

Excursionists at Guelph College

"People have the idea that the Ontario Agricultural College is a model farm," said Prof. G. E. Day, acting president, to the excursionists from East Durham and West Peterboro, as he addressed them recently after they had partaken of one of the bountiful lunches for which the college is noted. "If it were a model farm," he continued, "it would have to be a model for the average farm of the province. This would be an impossibility, as the farms of Ontario are so varied. The college is run with a view of giving farmers sons an idea of how farms can be improved, and to show them how to get the best results. Boys should not take any notice of the drudgery or hard work in connection with farming; they should rather look for results, considering rather what they are doing it for, and their motive for such work. Farming is the best business for anyone to-day. Statistics show that there are less failures in farming than in any other business."

The principal point of interest to the excursionists centered in the experimental plots to the rear of the college. Here the work was explained by Prof. C. A. Zavitz. The work of plant breeding has been receiving considerable attention; it was of great interest, as many had

never before seen the work of plant breeding in operation. Several men were engaged on this work. It was explained fully to the crowd who gathered around this part of the field, easily to the crowd who gathered around this comparatively new line of work. Through plant breeding and selection, much has been accomplished, and there are large possibilities for the future. The heads of different grains have been improved, harder strains of wheat have been evolved, and in some the straw has been strengthened, some variation of greater hardness than either parent, has been evolved by crossing. The beards are being eliminated from barley, and even now, a variety of grain, perfectly beardless, has been obtained from a bearded variety by crossing the emmer with the spelt. The head of this new grain resembles the emmer, but is beardless.

Efforts are being made to obtain a six-rowed barley from the ordinary Manscheuri barley that will be somewhat later, the idea being to get something that can be grown in mixtures with Siberian and Banner oats, the Manscheuri being too early for this purpose.

CONDITION OF THE CROPS

The experimental plots were not at their best, as owing to the early date, most of the varieties had not headed out. Some exceptionally fine rye was noticed, which would measure over six feet in length. The spring grains were all looking well for this season of the year.

Prof. Zavitz drew attention to a plot of winter barley. There is considerable risk in growing winter barley, but when it does come in, large yields are obtained. Last winter the winter barley killed out pretty badly, leaving about only a third of the stand. Attention was drawn to the plots of grain grown in mixture. The largest yield of grain was obtained from a mixture of Daubeneys oats and Manscheuri barley. There was no advantage in growing mixtures of the same kind of grain by mixing varieties. A largely increased yield was obtained when oats and barley were sown in mixtures as above. Experiments were being carried on with different kinds of grain in competition, one class as against another, in order to find out which would give

the largest yield as a class. The results obtained so far showed that the emmer stood at the top, Manscheuri barley next, with oats following. Taking it the province over, Manscheuri barley gave a greater yield of grain than oats, besides leaving the land in better shape for succeeding crops.

A PASTURE MIXTURE

In grasses and pasture mixtures the one year pasture crop, consisting of oats, early amber sugar cane, and red clover, drew considerable attention. This crop is sown in the late spring, and can be pastured the next season. The oats furnish the first pasture, and are followed by the sugar cane. After these have disappeared the red clover furnishes the necessary pasture.

A new thing in timothy was noticed. For many years, but one variety of timothy has been grown in this country, but here was found a pasture timothy. This plot, compared with the ordinary timothy, possessed a much earlier leaf growth and showed no signs of heading, as did a variety of early timothy growing alongside. Some exceptionally fine plots of clover were also admired. In reply to a question Professor Zavitz said that the best time to cut clover for hay, was when the clover was all in head, and one-third turned brown.

THE LIVE STOCK

On the farm in general, the live stock was the point of interest. Two of the Clydesdale mares had foals at foot, the one, "Pretty Sel," having an exceptionally fine foal by "Old McQueen." Her yearling foal, who is now a rising two year old, was a centre of attraction. He weighs 1500 lbs., and will doubtless weigh a ton or over ere he is a year old. The cattle were in good shape, and were the subjects of much inquiry on the part of the sightseers.

The corn on the farm was coming up nicely, the farm had made an exceptional growth, and was in danger of lodging. The other crops were all that could be expected.

The new machinery hall at the college is a building well worthy of inspection. Here were found an aggregation of many of the modern farm implements that are at the disposal of the farmer, as well as a large collection of old machinery and domestic utensils, relics of what our fathers made use of in the earlier days. A new device for cutting potatoes, whereby every piece would have an eye, as well as a new potato planter, were noticed, and are worthy of mention as being something new and up-to-date. These two machines worked perfectly, and gave the best of satisfaction in planting the potatoes at the college this season. The machinery department, which was a long felt want of the college, is one of the best at the college. Here the student learns not only the use of different machines, but is taught to put them together, as well as how to repair them, thus becoming familiar with the working parts of the machinery. This is of special value in connection with the gasoline engine, self-binders, and other somewhat complicated farm machinery.

The Laws Affecting the Spread of Weeds

(Continued from page 4)

chasers of seed have the law to protect themselves. If seed grain contains more than one of such seeds to the pound, it should be labelled with the name and address of the seller, kind of seed offered and the common name of the weed seed present.

It has been urged that educational means are far more effective than the

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passing of laws to prevent the spread of weeds. It is true that any laws that are passed should be used in an educational way by soliciting the hearty co-operation of all concerned.

In the Canadian West, the farmers are alive to the weed nuisance. Manitoba has passed a stringent law, Saskatchewan and Alberta, also, each have their weed laws. In Ontario our weed laws need revision badly. We have the Dominion law regulating the sale of seeds used for seeding purposes. Let us see that the wisest possible use is made of them for the destruction and prevention of the further spread of noxious weeds.

Graduates in Agriculture

The following have successfully completed the examinations set by the University of Toronto, and are now eligible for the degree of B. S. A., Bachelor of the Science of Agriculture: E. S. Archibald, T. R. Arkell, W. A. Barnett, L. A. Bowes, W. A. Brown, L. Caesar, F. A. Clowes, T. B. Curran, T. B. Dennis, R. M. Friar, J. J. Gilmour, K. Krohn, J. H. Hare, H. Hibbard, R. W. Hodson, D. M. Johnson, D. H. Jones, M. A. Jull, E. Lewis, D. A. Mackenzie, H. McLennan, L. F. Metcalfe, C. Murray, W. C. Owen, A. M. W. Patch, D. M. Rose, A. E. Slater, F. B. Warren, R. Winslow, H. A. Woolverton.

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