

CLOVER PROMISING IN NOVA SCOTIA.

The acreage, and especially promise of meadows on our own farm and a number of others in this locality, are better this year than for several years previously. There is a splendid outlook for red clover on new meadows. I never saw it better on our farm. We have never grown alfalfa extensively, and what we have looks well where it did not winter-kill. On the same piece of new meadow, where the plots of alfalfa and red clover come together, there is a marked difference in favor of the latter. Our land is a sandy loam, with considerable marsh mud in it.

We generally aim to cut timothy when the last of the pollen is falling, but that is not always possible, so we begin when it gets well blossomed, and some years it is quite hard when finished. It feeds better if cut soft, and weighs better when hard. We generally cut clover (red) when it is fairly well blossomed, before it grows too coarse. It can be cut two and three, and sometimes as high as five, times during the season. The best time to mow is just as the dew is nicely off. The tedder should be put over it when it is nicely wilted, and, if possible, coiled before the dew falls (especially clover). Shake it out next day when the dew is off, and commence hauling as soon as it will "rattle." Clover (red) needs more tedding than timothy, and should have two days' sun, being tugged several times, and coiled over night. We cut alsike clover with the timothy. In reference to loading devices, I would say that there is nothing so good as a good strong man with a good strong fork. The loader is not practicable on these dyked lands, with their numerous ditches. A pitcher in the barn is a blessing to humanity. It saves time and hard work, and makes one feel better-natured to see those huge forkfuls going away up so easily.

We have never used hay caps, but some use them who have plenty of money and help and time. Of course, the hay is better never to see dew, but "the game is not worth the candle."

The two most important factors in the curing of good hay are fine weather, with a nice breeze, and good willing hired help. If I had to go without one of these, I would take the willing men. But you say "good" hay. It is impossible to get up "good" hay in wet weather.

It certainly costs more to make and store clover than timothy. The advantage that clover has is its quantity to the acre per season, and its benefits to the soil. I would put the average cost of making clover hay at \$2.00 per ton, and timothy \$1.50. I am not in a position to estimate for alfalfa.

JUDSON F. SHAW.
Hants Co., N. S.

EARLY CUTTING PREFERRED.

The acreage under hay will be about the same as last year, but the prospect is that we will have a very much heavier crop than last year. The grass in the meadows is much thicker, and the new meadows have such a strong growth of clover that we look for a bumper hay crop if weather conditions continue at all favorable. Alfalfa, in some instances, has failed to stand the winter and was thrown out, where the red clover alongside came through all right.

We commence cutting when the bloom is mostly gone off the timothy, and cut clover when in full bloom. This gives us the best quality of hay, and we find it much easier to save clover in catchy weather if cut green, as it will turn the wet better in cock than if it is ripe. As most of the hay is consumed on the farm, quality counts for a great deal.

We mow clover in the morning, as soon as the dew is off, and after a few hours shake it up and turn it over, and rake and coil up in evening before dew falls. If weather is promising, we leave in coil one day, then shake out and draw to the mow when the sun and wind have had time to get through it. Tedders and loaders are not generally used here, but all have horse forks for unloading. I use the double-harpoon fork, and find it the best. Till clover is a surer crop here, tedders will not be wanted much, though a year like this they would be in request.

We consider the most important controllable factors in curing good hay are, first, cut it in right season. If you have a large acreage, begin sooner so none will be overripe before you get through. If weather is catchy, don't cut too fast, and try to have help enough to save hay whenever it is in condition.

The cost per ton of making and storing hay will depend very much on whether the crop is light or heavy. If we can get two tons from the acre, the cost of cutting will be small, but if we go over two acres for the same amount, the cost will be much greater. Weather conditions also make a great difference in cost, as, with bad weather, it takes much more handling to get it properly cured. About \$1.25 per ton, we judge, would be the average cost of cutting, curing and housing where hay was a good crop and the weather good, and where good appliances were used.

WALTER SIMPSON.
Queen's Co., P. E. I.

THE DAIRY.

AMONG THE FARMERS' INSTITUTES.

The month of June is the time of year set for the annual meetings of the Farmers' Institutes of the Province of Ontario. It is customary for members of the Ontario Agricultural College staff to attend a number of these meetings each year. I presume there are at least two objects in view: To keep the staff in touch with practical farmers and farm operations in various parts of the Province, and, in the second place, to provide a change for the staff; and we all know that a change is as good as a rest. The early part of the month of June is a beautiful month to see the country. Our soul was cheered as we noted the evidences of revival of hope on the part of the farmer in many sections. While all this is true from a visitor's viewpoint, we very much question if this is a suitable time of year for holding the annual meetings of the Institutes. Having already expressed my views quite strongly to the Superintendent, I may the more freely say that, in my judgment, the results to the Institutes would be much better if the annual election of officers took place at the time of the winter meetings. My reasons for thinking so are:

1. The winter meetings are more largely attended, and better representative men can be secured for directors. The tendency is for the old board to be re-elected in a lump. Many of them are not present. If a director does not take sufficient interest to be present at the annual meeting, he is not likely to be of much service to the Institute.

2. Farmers have more time to consider ways and means of making the Institute a power for good among farmers. It is not customary to have regular meetings in the forenoon in winter. One forenoon could well be devoted to a discussion of how to improve the work. Where a programme is on in the afternoon and evening, the attendance of those interested is likely to be greater in the forenoon, though, personally, we have seen the business of the year put through before the regular afternoon programme, with good results. Where a live president knows the rules of procedure, the work is done quickly.

3. The early part of the month of June is too busy a time for farmers to attend a meeting, more particularly in Eastern Ontario. I found farmers all busy getting their corn land ready, and some were just finishing seeding, owing to the wet season. It is folly to expect farmers to leave their work at such a time. The winter is the time for these meetings.

We trust we shall not be considered as going beyond our province by calling attention to this matter. Having been an Institute worker for 17 years, we may fairly lay claim to some knowledge of the subject. The Farmers' Institute has been a potent factor in improving conditions on the farm, and in awakening farmers to the benefits of knowing why, as well as how.

Our first meeting was at Amherst Island—the Jersey of Canada in the future. Mr. Henry Filson is president, and also a reader of "The Farmer's Advocate." What will Amherst Island do when Henry Filson passes on to his reward? Doubtless, younger men will take his place, but he has been a tower of strength to the farmers of the Island. Mrs. Filson and their two sons and youngest daughter, at home, made it very pleasant for us during our stay. The evening meeting was well attended. Addresses were given by Revs. Cumberland and Lindsay, and also by Mr. Fowler, an ex-student of the College. All these promised their hearty co-operation in the monthly meetings to be held during the coming winter. These ought to be a source of inspiration to all who attend.

The season has been backward on the Island—some not through seeding yet. Most farmers were busy getting the corn land ready. The heavy rains of the spring were followed by a dry spell, which caused the clay land to bake into lumps nearly as hard as a rock. Drainage is the great need on the Island, and also for most of the country along the lake and river east of Belleville. A well-thought-out scheme, whereby the farms could be drained, would be the salvation of many districts in the eastern part of the Province. We saw places where hope had evidently bidden farewell to the occupants of the farm, and blind despair led the owners or tenants in their weary round. We know of nothing more pitiful than a tumble-down house and barns sitting in the midst of a weedy field, without lawn, tree or shrub, the only ornament being a woodpile, accompanied by old fence-rails and dilapidated machinery. We saw a woman walking around such a place. Heaven help and pity a woman under such conditions. Is it any wonder that women on such farms go insane?

Our second meeting was at Frankford. Frank Mallory, B. S. A., is the genial president. Frank has aspirations for political honors, and expects to occupy a seat in the Legislative Assembly in the near future. More power to him! In addition

to dairying, farmers in this section are much interested in apple-growing. The president estimated that at least 100,000 apple trees had been set out in the vicinity of Frankford this spring. Farmers own the cheese factory, and also a co-operative fruit plant. By the way, the cheese factory will have to be moved at the end of the season to make way for the Trent Canal, which will run through the present site.

A brisk discussion took place on the whey-butter question at the afternoon meeting. A gentleman in the audience said he had offered the farmers \$100 for the privilege of making whey butter at the Frankford factory this season, and he would put in all the machinery. He had tested the butter, and found it to be excellent, and also said it had good keeping qualities, as he had used the last of his butter on May 24th, which was made last fall, and it was all right. Most of the farmers present were down on whey butter. All were not favorable to placing cheese in cold storage. The suggestion made to use whey butter for patrons, met with a strong protest. One man said farmers were entitled to the best butter that was made, and he did not approve of using such butter on his table. He always kept the best for his own use, whereas some sold their best and ate the poorest.

We were told that the arrangement with the company in Prince Edward County, who are making the whey butter for the factories of the county, is that the factory-owners are to receive one-third, the farmers one-third, and the company one-third. This is a very interesting experiment, and will be closely watched by all concerned in the dairy business.

In the northern part of Hastings County several of the factories are sending their cheese directly to England, with very satisfactory results. I was informed that if the buyers continued to boycott Belleville cheese board on Saturdays, many other factories in the county would follow the example of the northern factories. It was pointed out that five factories near Frankford could send one or two carloads of cheese weekly from the one station. It is refreshing to see these signs of independence and business enterprise on the part of Hastings County farmers. It was stated that salesmen have been in the habit of going to Belleville on Saturdays, and if the day were changed it meant an extra trip and more expense, which factories would not bear.

The jump from Frankford to Sunderland, in North Ontario, was a rather long one. I went by way of Peterboro and Lindsay from Port Hope, through the Midlands of Ontario. Crops looked much better than they did east of Belleville, but there were many evidences of too much rain or lack of underdrainage.

At Sunderland is held every week one of the largest butter markets in the Province. Tons of dairy butter are sold here every season. Although there are creameries in the locality, farmers seem to prefer making butter at home. I was told that some of the very finest butter is offered here weekly at a price that leaves little or no margin of profit to the farmer. We feel sure that, if farmers patronize the creamery, they would receive as high a net price for their butter as is received now, and the labor would be much less. Mr. Henry Glendinning now sends his cream to the creamery, and is satisfied that it pays as well as home buttermaking, and saves labor.

The town hall and market is one of the finest we have seen in any village, and would do credit to many a town and city. The Township of Brock is to be congratulated on its enterprise. The Christmas Fair and Buttermaking Competition is a great feature in the township. J. W. Widdifield, another O. A. C. boy, is secretary of the Institute in North Ontario. It does a person good to see the "boys" of the College coming to the front. However, the directors and farmers generally do not seem to be giving that hearty support to the officers of the Institutes which they ought. Who will help to hold up Moses' hands?

H. H. D.

THE DUTCH HERDBOOK AND MILK RECORDS

The Dutch Herdbook is a marvel for accuracy, and much belonging to it should be copied by our herdbooks, writes John Speir, of Glasgow, in the 1908 Volume of Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland. The farmers of Scotland are great believers in the value of milk records, and have numerous societies for carrying on this work. Entry to the herdbook is obtained not only by pedigree, but by milk production, and every bull entered must, at 14 months old, and heifers after they have had their first calves, gain 70 out of 100 points allowed for the perfect animal. Prior to 1907 the milk records were carried on independently of the herdbook, but since then they have been under the same charge, and in the volume for this and succeeding years the yield of milk, where known, will be entered officially. The cows are usually rather larger than the Ayrshire, and in nearly every case they are also much stronger in the bone, smaller in the horn, and with less flat udders, but in