

ations in prices and who hold the normal spread between purchasers before him, the how best to sort the cat-rospective customers, hold-as he thinks he can get, into the pen and looks the ve \$7.90" (per hundred-orth \$8.15 to-day," the s. The buyer shakes his e. "Eight even," he calls nickel," the commission 'em," from the buyer, and binding memorandum is l night, when each sale is h price, name of firms, and al is closed, the cattle are d weighed by the stock-ans of a patent device, a ed in the scale and into it ght of the load. Such accurate and official. Selling price at hand, the out the check due the Although the packers pay on firms, the latter often ry shippers before they y from the packers. Fixed against each head of stock consist of a commission, one for feed. These to deducted by the commis- ing price of the stock be- to the shipper, or de- account, as the case may

cost the packers around ere wholesaled by them in carcass form at about \$11.50 per cwt. When hogs cost about \$8.10, pork wholesaled at \$12.50. When sheep cost \$6.00, the carcasses wholesaled at \$11.90 per cwt. In figuring the selling price from the live cost a packer must consider what is known as "dress- ing per cent." The cattle slaughtered re- appear as carcasses that average only about 51 per cent. of the live weight. We, as consumers, buy meat only. In addition to the meat, the packer in buying cattle, buys head, legs, hide and offal, which total about 49 per cent. of the live weight. The \$8.10 paid out per hundred-weight for hogs buys 77 pounds of pork 23 pounds of by-pro- ducts. Sheep average 47 per cent. carcass, and 53 per cent. of by-products. Con- and omitting the ducts, a 1,000-pound ot \$6.25 per cwt., or ass that cost \$62.50 but s and, therefore, has a cwt., or more than the live cost figures used hogs is \$10.50 per cwt., er cwt. The figures are

LE I.
THE PACKER.

Dressing per cent.	Price paid by Packer per cwt. of carcass.
51	\$12.25
77	10.50
47	12.75

LE II.
MARGIN PER HUNDRED-
GHT.

Selling Price	Margin on Carcass alone
\$11.50	— .75
12.50	+ 2.00
11.90	— .85

I and II it can be seen utton is sold for less live animal, while pork better adapted to curing, lead cost. The consumer fails to From one-half to two

per cent. of all the cattle, hogs and sheep killed at the packing centres are condemned for disease and "tanked." The proportion varies from one-half to six per cent., but the above is the general average. Packer buyers watch this closely when buying, but whatever receives the "U. S. Condemned" on the killing floors is valuable only for tankage and fertilizer.

Packers sell and distribute in cities through their own jobbing or wholesale houses. Meat is sent out from the coolers to the various branches and distributed through them, rather than directly to the local retailer.

The packer then stands the loss in shrinkage and condemnation, pays the expenses of his help from buyer to seller, supplies and operates his equipment, and sells carcasses of beef and mutton for less than they cost. The explanation of this apparent anomaly of course is to be found in the value of the by-products. The value of by-products from a 1,000-pound steer, a 230-pound hog, and an 80-pound sheep at South St. Paul are approximately as follows: Cattle \$15.06; sheep \$1.20, hogs \$1.09.

The total receipts for the stock bought by the packers would thus figure up to about \$73.71 for a 1,000-pound beef, \$23.22 for an average 230-pound hog, and \$5.67 for an average 80-pound sheep.

The cost of buying, packing, selling and distributing are difficult to get. Swift & Company's report on their 1912 business shows the distribution of one dollar's worth of sales as follows:

For live stock\$0.80
For labor08
For freight05
For other expenses04
For profit03
	\$1.00

The same company goes on to state that its profit on fresh meat in 1912 was one-fifth of one cent per pound. Whether or not these figures are representative, it is evident that the packers represent a high degree of efficiency in manufacture and distribution; that the net profit per unit of sales is small, and that it is chiefly because of a rapid turnover and a vast volume of business that they are enabled to make substantial net profits on a year's business.

FARM.

Crop Conditions in Canada!

A special press bulletin recently issued by the Census and Statistics Office, based on reports received from the Dominion Experimental Farms and Stations, summarizes the crop conditions throughout Canada as follows:—

In the Maritime Provinces a late spring has been followed by abundant rainfall throughout June. On Prince Edward Island there is a splendid crop of grain. Hoed crops have germinated evenly and fruit prospects are good. Nova Scotia reports a good crop of grass and clover; grain crops are growing well and should yield well, especially on drained land. Excessive rain is reported to be damaging crops on low land, particularly corn and potatoes, but on dry soil these crops have germinated well and promise a good yield. The rainfall is reported to have been so excessive in central and southern New Brunswick that some of the lower lands could not be planted. In the northern part of the province conditions have been normal. The hay crop is above the average and the grain is making a good growth. Hoed crops have germinated evenly and are coming along rapidly, particularly potatoes.

In Quebec hay is rather a light crop, some localities reporting only a two-thirds crop. Late rains have started the hoed crops evenly and these are making a good growth. Grain crops and silage corn are reported to be in excellent condition.

In eastern Ontario the hay crop has been light and uneven but grain crops are looking well. Hoed crops have made a good even start, except corn, which is backward and uneven. In western Ontario the rainfall has been light. Hay has been below an average crop but all grain crops promise well. Wheat will be a heavy crop on a large area; barley will be fair; oats good and peas excellent. Corn is a little backward but turnips have made an exceptionally good start. Fruit and garden stuff give promise of an excellent yield.

Conditions in the western provinces have been rather favorable and all grain crops have made vigorous growth and are well advanced. A few districts in Saskatchewan report some damage from cutworms and wireworms, as well as a slight amount of damage by frost, particularly to potatoes, corn and garden

stuff. The district around Rosthern has suffered considerably from drought. Alberta reports almost ideal conditions and the indications are that heavy crops in all lines will be

harvested. Hay, particularly clover and alfalfa, has been a heavy crop in British Columbia. Wheat is good and oats fair. Root and fodder crops are above the average.

Alsike Clover in its Home County.

It is considered by many, that without exception, farmers are benefitting in every line by war prices for their products. Although grain has been high and meat products fair, there are several lines of farm produce which have not been as remunerative as under normal conditions. No doubt the potato crop of 1914 would have realized more satisfactory prices had peace prevailed. The market for fruit was also disturbed by the disorganized condition existing throughout the world. The production of alsike clover has been a thriving industry in many townships throughout Ontario, but this has been influenced by the war and it is not being produced in as large quantities as in former years. A visit to the county of Victoria in Ontario, where a large proportion of alsike is grown, revealed a very much changed condition.

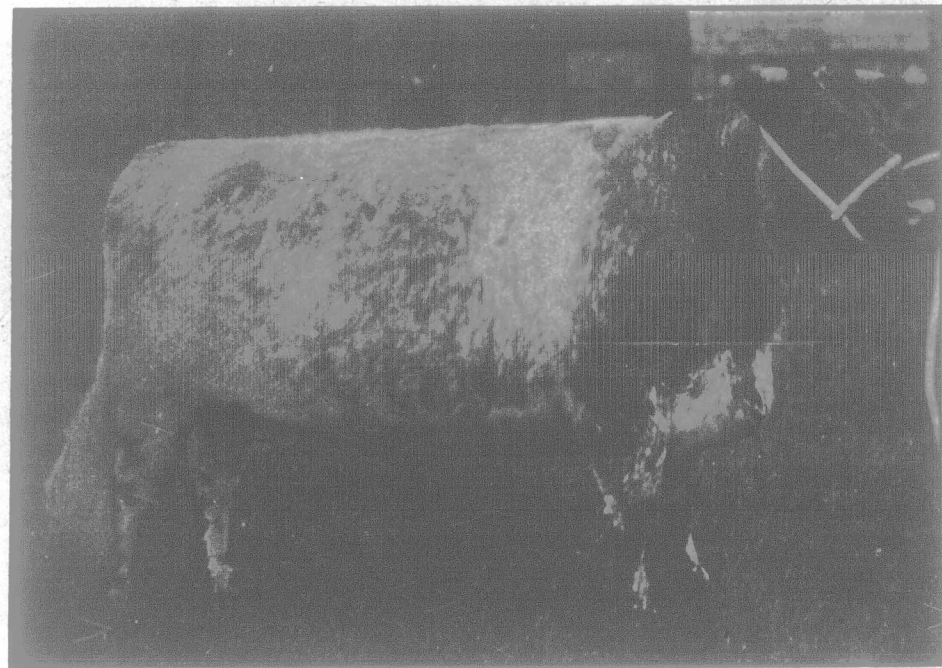
The townships of Mariposa and Ops lying in the southwest corner of the county are famous for their alsike, Mariposa particularly being almost a synonym for this clover. Formerly almost every farmer had a small field of alsike and many had large acreages. This year one might drive for several miles and yet not notice any of this crop. From the information gathered from farmers, from dealers and from those interested in the alsike trade, it seems that only about one-third of the usual acreage of alsike is growing in these two townships this year. The reasons for it are principally two in number. For the last two seasons it has been so dry that the seeding has not thrived. In some sections the winters are responsible for the killing out, but in the majority of cases it has been the drouth of summer. Another reason is that Ger-

but he, like many of his neighbors, was disappointed, for the stand was a failure.

The growing of alsike seed is not unlike the production of other clover seeds. It is simply sown with spring grain or on fall wheat in the spring and allowed to grow up like other clovers. From five to seven pounds per acre is considered a good seeding in the alsike country, but over a large extent of the two townships mentioned the land is so full of alsike seed that what are known as "self catches" are very common. The weeds, common to alsike, are usually more prevalent with a self catch. These may be enumerated as night-flowering catch fly, bladder campion, and black medick or trefoil. The manner of sowing alsike seed has been tried in various ways. H. Howell, who has grown the crop for many years, claims to have the best results by sowing it behind the drill and rolling it in. When it is harrowed by the drill or cultivator it goes too deep, and does not do as well as when rolled in or allowed to wash in with the rains. Mr. Howell has realized as much as \$105 per acre from this crop. This grower has recently moved on to a new farm, and does not find conditions as favorable as on the previous place. Production of the crop may be suspended for a year or two, but he has not lost confidence in his soil or in the crop.

It requires some experience with this clover to know the proper time to harvest. When cut on the green side there is less shelling of the seed, but the dark, purple color which marks the product as a high grade is lost. When left until the small seeds in the pods have acquired a darkish shade the seed itself will be more valuable. There will be some shelling at this stage of maturity, but the plumpness of the seed and the increase gained by allowing it to harden and fill up in the straw will more than counterbalance any loss. Three methods of harvesting are in vogue. Some use a reaper which rakes the small bunches off of the table when they have attained to a reasonable size. Others use a table on the mower, and some simply mow with the machine and rake it out of the way before the mower comes around again. Advocates of these three different methods claim their own way superior, and assert it to be the method which results in least waste. Whichever way is most convenient to the grower is satisfactory for this purpose.

One advantage with the reaper is that the field is harvested at one cutting, whereas with the mower and rake the majority cut while dew or dampness is on the crop. However, some extensive growers do not wait even for that, but go ahead with the mower until the harvesting is complete. When dry, the crop is hauled to the barn and threshed at a convenient time. A few growers claim the crop to be hard on the soil, but the majority assert that when alsike is used in a proper rotation that it is followed by good crops of wheat or other grain and that it in no wise depletes the soil. W. J. Glenny of the county in question says that much of the land in Victoria has become "alsike sick." The rotation has been fall wheat and alsike, fall wheat and alsike until the land is sick and weedy. To grow this crop successfully, Mr. Glenny believes that the land should be clean and rich. Poor soil is not suitable for the production of alsike seed. Low-lying land is sometimes preferable as moisture is more plentiful. Land also which contains considerable limestone is quite suitable. Another factor contributing to success is the selection of seed. The last-mentioned grower says that the best seed is produced on or near one's own farm upon land which is clean. In this way a grower may make sure of the freedom of his seed from noxious weeds, and being grown and matured in the same community it is acclimatized and becomes native to that soil. The value of the alsike straw for feeding is estimated to lie between that of oat straw and



Windsor Gem.

A first-prize Shorthorn heifer at the Bath and West Show.

many, for a long time an excellent market for alsike clover, is now our enemy, and such products are contraband of war and forbidden export by the Empire. This cuts off a large export trade and so reduces the demand that dealers assert that alsike seed, which does not grade, this year will be very cheap indeed.

It has been estimated that the output of Mariposa Township in normal times would be in the vicinity of 425 tons, while Ops would produce about two-thirds as much. Other parts of the same county use the crop to a greater or less extent, and parts of Ontario County as well, Northumberland and Durham also produce alsike, but no township or district has specialized as much in the past as the Township of Mariposa.

When prices were good alsike has been a fairly profitable crop. "On one occasion," said Walter Curtis of Victoria County, "the threshers turned out \$50 per hour for me during a period of four days." The check for that season was \$1,800 from 25 acres. Growers agree that 5 bushels per acre is a good average, but some report as high as 10 bushels per acre, and in isolated cases as much as 12. Yet these crops occurred in seasons favorable from the first, and more particularly so just while the little pods were filling. Frequent showers at that time will increase the output considerably, for instead of being small and swivelled the seed will be plump and full and thresh out more liberally. Had the season been favorable prior to last year, Wm. Channon of the same county would have had 50 acres of seed,