Clover Seed Production

Home-Grown Seed has been Shown to Give the Best Results

In 1914 the Lands Committee of the Commission of Conservation obtained some interesting figures in connection with clover growing in Canada. Some of these are shown in the following table:

PRODUCTION OF TIMOTHY AND CLOVER SEED

(Figures given represent percentage of number of farmers).

	N.S.	P.E.I.	N.B	Que.	Ont.
Saving own timothy seed	4	55	..	35	42
Saving own clover seed	4	31	..	13	39
AMOUNTS OF CLOVER SOWN					
Acreage seeded to clover	785	733	615	2,422	3,666
Per cent of grain sown seeded to clover	82	46	52	67	40
Average lbs. per acre sown of red clover	6	2	5	3	6
Average lbs. per acre sown of alsike	3	2	3	2	4
Average lbs. per acre sown of timothy	13	8	12	8	6

The man who conducted the survey work in Ontario stated that very many of the farmers complained of not being able to secure good growths of clover during recent years. These failures may be due to one or more of the following causes: exhausted soil, insufficient quantity of seed sown per acre, inferior seed or foreign seed.

It was found on many of the Illustration Farms that, where home-grown and foreign clover seed were sown side by side, the home-grown seed gave much better results. In some cases, the difference in hardiness between the home-grown or acclimated seed and the purchased or foreign seed was sufficient to cause the crop from the home-grown seed to stand the winter, while that from the foreign seed was badly winter-killed and sometimes a complete failure. Several farmers were induced to save fields for seed who before had never produced red clover seed. The results were gratifying. On the Illustration Farm in Lanark county, Ont., 1,200 lbs. of choice seed were produced in 1914.

Many farmers pasture the second crop of clover when it would pay much better to keep it for seed. Now is the time to plan for the clover seed crop by cutting the first or hay crop early to give the second or seed crop a good chance to start. In many districts, where farmers say clover seed cannot be grown, it can be found growing along roadsides or ditches, proving that, with care, it could be grown as a profitable field crop.

There are distinct advantages from growing one's own seed. It will not likely be sown so sparingly, it will give better results than purchased seed, the danger of introducing new weeds is obviated, and, as the foreign supply is likely to be short next year on account of the war, any surplus can be easily disposed of at good prices.—*F.C.N.*

Burning Rubbish Causes Fires

Care Necessary when Fires are Started in Back Yards.

The clean-up campaign in the various cities and towns during the months of April and May, is in every way commendable. At the same time it must be held responsible for numerous small fires. Burning of rubbish in backyards, near outbuildings and wooden fences, constitutes a danger which is not sufficiently realized by those starting the fires. Sudden gusts of wind or flying embers, carry the fire to these combustible structures and they are soon in flames. In most cases, the losses are not large, but this result may be credited almost entirely to the watchful care and readiness of local fire departments.

Too much attention cannot be given to the burning of leaves and other refuse, and the custom of leaving such fires to the care of irresponsible children should be discontinued.

New York has 1,664,000 acres of State forests, has planted 7,000 acres, produces 4,500,000 young trees yearly, has established a State forest experiment station, and makes an annual appropriation for forestry of about $190,000.

I would urge the farmers to do their share in helping to assist the people of Great Britain, who for many years have borne the burden of a heavy tax for the maintenance of a great navy, in preventing them from suffering want or privation.—*Hon. Martin Burrell, in the War Book.*

Cut 100 **Harvesting Clover**

Losses by Lightning

Protection of Buildings by Lightning Rods Greatly Reduces Losses

It is an old and doubtful saying that "lightning never strikes twice in the same place." When it does strike, however, it causes destruction and death. During the month of April, throughout central and eastern Ontario and western Quebec, no fewer than 61 buildings were destroyed or damaged by lightning. It is doubtful if any of these buildings were protected by lightning rods.

Isolated and exposed as they are to the danger of lightning, it seems remarkable that so few farm buildings are equipped with this cheap and efficient protection.

Lightning rods have proven their efficiency. Many buildings owe their protection entirely to the fact that they were rodded, and losses on these buildings have been reduced to a minimum. According to W. H. Day, Professor of Physics, of Ontario Agricultural College, "out of every thousand dollars' worth of damage done to unrodded buildings, by lightning, nine hundred and ninety-nine dollars' worth would be saved if those buildings were properly rodded." This opinion is based on data compiled from investigations and reports covering ten years and including a record of 599 buildings that were struck by lightning. Of these 317 were burned, or 53.6 per cent. Of the 599 buildings only 18 were rodded, and of these, three were burned, or 16.6 per cent, as against 53.6.

When it is understood that the losses to the insurance companies in Canada, by lightning, approximates a half-million dollars annually, and that this represents probably less than half of the total loss, the necessity of more adequate protection to farm buildings is apparent.

Some records of lightning rod efficiency follow: In Ontario for 1912, 94½ per cent; for 1913, 92 per cent; in Iowa, for eight years, 1905-1912, 98.7 per cent; in Michigan, inspected rods showed an efficiency of 99.9 per cent for four years, 1909-1912, inclusive. These figures are worthy of the careful consideration of the residents of the rural districts of Canada.

Further information on the subject of lightning rods and their efficiency may be obtained in Bulletin 220 of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, supplied free to those interested.

Railway Fire Protection

Special Protection Afforded in the Algonquin Park Forest Section

In order to secure better fire protection along their line in Algonquin Park, Ontario, and the forest sections both east and west of the park boundaries, the Grand Trunk railway has equipped a flat car with water tanks of nine thousand gallons capacity, and with pumps and hose, so that up to four one-inch streams can be thrown at the same time on a fire burning upon or near the right of way. The car will be kept at either Madawaska or Algonquin Park, and arrangements will be made for its immediate transportation to any point on the Ottawa-Depot Harbor line where its services may be needed. In addition to this provision, special instructions relative to reporting and extinguishing fires have been issued to all employees in accordance with the requirements of the Railway Commission, and a special fire inspector has been appointed by the Company to ensure the fullest possible compliance with the instructions. It is expected that as a result of these precautions, there will be no repetition of the bad fires which occurred during the season of 1914. —*C. L.*

CLEAN LOGGING CONDITIONS

According to H. R. MacMillan, the British Columbia Forest Branch has sold several hundred million feet of timber to loggers during the past two years, under regulations requiring clean logging, and such disposition of slash as will prevent the accumulation of a dangerous fire hazard and will encourage the regeneration of the forest. There has been no trouble with the logging industry over the adoption of such a policy; rather it is supported by the industry. The important point is that regulations are as few, as simple, and as economical as possible. They are framed with a knowledge of the logging conditions of the particular area to which they are to apply, and their estimated cost is allowed for in setting the price for the sale of the timber. The cost of the regulation falls upon the public in the case of such timber sales, which is, of course, proper, as the regulations are designed for the public benefit. The logger or timber owner, therefore, has nothing to fear from forestry.