

Ami, Buck, Criddle, Davis, Fryer, Gibson, Macmillan, Newman, Tully and the host, Mr. R. B. Whyte.

The subject dealt with was "Possibilities for Home Grown Seed in Canada" with particular reference to root and vegetable crops.

Mr. Macoun in opening the discussion stated that both Mr. Clark and Dr. Malte, as well as himself, had already given the subject considerable attention, having prepared articles, etc., for the press in which attention had been drawn to the point that there was a strong probability that shortages of certain seeds would be felt in Canada for at least the two following seasons, owing to the fact that Germany and France, the regular sources of supply, would not be able to fill orders as heretofore.

Summarizing the pros and cons of the case for Canadian grown seed, and other interesting points relating to the plants the seed of which, could or could not be grown to advantage, it was noted that (1) Home grown seed often produced more vigorous plants; (2) earlier fruits; (3) the suitability of localities for certain crops was an essential factor; (4) the question of the high cost of labour militated somewhat against home production; (5) about one dozen of the important plant families were represented by the most important of the popular garden and field vegetables; the asparagus and onion for instance, representing the Lily family; (6) nearly all of the present vegetables have been cultivated for a long time, and in some cases it was possible to trace modern species to a common origin. The modern cabbage, kale, and cauliflower were known to have come from one original type. Mr. Macoun in closing, again referred to the question of proper locality and stated that while he thought certain seed, like that of melons, might be produced most profitably in sections of the country, like British Columbia, yet he felt confident that in time most seeds now raised in Europe could be raised to advantage in Canada.

Dr. Malte dealt more particularly with forage roots such as mangels, turnips and sugar beets. He pointed out that the original wild form of such root crops consisted of a creeping form found on the sand of the coastal regions of Europe. This, without doubt, accounted for the fact that such crops possessed a liking for alkali soils and flourished in coast districts. In raising beet seed it must be kept in mind that different varieties cross fertilize very freely. Mangels too, in most cases were not yet fixed in types. When swedes and white turnips are grown side by side, it has been found that cross fertilization will influence the resultant roots, and that as a result many malformations of the roots follow. In some instances such malformations have been mistaken for the effect of Club Root.