

Seed Investigation Results for, 1903.

The continued investigation into the conditions under which agricultural seeds are sold in Canada has been given a rather extensive scope during 1903. The report of the work done by the Seed Division during 1902 was published in Bulletin, No. 8. In the spring of the current year, one thousand one hundred and twelve samples of grass, clover, flax, cereal, root crop and garden vegetable seeds were secured from merchants in all parts of Canada and tested in the Seed Laboratory Ottawa. In addition to these, one hundred and twenty-five samples of grass and clover seeds were analysed for farmers and seed merchants. With each sample obtained for investigation, information was enclosed giving the name of the dealer and the place where it was sold, the price per pound or per bushel, and the origin of the seed. In this connection it is interesting to note that the prices paid by farmers for grass and clover seeds were no guide to the actual value of the samples. The average retail prices per one hundred pounds of Timothy, Alsike and Red Clover seeds, as shown by the information cards received with the samples, have been calculated, and the results are somewhat surprising. If these are to be taken as a fair average, we find that in Ontario, first grade Timothy sold for \$5.89 per hundred; second grade for \$6.24 and lower grades for \$5.52. In Quebec first grade Red Clover averaged \$15.50; second grade \$12.55, and lower grades \$15.15. In the Maritime Provinces Alsike of the best grade sold for an average of \$17.00; second grade \$16.25, and lower grades \$16.45 per hundred pounds.

In these calculations the nature of the impurities contained in the samples was, of course, not taken into consideration. Samples containing 90 per cent or over of good seed were rated as first grade; samples containing between 80 and 90 percent as second grade, and samples containing less than 80 percent as low grade. It may be pointed out that no sample of alsike containing 90 per cent or over of pure and germinable seed was obtained in the province of Quebec.

Two hundred and six samples of Timothy seed were analysed, and of these eighty-four contained 90 per cent or over of pure and germinable seeds. Seventy-two of these samples contained fewer than 1000 weed seeds per pound; one hundred and sixty-two contained fewer than 5,000 and sixteen contained more than 10,000.

Out of one hundred and thirty-six samples of Alsike that were analysed only six contained 90 per cent or over of pure and germinable seed. Eighteen of them contained fewer than 1000 weed seeds per pound, sixty-seven contained fewer than 5,000, and twenty-two contained more than 10,000.

Two hundred and six samples of Red Clover were obtained from small dealers and of these eighty samples contained 90 percent or over of pure and germinable seed. Sixty-five of them contained fewer than 1000 weed seeds per pound, one hundred and twenty-five contained fewer than 5,000, and forty-four contained more than 10,000.

It is well to note that a large proportion of these samples obtained for investigation were purchased from irresponsible dealers in villages and small towns. The reliable seed houses retail large quantities of high class seeds, but a comparatively small number of samples were obtained direct from these large firms. The percentage of samples of good quality would have been much greater if this had been done.

A BETTER QUALITY OF SEEDS WAS OBTAINED FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

Seven samples of Alsike and fourteen of Red Clover seeds were obtained from retail seedsmen in Great Britain. Of these, three of Alsike and five of Red Clover were said to be Canadian grown. The analysis of the Canadian Alsike showed an average of 95.6 per cent of pure and germinable seeds. The average of the three samples of Alsike which were said to be English grown was 94.27 per cent, and the one German grown sample included in the lot contained 84.72 of pure and germinable seeds. The latter sample contained thirteen species of foreign seeds.

The average purity of the fourteen samples of Red Clover seeds obtained in Great Britain was 98.6 and the average germination 92.3 per cent.

The Canadian grown samples were slightly lower in per cent of purity than those which were said to have been grown in England and Chile. The average per cent of purity of the five Canadian grown samples was 96.7 and the average per cent of vitality 93.6.

Comparing the quality of the Canadian grown seed obtained from retail dealers in Great Britain with that of the samples purchased from retail dealers in Canada, it would seem that much of our best reclaimed Alsike and Red Clover seed is exported. While it is desirable that the reputation of Canadian grown seeds be retained in European markets, it is no less important that Canadian farm should not be further contaminated by the weed seeds remaining in the screenings and lower grades of seeds which are left for the home trade.

"Brilliant and impulsive people," said a lecturer on physiognomy, "have black eyes, or if they don't have them they are apt to get them, if they're too impulsive."

The Minister Meant Well.

The debt of the struggling little church in the suburbs had all been paid off but £100. A clergyman noted for his skill and success in raising church funds had been sent for and was presiding over the meeting. The work of stirring up the audience to the requisite pitch of enthusiasm had begun. Subscriptions rose rapidly to £60, then to £70, and after considerable effort to £80, where they stuck. In vain the visiting brother exhorted and pleaded. The limit of the cash resources of the congregation appeared to have been reached, and at last he sat down discouraged.

Then brother Burymen, a highly respected undertaker, who had made a liberal subscription already, rose and said:—

"Brethren, this thing sha'n't fall through after it has got as far along as £80. I believe in a man giving as he has prospered, and although I have given a pretty good-sized donation I am ready to do more. I'll pay the last £20 myself."

"I don't know your name, brother," shouted the visiting preacher, jumping to his feet with enthusiasm "but I hope your business will double during the coming year, and I believe it will."

A Returned Forger.

One Charles Becker, feared by banks and watched by detectives as the most expert forger on record, has returned to his home in New York, after a long imprisonment in California. Becker is supposed to have employed his leisure in prison in inventing a paper on which it will be impossible to alter the figures of a check or to make any of the changes in which he is expert. He wishes now to negotiate with the bankers for the manufacture of this paper for printing bank bills and checks, to abandon his career of depredation and to live on the proceeds of his invention. New York does not look like the sort of a place which would shelter a Vautrin. But the greatest triumph in the career of Balzac's great criminal was when the Government, unable to restrain him from crime through its police, hired him as an arm and brain of its detective service. Fiction repeats itself as well as history, and it would be less strange that a noted forger should buy his peace with such an invention than that he should be able successfully to forge certificates of the Bank of France.

Knew Human Nature.

I came to the city to attend some detail of the World's Fair matters, said ex-Governor W. D. Hoard, but I brought a new story with me. A teacher in one of our schools had talked long and faithfully to her class, until she had thoroughly drilled into it the idea that, when a man has two wives it is bigamy; when it exceeds two it becomes polygamy; while to have but one is monogamy.

Next day, while the directors were present, she held an examination and asked the boy the following questions:—

What is it when a man has two wives?"

Bigamy.

What is it when he has more than two?"

Polygamy.

What is it when he has only one?"

Monotony, the urchin shouted, proving that his knowledge of married life was not confined to the class room.

Nothing in The Feline Way.

Not for the first time do we hear complaints of the American child. A writer in a contemporary gives an illustration, presumably exaggerated, of the results of what he calls their "system of allowing children to develop along the lines of least resistance."

A female child, he writes, approached me not long ago in the street. "An air of refinement and good breeding attended her. I paused and pleasantly observed her.

"Holla, grandpa!" exclaimed the child.

"Has anybody seen our cat?"

I made no reply.

"Speak up," said the child, "if you don't happen to have amputated your voice. I've lost kind of a tall cat, done off in a tortoise-shell finish. Her feet don't track, but she's sound and kind, city broke, stands without hitching, and answers to the name of Laura Jean Libbey. Where is she?"

"Young woman," said I, "I am not aware that I have the honor of your acquaintance."

"Don't let that cause you any insomnia, grandpa," said the female child. "I'm not trying to make a hit with you. Either you've seen my cat or you haven't. If you haven't, we'll part in a friendly way, with no clothes torn. If you have, I'd like you to produce, dig up, and relinquish the cat. Is it a go? Is there anything doing in the feline way?"

"No," said I.

"Then so long," said the female child.

The Jogerfy Lesson.

Of isthmuses, continents, capes, and canals The pupils had shown off their knowledge most fully.

Said the senior director, "The b'ys and the gals

Hev sartinly got up their jogerfy bully. Jist one other question I'd like to per-pound. What is a volcaner? Wholl tell fer a penny?"

A moment of silence, intense and profound. "Hit's a mountain what's sick at the stomick," said Bennie.

—NORMAN H. PITMAN, in Christmas Lippincott's.



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She Awoke Too Soon.

"For forty long years have my good old wife and I travelled hand in hand adown life's thorny road," said old Mr. Gush at a party the other evening, "and in all these years not one single harsh, hasty, unkind word has passed our lips when speaking to each other. Isn't that true, mother?"

"Mother" had quietly fallen asleep on the sofa by Mr. Gush's side, and as he laid his hand caressingly on her shoulder she gave a little snort of defiance and said, sharply:—"Get up yourself and light the fire, Sam Gush; I lit it last, and I'll see you far enough before I'll do it this morning, you—oh—oh—I—I—why, where am I? I must have dropped off to sleep."

"And I think you'd better have stayed asleep, Lilly Gush!" hissed Samuel into her ear, as the crowd made a rush for the doors and dark corners, where tittering and giggling could be indulged in freely.

The World's Biggest Market.

The honour of possessing the greatest market in the world belongs to Russia. It is situated in Moscow, covers twenty acres, and embraces a thousand different establishments, each of which has its own proprietor. The place is in fact a sort of bazaar, consisting not only of shops on the ground floor, but also on three floors above it. The merchandise offered for sale is described as of fabulous value; it amounts in fact to millions of pounds. The prices of the wares are not marked. The Russians are much given to bargaining for and cheapening the goods they buy, and in buying at the bazaar most of them "negotiate" with the tradesman very much in the Oriental fashion.

Things You Never Hear.

A boy who swims may say he's swum; but milk is skimmed and seldom skum, and nails you trim, they are not trum.

When words you speak, those words are spoken; but a nose is tweaked, and can't be twoken, and what you seek is never soken.

If we forget, then we've forgotten; but things we wet are never wotten, and houses let cannot be lotten.

The goods one sells are always sold; but fears dispelled are not dispold, nor what you smell is ever smoled.

When young, a top you oft saw spun, but did you see a grin e'er grun, or a potato neatly skun?

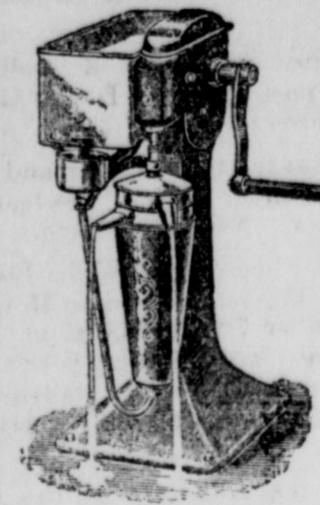


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