

seeding before the middle of May rarely pays in these Provinces. The best crops are obtained from seeding done between that date and the first of June. The early-seeded grain is generally greatly injured with weeds, which start at a lower temperature and make more rapid growth in the early part of the season than the grain does. It pays to work the ground as soon as it is fit in the spring, but seeding should not be too vigorously pushed until the middle of May.

Smut is quite prevalent in the grain crops this season. The loss to farmers in these provinces from this disease is greater than we are inclined to think. A remedy for smut has been successfully worked out by the experiment stations, and excellent results are obtained from the use of formalin. The seed is soaked two hours in a solution made of one pound of commercial formalin to forty gallons of water.

N. S. Experimental Farm. W. S. BLAIR.

Speculative Investments.

Scarcely a week passes but we are thrilled by the story of some new investment or discovery that is making millions for the fortunate ones who purchase a few shares of the precious stock. One time it is a rubber plantation—undiscovered as a moneymaker heretofore, now shown to possess marvellous wealth; then some fortunate man finds an oil well, a proposition in which capitalists are tumbling over each other to invest their surplus funds, but, generous man (?), he wants to let in the public on the ground floor, and is willing to offer you—just as a personal favor—a few shares of the preferred stock, at 17 cents a share. From oil to coal mines, from coal to gold bricks, with minor variations to suit the taste of the public, the promoter works, and the public loses, and the whole nation feels the injury of money dragged from productive channels, to be squandered on unproductive work, or productive only of sore hearts and empty pocketbooks.

The "Farmer's Advocate" has sounded the word of warning before; it sounds it again, only because the necessity exists for the warning. The farmers and the great mass of the people of Canada will find their true source of increased prosperity and happiness in the development of those industries with which their life-work has made them familiar, leaving to those who have money to burn the business of investing in such doubtful propositions as are generally peddled around the towns and country under various high-sounding but perfectly meaningless names.

Crops in Annapolis Co., Nova Scotia.

Now that haying is almost over, we are in a better position to give an idea of the crop. As we predicted, the marsh and flat lands are light, though the uplands that are in good heart or state of fertility were better than last year. Run-out uplands, however, are little if any better. Well-drained marshes are also giving a better yield. As a whole, we may place the hay crop from 10% to 25% better than that of 1904. The weather during July has been very dry and warm, giving two weeks of good haying weather in the last part of the month. The crops were at that time beginning to feel the dry weather, and were almost at a standstill, but a two day's rain—beginning of August—mended matters, and it is many years since the root crops and hoed crops generally looked better at this time of year.

Bugs have been plenty on the potato vines, and have persisted, perhaps, longer than usual. We are glad to note that the object lesson of a few farmers, as well as the persistent teaching of the experiment stations, has resulted in an increase in the use of Bordeaux mixture for spraying potatoes. In this season the blight spreads very rapidly, and the increased yield following this kind of spraying will, we hope, be so clear as will lead to a universal use of the spray pump. Very few potatoes, however, are raised here, the area rarely going above three or four acres per farm; more generally one or two acres. We find a very convenient method of spraying consists in the use of the spray pump in a one-horse dump cart; the horse walks between two rows, and the wheels of the cart go outside between these and the next two. The driver can also pump, while a boy sitting in the tail of the cart can point the nozzles from the two short lines of hose at the two rows passed over. Thus two rows can be sprayed as fast as the horse walks, and an acre can be pretty thoroughly sprayed in an hour, without the danger of treading down potato vines. This is away ahead of the row of nozzles on a rod, both from a point of view of less expense (for we have only to use the same outfit with which we spray trees), and also because it is more thorough, the operator being able to cover the tops over any inequalities of the ground or rows better than the rigid nozzles on the rod.

Beef is very scarce and high, as a result of the scarcity of hay last year. All cattle that could well be sold last year were disposed of to save hay, and now the stock on many farms is depleted far below what it should be. Very ordinary country cow beef brings readily 7c. per pound, while first-class beef brings 10c. by the carcass. Hogs are also bringing a good price for this Province—8c. per pound for good light pigs, of 100 to 150 pounds dressed weight, against 5½c. last fall. This state of things will probably continue to well along in the winter.

R. J. MESSENGER.

Three New Men for the O. A. C. Staff.

Prof. Franklin Sherman, M.S., has been appointed Professor of Entomology and Zoology at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, and will assume his duties September 15th. The appointment is to fill in part the vacancy created by the resignation of Prof. Lochhead, whose appointment in connection with the Agricultural College was recently announced. Prof. Sherman is a graduate of Cornell University, and studied there under Prof. Comstock, the leading entomologist of the United States. He was entomologist at the experimental station at Raleigh, N. C., and became State Entomologist. He has resigned this position to come to Guelph.

Prof. J. B. Dandeno, of the chair of botany in Michigan Agricultural College, an old Guelph man, and graduate of Queen's and of Harvard, has been appointed to the chair of botany.

Dr. F. S. Edwards, assistant to the professor in Michigan Agricultural College, has accepted the chair of bacteriology, as successor to Prof. Harrison.

The Temiscaming Lectures.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

The Professors from the Ontario Agricultural College were, as reported, making a lecture tour of this district during the early part of July. The lectures were highly interesting and fairly instructive, and aroused fine discussions, but one or two points dealt with are open to criticism, and certain conclusions forced themselves upon the writer's mind. Professor Reynolds, who spoke first, dealt with climate and soil more particularly, and the facts and figures brought forward by him were very educative. One statement he made, however, which seems to be contradicted by facts, viz., that the extension of clearings (deforesting) would make no difference in rainfall. In view of the general experience throughout the U. S. A., in two or three states

a greater weight per acre is obtainable from the college experimental plots is no proof that the same results will be reached by the ordinary farmer. We cannot give the time and attention to crops on a large scale as can be done on a small scale. And, again, different soils give different results; e. g., the writer cannot grow the weight of fall wheat produced by the next farm, but excels in roots and oats; his soil being sandy loam with clay subsoil, and the neighboring farm being heavy clay throughout, with a few inches of "muck" (vegetable humus).

Later on the Professor advocates bronze-top Swede turnips, his experiments leading him to think they paid better. If this is so, how is it that a far larger proportion of purple-top is grown? Orange tops may be grown in other parts of the Dominion, but in Temiscaming they have yet to make their appearance on anything like a general scale.

As to the remainder of the Professor's lecture, it was mainly concerned with results of experiments at the college. The point that struck the writer most forcibly was that almost all the experiments were such as have been long ago rejected or accepted by the British farmer. The farmer in the Old Country is, and for generations has been, working on lines which are the subject of experimentation in the Canadian agricultural colleges. That is to say, thousands of dollars are being spent annually to experiment upon methods which are but the alphabet to the English agriculturist. Of course, climate makes a difference, and certainly the climate of England is not like that of Canada, but too much stress may be laid upon climatic differences. It will, in the writer's opinion, be eventually found that the difference in climate does not necessitate such a difference in method as the Canadian farmer imagines. There are Old Country farmers in this district who, having tried both empirically and according to the agricultural colleges, have concluded to go back to their own methods, making due allowance for later spring and earlier fall frosts; that is, cramming work that in England occupies November, March and April, into October, April and May. The conclusion is, that many of the experiments carried on at the O. A. C. and other colleges, in view of the fact that dearly won experience is to be had, are a needless expense.

One was rather surprised that Professor Zavitz was unable to identify several of our common weeds, though possibly they are unknown in Old Ontario. In spite of this criticism, however, Professor Zavitz gave a splendid lecture, worthy of far better audiences than obtained in several places (notably New Liskeard).

Since writing the above, several Toronto and other papers report Professor Zavitz as making a statement to the effect that barley is more largely grown here than oats. Whether it originated from the Professor, or is a printer's error, one is safe in contradicting it. Oats stand indisputably first. There is at present no real market locally for barley, and the quantity necessary to "pay" for export would be difficult to raise until the average size of the clearings is far larger.

One would be glad, also, to know where to find the "immense crops of peas" spoken of. Peas are a good crop, and fairly largely grown, but not yet to such an extent as is implied. In conclusion, both the Professors may feel assured of a hearty welcome when they can spare time to visit us again.

G. W. W.

Temiscaming, Ont.

Alfalfa in Minnesota.

Below are the conclusions presented in Bulletin 80 of the Minnesota Experiment Station, summarizing the results of some investigations covering the chemistry, digestibility and feeding value of alfalfa:

A variety of alfalfa has been grown in Minnesota for thirty or forty years, and has proved to be perfectly hardy wherever tried.

Alfalfa for hay should be cut when one-third of the blossoms have appeared, because at this stage it will yield the largest amounts of the several nutrients in the most valuable forms.

Alfalfa produced in Minnesota contains more protein than red clover, and has a greater feeding value than wheat bran.

Alfalfa hay contains large amounts of the most valuable fertilizing materials, and when it is fed on the farm the fertility of the soil is increased.

Alfalfa hay is equal in digestibility to red clover. It is more digestible when fed with corn or barley meal than when fed alone.

The Kansas wheat king is John T. Stewart, of Wellington, in Sumner County. This summer he harvested eighteen thousand acres of wheat from his 125 farms, all in Sumner County.



Handsome Nell.

Two-year-old Ayshire heifer. First prize Royal Show, England, 1905. Bred and exhibited by Mr. Andrew Mitchell, Barcheskie.