

Prof. Hume Returns to Canada.

(Ottawa correspondence.)

One of Russell County's brainy young men is to occupy the chair of horticulture in the Macdonald College at Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec. He is Professor Harold H. Hume, now State Horticulturist of North Carolina. Professor Hume, who was born in 1875, is a native of Marvelville, Russell County, the center of a rich agricultural district of Eastern Ontario. It was there his natural instincts first led him to a study of plant growth and conditions affecting it. His taste for the study of horticulture led him to take in early life a course at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph. In 1898 he received the appointment of associate graduate of the O. A. C., and later acquired other academic honors, in the degree of Bachelor of Agriculture in Iowa State College, and in 1901 Master of Science from the same institution. Prof. Hume found a congenial appointment in the Professorship of Horticulture in the University of Florida, which he held from 1899 to 1904. It was in the latter year that he was appointed State Horticulturist for North Carolina, in which capacity he will continue to act until September 1st, when his new position will demand his attention. F. D.

The Farmer's Vegetable Garden.

My object in briefly touching upon this subject is to create, if possible, more interest in the home vegetable garden. To have a good supply of vegetables during the whole year is quite within the reach of every farmer, and that, too, at a limited cost, if right methods are adopted.

I have always rather discouraged the methods employed in the development of the average kitchen garden, for the reason that generally it is a place surrounded by a fence, often unsightly, so enclosed that horse labor cannot be easily employed, and too often bordered with vigorous-growing weeds, rendering the whole surroundings very untidy.

If one has poultry and does not intend to keep them confined, it is decidedly best to have the vegetable garden far enough away so that the hens cannot undo his work. Nothing is more annoying in the spring-time than poultry in the garden patch.

Generally speaking, the only advantage in having the vegetable garden handy to the house, is that it is within easy reach for the housewife. The idea that the vegetable garden must occupy the same spot year after year is not altogether a good one. True, the soil is rich in plant food, but on the other hand this advantage is counterbalanced in many cases by the weeds, which so often spring up in abundance in such places, taking full possession of the patch; the farmer, through rush of field work, and not being able to do the work he should with the horse and cultivator, is not able to keep the kitchen garden in such state as to give satisfactory and profitable returns. Maximum return for minimum labor is the great desideratum. My opinion is that the vegetable garden for the average farmer will give best returns if located in the field along with the potato and root crop. Some garden crops, such as cabbage and onions, will not do well in the average potato field, but for the limited area necessary for these crops an extra amount of well-rotted manure could be applied.

For the vegetable garden, therefore, set aside one ridge in the field, and put the different garden crops in rows, so that practically all the work can be done with the horse and cultivator. Rather than devote the end of the ridge to one crop, extend it along the whole length of the field, or whatever part of the row will take the seed we wish to plant. Put only one row of seed to a drill, for by so doing they are much more easily hoed. It is advisable to run drills 2½ to 3 ft. apart, and rake them down to almost level before making on it a narrow mark with a marker, into which the seed is dropped. For squash, melons, cucumbers, etc., give up the space of five drills, and use the center drill for the hills, which are located from six to ten feet apart.

The great essential for successful vegetable growing is cultivation, and when the garden is located and arranged as outlined above, there will be no difficulty in doing most of the work with the horse cultivator at very little more cost than that necessary to produce a good potato crop.

It is advisable to work soil as soon as it is fit in the spring, but it is seldom advisable to put in seed early, before the ground has warmed; so I never advise too early planting of the farmer's vegetable garden. It is much better to work the ground as soon as it is fit, and let it lie for a week or two, giving it one or two workings during that time to get it into the very best condition possible. The principle involved in this method also holds good with all farm crops.

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Keeping Onions Over Winter.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Not long ago I was talking with an old gardener on the subject of keeping onions over winter. He told me that for the last twenty years he had always "frozen" his onions; that is, he puts them in a pit and covers them to a depth that they will freeze through and through, but still thick enough that they can only thaw out very gradually. He says that treated in such a manner they come out in the spring in as good a condition in every respect as they were in the fall. This process is new to me, so I would like to hear your opinion, and that of any of your readers who may have had experience of it. (Mrs.) W. E. HOPKINS.



Prof. H. H. Hume.

Appointed Horticulturist at Macdonald College, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que.

APIARY.**Beekeepers' Brevities.**

Watch the weaklings!

Pinch the heads off the worthless queens.

It is the good queen and the good management that work to the best advantage in an apiary.

If, as is estimated, 3,500,000 visits from the bee must be made and 62,000,000 heads of clover must be deprived of nectar to collect one pound of honey, how many acres of clover are required to yield an average of one hundred pounds per colony in an apiary of one hundred colonies?

The fellow who thinks he cannot afford to buy a good smoker that he needs, is the fellow who can't afford to do without it at any price. It's a waste of time and money to bungle along with some bad or worn-out smoker. Don't tolerate it. A good new one will give better satisfaction, cause less annoyance and delay, and will pay for itself in a short time. —Louis Scholl, in *Gleanings in Bee Culture*.

Buying Bees.

The beginner in beekeeping is very liable to get the idea, when he goes out to buy his first bees, that "A hive of bees is a hive of bees," that all hives of bees are of equal value, and that it makes little difference which of the hives of the man he buys from he takes home with him. This is a mistake. There is as much difference in hives of bees as there is in horses—and that's quite a bit. If the "greenie" went into the apiary and picked up the first hive he came to, he would run a chance of getting something worth anywhere from one dollar to ten, with the odds in favor of the former figure. He may not be able to notice any difference, principally because he doesn't know what to look for. The hives are there, with bees going in and out of each one, and that is all the casual observer sees. The difference is there all the same, and he can see it if he looks for it, and knows a difference when he sees one.

Let the budding apiarist, when he goes to buy his first bees, take his bee-veil along with him, that he may not be afraid to go near enough to the bees to see them well, and watch them for a time. On a fine, warm day, when the fruit trees are in bloom, is a good time, if he can contain his impatience until then—which he probably cannot. Let him put on his veil and go right up to the hives and watch the bees at work, standing beside the hives, and not in front of them so as to obstruct the flight of the bees. He will soon observe that some hives have many times more bees going in and out, carrying loads of pollen and honey, than have others. These busy ones are the good ones, and the busier they are the better. Quietly raise the cover of one of these busy ones and take a look inside. It will probably be found "choke-full" of bees, right into the corners. That is the way you want them. Then take a look inside one of the slow ones, with only a few bees going in and out. See the difference? A little bunch of bees, perhaps the size of your fist or so—not worth carrying home. There will be colonies in all stages between these two extremes, but the more bees in the hive, other things being equal, the better. But "other things" are not always equal. The beginner wants quiet bees if he can get them. He can learn their disposition pretty well by lifting their cover off quietly. If they boil out and sting him a few times they are probably cross. If they pay little or no attention, but crawl around quietly on the frames, they are all right. Then he should select a hive having straight combs, if he is buying bees on combs which have not been built from foundation. A look in the top will generally show whether the combs are built straight—each comb attached to only one frame—or whether they are built "criss-cross," on cornerwise of the hive, and each comb attached to two or more frames, in which latter case it will be impossible to handle the bees without first transferring them. But about the worst snag a beginner can run up against is a queenless colony. If there are many bees standing around on the alighting board, and apparently doing nothing in particular but killing time, and if the field bees are working indifferently and carrying in small loads of pollen, or none at all, when other colonies are working well, and if the bees in the hive are cross and irritable, it would be well for the beginner to give that hive the go-by, and select one where the bees are going in and out with such a rush that they have no time to notice him or anything else, and where any bee that shows an inclination to loaf on the front doorstep gets knocked off his feet by the "field gang," and where the loads of pollen going in are so big that he wonders how in the world the bees manage to make them stick on, anyway. A colony like that is worth the money you pay for it. E. G. H.



A Cheaply-cultivated Farmer's Garden—Note the Long Rows.