces—in each of which there will be an Inspector or superintendent, to oversee the work of the members engaged in growing seed, and otherwise promote the objects of the association. Mr. James Murray, B.S.A., who has been doing very efficient work in the Department of Agriculture, has been designated to take oversight of the work as it will be developed in Manitoba and the N.-W. T. Mr. Leonard Newman, B.S.A., continues similar work in the Province of Ontario, where he was engaged last year. Mr. Joseph Cote, another well qualified man, will superintend the work in Quebec, and a fourth will be appointed for the Maritime Provinces.

CONSTITUTION AND RULES.

The constitution adopted defines the objects of the association as follows:

To advocate the interests of seed-growers and other farmers, by—

- (a) Making regulations respecting the growing, selecting and preserving of seeds of various kinds of farm crops for the guidance of its members.
- (b) Causing records to be kept of the history of seeds produced by members.
- (c) Fixing standards for seeds that may be eligible for registration.
- (d) Publishing information as to standards.
- (e) Issuing certificates of registration to members, by which hand-selected seed or the product therefrom may be known from other seed.
- (f) Such other means as may be expedient from time to time.

Provision is made for the organization of branch associations in counties or districts to assist in carrying on the work of the organization.

Kinds of Crops.—This association shall cause records to be kept of seed of wheat, oats, barley, maize, flax, millet, peas and beans; also seed potatoes, and such other crops as may be decided upon by the association, that may be grown by operating members.

Plots are to be grown under prescribed conditions, and each operating member must be a producer of improved seed, each year conducting a hand-selected seed plot, consisting of not less than one-quarter of an acre of land.

The Selecting of Seed.—By the term "hand-selected seed plot of the first year," is meant a piece of land bearing a crop produced direct from seed obtained by selection by hand, of the heads, ears, pods or tubers from plants appearing relatively vigorous and productive for the variety.

(b) By the term "hand-selected seed plot of the second year," is meant a piece of land bearing a crop produced direct from seed obtained from selection by hand, of the heads, ears, pods or tubers from plants appearing relatively vigorous and productive for the variety, on a hand-selected seed plot of the first year.

(c) By the term "hand-selected seed plot of the third year," is meant a piece of land bearing a crop produced direct from seed obtained by selection by hand, of the heads, ears, pods or tubers from plants appearing relatively vigorous and productive for the variety, on a hand-selected seed plot of the second year.

It is permissible to select heads in sufficient quantity to sow a hand-selected seed plot or plots of a total area not greater than four times the size of the plot from which the heads were selected.

Registration.—Following out the foregoing, provision is made for the registry and issue of certificates of three classes of seed: 1st, "hand-selected registered seed," on a plot of at least the third year; 2nd, "improved registered seed," from a crop produced from hand-selected, registered seed; and, 3rd, "general crop registered seed," obtained from a crop produced from improved registered seed, and suitable for use for the general field crop of the farm. The crop from this latter will not be eligible for registration, because not grown directly from a hand-selected seed plot, which is to be grown continuously as the sources of seed.

The members are to keep records of their operations. It is a voluntary organization, and there will be no fees. Beginning with the membership of the Macdonald-Robertson Seed-growers' Association as a basis, persons resident in Canada choosing to make seed-growing a special branch of their farming operations are eligible for membership by election, and there is also provision for honorary membership by persons interested in agriculture. An act of incorporation is to be secured.

The Minister of Agriculture will designate the President; the Chief of the Seed Division will be Secretary-Treasurer, and there will be three Vice-Presidents and