

preciation on the part of the young men of the district, where such important educational institutions are located, and which, naturally, give color and interest to the attitude towards farm life.

INSTITUTE CLUB DISCUSSES THE POTATO.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The Brant Farmers' Institute Club, at Brantford, Ont., has resumed its meetings after a suspension during the busy summer months. It is to be hoped that other clubs will be formed and their proceedings reported, to be inserted in "The Farmer's Advocate."

The meeting referred to in the present writing was held on October 5th at Todd's schoolhouse, and was liberally attended. The subject for the evening was "The Management of the Potato Crop," and as every farmer has potatoes as one of his crops, quite a lively discussion followed the talk that opened the subject.

The subject was taken up by Mr. M. G. Dipple, and the unhesitating way he went about it showed that he knew a few things about raising potatoes.

During the evening the following points were reviewed:

SEED-BED.—Land for potatoes should, of course, be well drained. In preparing same, it is a good plan to manure and plow down a clover field in the fall. Fall manuring lessens scab, does away with hauling manure in the busy spring, and as the manure is well rotted by spring it makes planting a nicer and easier job. To conserve the moisture for the time when it will be required, the seed-bed should be cultivated deeply as often as possible. The potato crop will stand and make use of a lot of manure, but it should not come in contact with the seed.

SEED.—Use the medium-sized potato. In a big potato there is too much waste of substance, for when once the plant has well rooted it no more requires the mother potato. Too many potatoes tend to weaken the vitality of the strain. Cut two eyes to a hill, and plant same day as cut, but this was shown to be not necessary, as one man cuts them four or five days before planting, and reports first-class crops.

SEEDING OR PLANTING.—There are two methods generally employed: (1) planting with the hoe, and (2) with the plow. There are also special potato planters, but they are economical only for extensive growers. Planting with the hoe permits one to regulate the depth of the seed potato, and gives them a covering of fine soil. The difficulty of keeping the rows straight and the slowness of the work are the disadvantages of this method. This system is suitable for small lots. The plowing method now generally used is more speedy than the hoe method, although one cannot so well regulate the depth, except by placing the potato partly up the side of the last furrow. This method is sure to have the plants in a straight line, which is very necessary when it comes to cultivation.

CULTIVATION.—When potatoes peep through the soil, harrow to kill any weeds that may have sprouted, and when three inches high use a scuffer, and cultivate on the level after each rain. When a number of potatoes show above the ground, hill them, but just enough to cover the exposed potatoes. Hilling allows the air to go through the hills and dry them out, and should, therefore, not be done in the earlier part of the season.

SPRAYING.—When bugs get plentiful, spray with Paris green and water with a watering can with small holes. To prevent blight, use Bordeaux mixture every two weeks after July 15th.

DIGGING.—Do not dig before vines are all good and dry. The potatoes are not really ripe as long as the vines are green. Select dry weather to facilitate the drying of the potatoes and the removing of earth. There are three different methods: (1) with hoe, (2) with plow, (3) with special digger. No. 1 method is too slow, besides being hard work. No. 2 is the method generally employed, when the rows are straight enough. This method is very much quicker than No. 1, and if the hills are plowed apart and afterwards harrowed three or four times, very few potatoes will remain in the soil. No. 3 method is employed for extensive potato growing, and cannot be profitably used by small growers. The machine takes up the whole row, separates the potatoes from the earth and vines, sorts the potatoes according to size, and deposits them in two rows, one on each side of machine. When dug, potatoes should be thrown in a pile to let them dry, when they are ready for storing either in cellar or pit.

STORING.—Potatoes may be stored either in the cellar or in a pit. Many people have their potatoes lying on the floor of the cellar, but a better way is to put them in a box slightly above the ground. If there be no room in the cellar, they are sometimes put in pits in the field, and covered over with straw and earth to keep them from frost.

Question.—What is the cause when potatoes come above ground? **Answer** by B. Whitehead.—Depth of potatoes depends on depth of cultivation.

Question.—Why do Toronto people get so many potatoes from New Brunswick? **Answer** by Mr. A. E. Sherrington.—Because in New Brunswick they raise only one or two varieties. This was by far the most important and noteworthy point of the meeting. If we of Ontario wish to supply our potato demand (and why should we not?) we must raise fewer varieties. Toronto dealers want potatoes in car lots, but want only one variety and size in a car. Why should we allow New Brunswick to supply a demand which we have the right—yes, the duty, and the power—to supply?

Mr. A. E. Sherrington gave the club a report of artificial fertilizers on potatoes as follows: 8 plots, 1

rod long, 2 rods wide, 132 hills each, 1 eye to a set, and all of one kind of potato:

Plot.	Potatoes.
No. 1—No fertilizer for a long time.....	108 lbs. good
No. 2—Barnyard manure	135 lbs. good
No. 3—Superphosphate	113½ lbs.
No. 4—Potato fertilizer	152½ lbs.
No. 5—Royal Canadian	150 lbs.
No. 6—Marlate potash	132 lbs. scabby
No. 7—..... ? Mixture	121 lbs.
No. 8—Nit. soda, green longest	125 lbs.

The barnyard manure heads the list, but as they were all put on the same soil as No. 1, these fertilizers prove themselves good substitutes for manure.

A. E. WAHN, Secretary.

DEATH OF MR. GREENWAY.

The death of Hon. Thomas Greenway, of Crystal City, Manitoba, at the age of 70 years, which occurred at Ottawa on October 30th, has removed from the circle of Canadian farmers and stock-breeders, as well as of its parliamentarians, a prominent and influential personage, and one whose checkered life-history peculiarly exemplifies the possibilities of success open to young men of moderate means in this great and growing country. Mr. Greenway was born in Cornwall, England, on March 25th, 1838. In 1844 he emigrated to Canada with his father and other members of the family, crossing the Atlantic to Montreal in a sailing ship, and coming by vessel up the canals and Lake Ontario to Bowmanville, Ontario. The family first settled at a place then called Millville, now Hampton, in Durham County. In 1848, when Thomas was ten years old, the family decided to remove to what was then known as the Huron tract of the Canada Company's land, lying about thirty miles north of London.

After helping his parents to clear a bush farm, he was successively a saddler's apprentice, a journeyman working in the Western States, and a country storekeeper in Ontario. He was elected member of Parliament for South Huron in 1875; his opponents always said as a Conservative, but as he stoutly affirmed, as an Independent. Meeting with business reverses in that period of hard times, he declined a renomination in 1878, and went out to repair his fortunes in Manitoba, where he took up his Prairie Home Farm, at Crystal City, which at a later date was enlarged to include over 2,000 acres. The next year, standing up in a wagon on the open prairie, a neighbor nominated him for the constituency of Mountain, in the Provincial Legislature, for which he continued to sit for twenty-five years. He was elected Leader of the Opposition, and upon the collapse of the Harrison Ministry, in January, 1888, he became Premier of the Province, which post he continued to hold till the defeat of his Government, in December, 1899. In 1904 he was elected to represent the constituency of Lisgar in the Dominion Parliament, of which he was a member up to the late dissolution, when he retired from public life, and was appointed a member of the Railway Commission, a post which, however, he was not destined to occupy. En route to Ottawa he caught a severe cold, which developed into asthma and heart failure.

On his Prairie Home Farm some years ago Mr. Greenway established a high-class herd of Shorthorn cattle, which for a number of years made an enviable prizewinning record. Clydesdale horses, Shropshire sheep and Yorkshire swine of a superior class were also kept, and the distribution of good blood from this center has had a fine influence in the improvement of live stock in the West.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR HORSE SHOW.

At a meeting of the directors of the Ontario Horse-breeders' Association, held in Toronto on October 29th, it was decided to hold the next Ontario Horse-breeders' Exhibition at the Union Stock-yards, West Toronto, on January 13th, 14th and 15th, 1909. Accommodation will be provided for judging the horses in a space specially erected in one of the new buildings being built, in place of those burned some months ago. The convenience for loading and unloading, both the C.P.R. and G.T.R. having sidings into the yards, will be appreciated by exhibitors. It will also be a great advantage to the exhibition to have the horses stabled in connection with the exhibition arena, so that visitors at any time will be able to see all the horses on exhibition in clean, well-lighted stalls. The classification will be the same as last year, with the exception that Section 2 of Class 6 (Thoroughbred stallions) will be taken off the list, and a section added for Thoroughbred mares, prizes and classification to be the same as for Standard-bred mares. There was added to the championship class \$20 each for the stallions and mares shown in Class 2 (Canadian-bred Clydesdales and Shires).

The judges for the heavy horses will be: Hon. Robert Keith, Bowmanville; Jas. Torrance, Markham; Job White, Ashburn, with A. McLaren, Chicago, as a reserve judge. Two of the judges will act on each section, with the third man as referee. In the first section the one to be referee will be balloted for among the three judges; for each succeeding section the referee on the previous section will be one of the judges, and the other judge will be balloted for, the remaining one acting as referee in that section. The balloting will be done immediately before the judging of each section. The judges for Hackneys will be Dr. Campbell, Berlin;

W. H. Gibson, Beaconsfield, Que.; B. Rothwell, Ottawa; L. Meredith, London, as reserve. The judges will be balloted for as in the case of the heavy horses. Dr. H. Van Zant, of "The Farmer's Advocate," London, was appointed official veterinarian.

PREMATURE RIPENING VS. DEFECTIVE SEED.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The farmers of Prince Edward Island will hardly accept as scientifically correct your Maritime letter of October 22nd, even if it is accepted by the experts of the Seed Bureau at Ottawa. I do not think it is generally considered that there was more out-killing in the grain crop last summer than has been experienced in many years. The Provincial Crop Report, compiled from reports sent in by 161 correspondents on August 10th, places the oat crop above average, and the wheat crop at average, except in districts where it was injured by the joint worm.

Nor is there reason for thinking the vitality of the grain was greatly reduced by the previous unfavorable season. The report of the Seed Division on the 102,000 bushels of oats sent to Western Canada last spring shows a germination test of 88½%, and the best seed was not sent forward. Further, the oats sent West gave excellent satisfaction, as far as germination was concerned. Mr. Brett, a prominent farmer, living near Regina, used a carload of Island oats, and also one of Garton's Regenerated. On June 26th the oats were about ten inches high, and at that time he was of the opinion that if there was any difference the advantage lay with the P. E. Island seed.

Even if the dry conditions in July had killed out the crop to a considerable extent, could it possibly be traced to weak seed, when it is the early oats that are particularly short? Seeding began in this Province about the 12th of May, and was completed early in June. Now, if the seed was at fault, would it not likely be the late oats that would suffer from a dry period, extending from July 1st to the 20th? Up to the first of July the oat crop, as well as the wheat, looked better than usual, as the month of June was almost ideal, as far as growth was concerned.

The shortage of the crop, which amounts to possibly 10% or 15%, is generally considered as being due to the hot, dry weather which prevailed after the grain headed, and which ripened it prematurely. Many farmers report an excellent crop. THEODORE ROSS.

HORTICULTURAL CONVENTION.

During the days of the Ontario Horticultural Exhibition, at the St. Lawrence Arena, King St. East, Toronto, November 9th to 14th, conventions of the various horticultural interests will be held. Great preparations have been made for an educational and attractive display of products of the garden and orchard, and also for popular addresses at the annual conventions.

The Ontario Fruit-growers' Association open their programme on the morning of Tuesday, November 10th, with the President's address and reports of committees on new fruits; co-operation and transportation. The afternoon session will be devoted to discussions on "Commercial Spraying of Apple Orchards," "The Apple Maggot and Blister-leaf Mites," and "The Handling of the Strawberry Plantation." In the evening the topics will be "Results of Orchard Surveys in New York State," and "Observations in the Use of Fertilizers in German Orchards." On the morning of November 11th the first question discussed will be "The Commercial Status of Our Standard Varieties of Fruits." Then follows "Prevalent Fungous Diseases of Ontario Orchards," "Fire and Twig Blight," and "Peach Yellows." The morning programme closes with a report dealing with "The Shipment of Early Apples and Tender Fruit to Great Britain." In the afternoon an interesting feature will be the observations of district representatives of the Department of Agriculture on fruit conditions, the reports covering the counties of Essex, Prince Edward, Ontario and Simcoe. The fruit industry, with special reference to packages, packing and markets, will be dealt with by prominent growers. The convention closes with an address on "The Western Provinces as an Outlet for Our Fruit."

The Ontario Vegetable-growers' Association will hold a one-day convention on Thursday, November 12th, the morning session starting at 9 o'clock, and that in the afternoon at 2 o'clock. The morning feature, in addition to President's address and Secretary's report, is a talk on the "Onion-growing Industry." During the afternoon the topics are "Notes on Irrigation," "Onions," "Tomatoes," and "Combating Insects and Fungous Foes."

The Ontario Horticultural Association will hold a two days' session—November 10th and 11th—starting at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, and closing with Wednesday's afternoon session. Many important features in connection with home beautification will be dealt with.

Canada will be represented at the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome by Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, and Dr. J. G. Rutherford, Chief Veterinary Inspector. Part of the work of this institute is said to be the perfecting of a plan for a world-wide collection of crop statistics, and an early distribution of information to prevent the improper influencing of the prices of provisions by the operators of the world. Dr. Rutherford is a member of the permanent committee for preparing the programme.