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JULY 25, 1907

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

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are being conducted, not only on the upland, but on the marsh. Men from Upper Canada may discount commercial fertilizers, but in the Maritime Provinces there is no gainsaying that these often give marked results when used intelligently. It is not advised to use them altogether in place of manure. Some farmers make the mistake of thinking chemical fertilizers will take the place of cultivation and humus. At the College they find that fertilizers give best results when applied as a supplement to a dressing of manure. The aim of the College experiments is to secure information that will result in a more intelligent use of the artificial fertilizers applied.

One phase of Governmental enterprise which would hardly be commendable in Upper Canada, but is perhaps justifiable to a limited extent in Nova Scotia, is the purchase and dissemination of breeding stock. Last fall quite a successful ram sale was held in Cape Breton, and last week we had a call from Prof. Cumming, who was in Ontario looking up another lot to send East. Some seventy-five or a hundred good, useful rams of different breeds are being secured, and a sale will be held later on at Pt. Tupper, Cape Breton, where bidding will be confined to men in that section and the two eastern counties, Antigonish and Guysborough. Another sale will be held later, at the October Windsor Exhibition, towards the west end of the Province. The idea in distributing these importations of rams is to improve the breeding stock in the sections more remote from the College.

As to agricultural conditions generally, Prof. Cumming says the Province is feeling rather acutely the Westward migration of population. This works against the attendance of students at the two-years' course in the Agricultural College, for not only do some boys leave who might otherwise attend, but the general scarcity of labor prevents not a few from entering who would do so if relieved at home. However, in spite of all drawbacks, the College has had fairly good attendance thus far at the two-years' course, and the winter short courses are especially popular. Every year Truro does more to make good her claim to be considered the agricultural center for Maritime Canada. Prof. Cumming spares no effort on behalf of agriculture, and he is surrounded by a staff likewise energetic, who are animated by high-minded motives and striving toward practical ideals.

OUR MARITIME LETTER.

ISLAND-GROWN ALSIKE SEED.

We happened to attend a meeting of the District Board of Trade the other day, and were pleased to see that even there, among the traffickers, the interests of the farmer were held sacred. One member got up with considerable trepidation, towards the end of the session, and asked permission to refer to a matter which concerned the seed-growers of the community, if such a subject could properly come before the Board. The President, Mr. A. J. McFadyen, of Tignish, who loves dearly to enliven and better his mercantile calling by an indulgence in agricultural pleasures, and who is shrewd enough, too, to make it pay, assured the questioner that he was in order, and that purely farming concerns in their commercial bearings were the best work of such corporations. Then we learned something agreeable.

The member got to his feet to ask if there was not some way whereby the good clover seed raised locally could be sold to advantage by the farmers. It was stated that in that section, (O'Leary) quite a quantity of clover seed had been raised last season; that it was splendid seed of the alsike variety; that, whilst much seed of the kind, but inferior to sample, was imported, the merchant refused to buy the farmer's seed because he feared the penal provisions of the Good Seeds Act. On this account, it was openly stated that much splendid native seed still laid in the granaries of farmers, whilst there was a great demand for such goods in many parts of Canada. Seedsmen abroad would not touch the seed because it was not certificated properly.

Whilst it was news to us that our people were growing such quantities of alsike—and agreeable news, too—we ventured the opinion that the Seed Control Act, as passed through Parliament, provided amply for such cases. The farmers could either come under the provision which enabled them to sell the one to the other, with slight restriction, or send their sample forward to the analyst of the Seed Department, Ottawa, and, securing a proper classification of the seed, offer it to the seed dealers as such, without fear, and with the prospect of securing something near its value. Indeed, we volunteered the assurance that the Maritime Inspector of the Seed Division would, in the case of farmers growing a quantity of good seed, call round and grade it, as a pleasant concern of his office.

There was a large number of merchants present, and they entered into the question with interest, giving their experience with native and imported seeds. It appeared, from the account of these dealers, that no country could grow better alsike than this, and that many were engaged in the work last year. We have time and again given our own notion that this should be a seed-breeding Province. It is comparatively well soiled, climated and tilled. No weeds worth talking about as yet make this work extra hazardous. Our system favors it entirely. And the Macdonald Selection Campaign has enlisted many good cerealists in the individual breeding processes. We should be able, then, to take up seed-raising for export, with our other farm operations, for the good it will do us as farmers, and for the good



Tatton Settler.

Shire yearling colt. First at Royal Show, 1906; second at Shire Show, London, 1907.

money that its successful prosecution vouchsafes. Dairy Commissioner Ruddick said to us last year, when here: "There is one thing you can do here almost better than anywhere else, and that is to grow seeds." Many others have similarly remarked, and it is now dawning upon many that they can really put themselves without the necessity of importing dear and defective seeds, supply their own wants satisfactorily, and carry the war into Africa by exporting the right article to the centers of previous supply. One common farmer had for sale, in a small community, this spring, nearly two tons of alsike seed. He got a market for a lot of it at 10, 12 and 13 cents, when the whole country was purchasing seed not nearly so good at a much higher figure because it had the inspection certificate upon it. Our people will have to get organized, prosecute this work intelligently, and, if clover is the way to wealth—and it is—get the full value of their exertion and use it in their own and the community's betterment.

We said in our last, "Let everyone try to grow his own seed this year." We repeat the injunction, and add that when Prince Edward Island has hundreds of tons of clover seed to export, then it will be in reality the "Garden of Canada."

A. E. BURKE.

NOTES FROM IRELAND.

CANADIAN VISITORS.

At date of writing, we have in Dublin Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Canadian Premier, as guest of their Excellencies the Earl and Countess of Aberdeen. The distinguished visitor, accompanied by Lady Laurier, is making but a brief stay, and perhaps the most important item in his programme was the pleasurable inspection he was able to make, on the 6th inst., of the International Exhibition, where the Dominion is represented by a most imposing display that is eliciting the highest praise and admiration from all sides.

THE CANADIAN GRAIN TRADE.

We have also had, within the past couple of days, a visit from the Royal Commission on the grain trade in Canada, consisting of Messrs. John Miller (Chairman), Indian Head, Saskatchewan; W. L. McNair, of Keyes, Manitoba; and George E. Goldie, of Ayr, Ontario, with Mr. E. Weild, of Toronto, as Secretary. At the sitting held in Dublin on the 5th inst., Mr. Miller explained the object of the Commission, which was to inquire into certain complaints that had reached them in Canada, to the effect that Western grain had not been arriving in these countries in proper condition. He said that information he had already received showed that, although the grain was usually in good condition, occasionally it was not up to the mark, especially grain arriving through American ports which had received seaboard inspection. They hoped to make recommendations so that the law would be improved, and the grain generally would come in better condition. That would benefit the importers here, as well as the producers in Canada.

The scheme of inspection and grading, as carried out by the authorities at Winnipeg, was detailed by Mr. Goldie, and, in reply to a question from a Dublin factor, he stated that the mixing of grades was practically an impossibility, without deliberate fraud. Another Irish witness said he had few complaints to make as to "certificated" Canadian wheat coming from Canadian ports, and he took good care to buy none through American ports. Yet a third, while confirming this statement, added that, in his opinion, the quality of the wheat had fallen off within the past few years. It contained more soft grains than formerly; seven or eight years ago they were receiving No. 1 Northern which would be fully equal to No. 1 Hard. In a discussion which followed on this alleged deterioration, it was suggested that it might possibly be due to exhaustion of the land. It was also stated that the charge applied to California produce, and other countries, but not to Australia. The Canadian winter wheats were declared by one importer as not fit to be compared with the corresponding stuff of ten to fifteen years ago. A south of Ireland witness brought forward the fact that Irish millers would desire regular and uninterrupted shipment all the year round, which could not be obtained from ice-bound ports. Passing to the question of barley, Mr. Goldie informed the company that the trade in malting barley was increasing, and the Chairman added that a special feeding barley, suitable to Irish needs, could be offered by Canada. After further discussion, the Chairman concluded the proceedings by hoping that the visit of the Commissioners would give Irish traders greater confidence in the future. At Belfast, another sitting was arranged, a few days later, to meet northern importers and millers.

A UNIQUE SEASON.

The newspapers tell us that in the Arctic region the inhabitants are experiencing most temperate, if, indeed, not actually warm weather. If this be so, judging by the atmospheric conditions in the British Isles this "summer," there is a serious derangement somewhere in climatic orthodoxy. We are now in the beginning of July, and there has been a dull monotony of cold, rainy days for the past few months, with but occasional flitting appearances of improvement. The wonder of it all is that the country looks even as promising as it does. Things are pretty backward, and the potato crop, in many places, has shown signs of the dreaded blight already. This, of course, was the inevitable result of the record rainfall of June, and farmers are now being urged, by their own past experiences, and by the precepts of their instructors and well-wishers, to lose no time in