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Ontario Farmers Suffer Great Loss From Smut.

Degrading of Wheat by Smut Calls for Proper Treatment of Seed Grain to Eradicate Evil.

Fully \$700,000.00 has been lost to Ontario farmers owing to the presence of smut in last season's No. 2 winter wheat. This estimate has been arrived at after an inspection of the samples of grain collected from all parts of the Province for use in setting the standards for Commercial Grades of Grain for the last season when it was shown that a large percentage of the grain would grade below the Standard Grades.

Records of official inspections in the Eastern Division indicated that over thirty per cent of the grain had been excluded from the Standard Grades, while it is expected that the percentage of the total crop would be larger. The estimate was that the presence of smut would mean a diseased return to the farmers of the Province of from five cents to fifteen cents a bushel below the normal price of No. 2 winter wheat, or a total loss as stated above.

An Unavoidable Loss

Deterioration in the quality of Ontario wheat from smut became so pronounced last year that the Grain Standards Board for the Toronto District of the Eastern Inspection Division directed the attentions of Hon. J. S. Martin, Minister of Agriculture, to the great importance of farmers treating their seed grain for smut if they are to produce crops to yield the largest monetary returns. Such treatment will easily remove the heavy annual loss, and to indicate what line of procedure must be followed the Ontario Agricultural College, which has done some experimenting along this line, recently issued a statement.

Two Kinds of Smut

"There are two kinds of wheat smut in Ontario, namely, Stinking Smut or Bunt and Loose Smut of Wheat. The stinking smut or bunt was very prevalent last year, and I expect to hear that it is prevalent again this year, judging by the amount that has developed in our check plots in our experimental work.

"Experiments conducted in the United States during the past few years and this year in Ontario, demonstrated that copper carbonate dust is the most satisfactory seed disinfectant for the prevention of stinking smut or bunt of wheat.

"Directions for the copper carbonate dust treatment:—The dust should be applied at the rate of 2 oz per bushel of wheat. Place the grain to be treated in a barrel or churn about a bushel at a time. Add the required amount of copper carbonate dust and then revolve the barrel or churn until the dust is thoroughly mixed with the grain. After this treatment the grain may be bagged and sown at once. This method of applying the dust involves much time and labor if large quantities of grain are treated. Machines are now on the market, however, for applying dust rapidly to large quantities of seed.

Another Method

"Stinking smut or bunt can also be prevented by sprinkling with a diluted formalin solution. The directions for sprinkling with a formalin solution are as follows:—

"Mix one gallon of formalin with forty gallons of water. Place the grain to be treated in a heap on a clean floor. Sprinkle the formalin solution over the grain, then shovel the grain into another pile so as to mix it thoroughly; then sprinkle and shovel again. Repeat this operation until every grain is moistened by the solution. Just enough of the solution should be applied to thoroughly wet every grain, but not enough to make the grain wet and sappy. In treating small quantities, use proportional amounts of the formalin solution. After the grain has been thoroughly sprinkled, cover the pile with bags or sacking that have been sprinkled with or soaked in a formalin solution and leave for three or four hours. At the end of this time spread the grain out thinly to dry. Shovel it over three or four times to hasten the drying.

Forty gallons of the formalin solution is sufficient to sprinkle between fifty and sixty bushels of grain.

Avoid Wet Sappy Grain

"The objection to treating with formalin solution is that there is great danger of injuring the vitality of the seed. It is not wise to use formalin solution stronger than 1 pint to forty gallons, and care must be taken not to apply too much of it to the grain. To secure satisfactory results, just enough of the formalin solution should be applied to every grain, but not enough to make it wet and sappy.

"Loose smut of wheat cannot be prevented by treating the seed with bluestone or copper carbonate dust. The easiest way of avoiding loss from this smut is to secure grain from a field or district where loose smut is not present. Such seed would produce a crop free from this smut. If loose smut is bad and it is impossible to secure seed free from infection, it may be necessary to establish a seed plot and treat the seed with Jensen's Modified Hot Water Treatment.

Thornhill

(Special to the Liberal)

The regular meeting of the Ladies Aid of Thornhill United Church held at the home of Mrs. R. Thompson was well attended and a very interesting program was enjoyed. The hostesses in charge were, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Teasdale and Miss S. Pearson. The members decided to hold their annual bazaar on Wednesday Nov. 18th for which extensive preparations have been made. After the business was transacted Mrs. Strangways delighted all with her piano solo.

About twenty-five members and guests sat down to the splendid supper provided.

Miss Lottie Ball entertained a number of her friends at a corn roast on Wednesday night.

The Thornhill United Choir have been invited to Elia on Sunday October 10, and will assist in the regular service.

Mr. Irwin, our new school teacher, and Mrs. Irwin have taken up residence in the village.

Miss Hodgson of Toronto who spent the summer in Orillia is visiting with Mr. and Mrs. F. Simpson.

Mrs. Johns Sr. is spending a few days with friends in Toronto.

Ralph Johns, Bruce and Craig McDonald took up their studies at the University of Toronto this week.

Headford

(Special to The Liberal)

Rally Day was observed in the United Church last Sunday and in addition to the regular program the school was assisted by the following quartet; Miss Helmkey, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Wellman, Mr. Curtis.

A reception was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Milne, Gormley for Mr. and Mrs. Horwood (nee Hannah Hislop) who previous to her marriage was given a shower by Mrs. W. Wellman.

Miss Muriel Comisky who was unfortunately scalded at a corn-roast last week is progressing favorably. Owing to weather conditions some of our progressive farmers are stook threshing.

The Young People's Society held a corn roast at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. Smith on Thursday evening last.

COMING EVENTS

- * Stocker and Feeder Show, Toronto, Oct. 6-8.
- * National Dairy Show, Detroit Oct. 6-13.
- * International Plowing Match Niagara Falls, Ont., Oct. 12-15
- * Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Toronto, Nov. 12-20.
- * Winter Fair, Ottawa, Nov. 22-27.
- * Winter Fair, Guelph, Nov. 29-Dec. 2.
- * Toronto Central Women's Institute, Nov. 16-17-18.

High School Field Day.

Continued From Page 1

- 13—Three Legged Race (Sr.)
1, Beth Gamble, and Doris Tomlinson, 2, Vera Nichols, and Laura Gee, 3, Jean McDonald and Zilpha Topper.
- 14—Three Legged Race (Jr.)
1, Norma Ground, Reba Nichols, 2, Grace Johnston and Mary Reaman
3, Gladys Hooper and Kathleen Plewman.
- 19—High Jump (at least 3 feet 6 inches) (Sr.)
1, Margaret Vanderburgh, 2, Ruth Reaman, 3, Vera Morris.
- 20—High Jump (at least 3 feet) (Jr.)
1, Alma Fennel, 2, Dorothy Woods, 3, Anna Phipps.
- 21—Standing Broad Jump (Sr.)
1, Margaret Vanderburgh, 2, Laura Gee, 3, Beth Gamble.
- 22—Standing Broad Jump (Jr.)
1, Gladys Hooper, 2, Alma Fennel, 3, Alicia Wheeler.
- 23—Running Broad Jump (Sr.)
1, Doris Tomlinson, 2, Margaret Vanderburgh.
- 24—Running Broad Jump (Jr.)
1, Alma Fennel, 2, Irene Routley, 3, Gladys Hooper.
- 25—Hop-step and jump (Jr.)
1, Margaret Vanderburgh, 2, Ruth Reaman, 3, Vera Nichols.
- 26—Hop-step and jump (Sr.)
1, Alma Fennel, 2, Josephine Rogerson, 3, Norma Ground.

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