

its crown, seen all over the country at this time of year.

The plant sends up numerous flower stems. The longer it is established, the more stems it will send up. The seeds mature early, and when ripe they easily spill out on the ground. The seed has considerable vitality, and will remain in congenial soil some years without growing. Besides spreading from seed, it may start from a cut-off crown trailed to a mellow, inviting soil. Sheep will eat the plants, and will keep them trimmed down quite closely. Cattle will eat them, but neither cattle nor sheep will kill them. However, they weaken the plants, and if the pasture field infested were plowed up in July and bare-fallowed, the process of smothering the weed with cultivation would be quite effectual.

The plant widens its constituency through commerce in hay and small seeds. Clover and grass seed should be carefully examined before sowing, to see that there is none in it. It will be found more and more frequently in seeds from year to year if it is allowed to spread, as it has been doing of late years. Look out for this enemy.

Pull or Spud Out the Buckhorn Now.—Red clover seed producers with ribgrass or buckhorn in their meadows can easily see it now just out in blossom, and before the clover has come on too tall to hide it. Going over the piece in narrow strips with hoe or by hand-pulling, will add very much to the value of the seed.

T. G. RAYNOR.

Illustration Farms.

The Committee on Lands of the Canadian Conservation Commission is making good progress in the selection of demonstration farms, the lists having been completed for Ontario and the Maritime Provinces, and Quebec partially. Those in the Western Provinces are also being chosen by F. C. Nunnick, B. S. A., Agriculturist of the Committee. This movement grew directly out of conservation investigations concluded in 1910-11, with a view to obtaining detailed information regarding farm methods and management. The farms used as a basis were among the best representatives in their respective districts. Such farms are always a stimulus to a community. One can always learn something from the example of a successful neighbor. It is now proposed to unite the farmers adjacent to these illustration farms in voluntary-improvement associations, in conjunction with the investigations conducted upon them. It is believed that, by coming together from time to time to consider methods and rural problems generally, and to impart information in a co-operative spirit, much good will be accomplished. To this end, a simple form of constitution has been prepared, setting forth the aims of the association, and providing for a president, vice-president and secretary-treasurer, who shall constitute an executive committee. Any farmer or other citizen residing in the vicinity of the illustration farm or where the meetings shall be held may become a member, if interested in better farming and paying the membership fee of 25 cents per year. Any person may become an honorary member by unanimous vote at any regular meeting. He shall be entitled to all the privileges of an active member, except voting and holding office, and shall not be subject to any membership fee. Meetings will be held at the discretion of the officers, and upon request of the Field Expert of the Commission on Conservation. The usual parliamentary rules will govern procedure of meetings. The list chosen to date is as follows:

Geo. R. Barrie, Galt, Ont.; Thomas Hall, Brooklyn, Ont.; Paul Snider, Elmira, Ont.; Nelson Peterson, Ruthven, Ont.; A. M. Colver, Simcoe, Ont.; Wm. T. Hands, Perth, R. M. D. No. 1, Ont.; R. F. Taylor, Essex, Ont.; Parliament Bros., Cannington, Ont.; Whittaker Bros., Williamsburg, Ont.; J. M. McLean, New Perth, P. E. I.; Adam Brown, New Glasgow, P. E. I.; Albert Schurman, Cen Bedeque, P. E. I.; H. M. Tatterie, River John, N. S.; Fred Vatour, St. Louis, N. B.; Vernon B. Leonard, Central Clarence, N. S.; Shaw Bros., Victoria, N. B.; Taylor Bros., Antigonishe, N. S.; Kenneth Raymond, Parish of Norton, N. B.; Chester Keith, Corn Hill, N. B.; Thomas McDowell, Shawville, Que.

A new use for a scarecrow was recently brought to light on a New York farm. The owner of the farm noticing bees buzzing around the ragged, made-up figure, made a closer examination, when both legs of the trousers were found to be distended with honey. A cheap hive for so industrious a colony.

Wheat-cutting is reported to have commenced in Alberta July 24th, and cutting will be general over the southern part of the Province ten days from that date.

P. E. Island Notes.

On July 22nd haying was just getting general, and the weather was anything but favorable—showers almost every day for a week, followed by a day's rain, that will damage the cut hay very much. The hay crop is light. There are some few good fields of clover, but the second-year meadows are poor; in fact, the poorest we have had for some years. Other crops are looking fairly well. Oats will be up to the average. Wheat is about an average. In some fields we notice some joint-worm. Fodder corn is making a fine showing, and potatoes and roots promise a bumper crop. The make of cheese and butter at the co-operative stations is well up to average of recent years, and, with prices booming so far, dairymen are greatly encouraged. Pastures are holding out well. Prices of horses are the highest yet. Best specimens of both draft and carriage stock sell as high as \$300 each, while any good farm horse is salable at \$150 to \$200. Eggs are as much as five cents higher than the average of last year, and the shipments are larger than usual. Beef is higher than ever known here, and, while some of the poorer-quality cattle are going out to Sydney and Newfoundland, high-priced cattle are coming in in carloads from Toronto to supply a demand for choice beef. Experts have been holding agricultural meetings through the Province, at which live-stock judging has been the principal feature. These meetings, together with the cow-testing associations which have been organized, are a great education to farmers in the matter of selecting stock for the dairy that will be a greater source of profit than formerly.

Farmers' picnics are the order of the day, and the objective point of most of them is the Experimental Farm. During the fortnight preceding date of writing, very many Farmers' Institutes have visited the institution, and have been much pleased with the look of things there, and greatly interested in the different experiments inaugurated and carried on by Superintendent Clark and his staff. The crops at this Station are looking well. Alfalfa is proving a success. Small fruits are an immense crop. Grapes promise a large yield. A new sheep barn is now being erected, and the experiments in fattening sheep will be carried on to a greater extent than formerly, and to much better advantage. The experimental orchard, set out two years ago, is making a fine growth. Fruit-growers will be greatly interested in this orchard, as there are so many varieties under test. Our Department of Agriculture are offering handsome prizes for competition in fields of grain, and we understand farmers are taking more interest in these competitions than usual.

W. S.

Ontario Beekeepers' Association.

The Honey Exchange Committee of the Ontario Beekeepers' Association met in the Secretary's office July 24th, to consider the reports on crop conditions. Replies were received from double the number of beekeepers that reported in 1911, which year was then a record one in this respect. These replies show a still further decrease per colony, the average being 48.7 pounds, as compared with 50.9 in 1911, a short year, and 58.3 in 1910. It was further noted by the committee that there was a decided shortage in the Eastern Counties, and many large beekeepers did not report, as crop was a failure.

Owing to the heavy losses in bees, as a result of the past winter, which condition was shown by the spring report of the Provincial Apiarist, there is, no doubt, much less honey in Ontario than at this time last year. Fruit, which comes into competition with our honey, is selling at firm prices, the only crop which is reported as being at all normal being apples. Under these circumstances, the Committee would recommend the following prices:

No. 1, light extracted (wholesale), 11½c. to 12½c. per pound.

No. 1, light extracted (retail), 14c. to 15c. per pound.

No. 1, comb (wholesale), \$2.25 to \$3.00 per dozen.

No. 2, comb (wholesale), \$1.50 to \$2.00 per dozen.

A later report will be sent out to producers of buckwheat honey.

Losses from Rabies.

People who seem disposed to think so lightly of outbreaks of rabies, or to attribute "mad-dog scares" to veterinary officials, do not realize the seriousness of such cases until they come near home. An additional example of this kind occurred lately near Belmont, Ont., in Middlesex County, where a dog had taken hydrophobia over a month before. Recently the disease developed among the live stock, some of which he had bitten before being destroyed. As a result, three head of valuable cattle and a couple of hogs died,

or had to be shot, and two farms were quarantined by order of a Dominion Veterinary Inspector.

Small Fruit Scarce in Nova Scotia.

Perhaps the most wanted articles at this time of season by the housewife are fruits for preserving. Strawberries, for the most part, have been a failure not only in Antigonishe County, but other parts of the Province. Especially in Guysborough County, the berry crop is much less than last season. One berryman of Guysborough last season supplied several Antigonishe merchants with berries, while this season he could only supply one.

Pictou County people have been importing berries from Prince Edward Island. Wild strawberries were also not plentiful, the failure due in both cases to the early frosts and dry summer.

Farmers are in the midst of haying, the weather being at present very much broken. The work is going on slowly. The crop will not be as good as last season. Good reports are coming from certain sections. The new and well-looked-after ground is yielding a good crop, while clover is excellent. The old land, as year after year goes by, is yielding poorly. The intervale hay will likely be good, as the present rains will help everything.

Grain is growing with new vim as never before. Turnips in most parts have proven a failure.

Col. Robt. McEwen, C. M. McRae, and H. W. Canning, M. P. P., a committee of the Dominion Sheep-breeding Association, were in New Glasgow, Pictou County, Thursday, July 18th, interviewing persons interested in sheep-breeding. The Dominion Government has made a grant of \$15,000 to the Association, and it is proposed to hold sales of pure-bred rams and grade ewes. The above committee wish to consult with persons interested in regard to breeds and localities for sales.

J. M.

Antigonishe Co., N. S.

Cutting Grain.

Grain-cutting is now general over a great portion of Eastern Canada, and the West is just beginning to harvest what promises to be a bumper crop. While driving the self-binder may not be as strenuous work as stooking, it is no "small boy's" job, and, to be well done, requires considerable attention. True, the newer models of self-binders are as near perfect as one could desire, yet the leaving of an even stubble, making a clean cut and tying an even sheaf, all of which count in the after-work to be done on the field or with the crop, demand that considerable attention and skill be exercised in operating the binder.

Where the grain of the crop is grown particularly for seed, it is necessary that it be well ripened before being cut. The production of seed is the aim of every plant. The seed is the last portion of the plant to develop, and all other portions give of their strength to the seed right up to the time of complete maturity, or to the dead-ripe stage. Thus, the germinating and growing power of the seed is strengthened by allowing it to thoroughly mature before cutting. Of course, the possible loss of allowing the crop to become overripe must be guarded against.

In cutting where clover has been sown, it is good practice to leave considerable stubble to protect the seeds from the hot sun during the remainder of the summer, and to hold the snow in winter.

Pursuant to a large meeting of live-stock dealers, in conference with the Toronto City Board of Control, the latter body has asked the Dominion Government to appoint a commissioner to investigate the alleged existence of a meat trust in Canada. The proposal to establish a public abattoir in Toronto was unanimously endorsed by the cattle men, of whom about 100 were present.

Prof. H. S. Arkell, Acting Live-stock Commissioner, Ottawa, has been sent by Hon. Martin Burrell, Minister of Agriculture, to attend the conference this week in Winnipeg of Western farmers, stockmen and packers, with a view to a possible revival of the live-stock industry in the Western Provinces.

Hon. W. J. Hanna, Provincial Secretary for Ontario, has made plans for the building of a series of model roads, to the extent of 12 or 14 miles, around the Prison Farm and the Ontario Agricultural College, at Guelph, Ont. These roads will be built of the best material, with concrete culverts, built at the cheapest possible cost, and to be used as models by counties and municipalities.

According to late Government returns, there are now some 850 rural-mail-delivery routes in Canada, of which 250 were established last year, and there are 25,000 delivery boxes in use. The system is most in vogue in Ontario.