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The Canadian Thresherman and Farmer

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paying due attention to the purity

of the grain fed to the horses

there need be little to fear from

this source. The growing of flax

has also been condemned chiefly

for the reason that many of the

worst weeds are spread in the fields from the seed sown. Also

if all the land be broken up in the

first two years, too great a summer fallow area in one year will result,

which besides being larger than

the force of the farm could pro-

perly handle would cause a con-

siderable falling off in the year's production on account of the

much smaller acreage in crop. As

the worst weed to be dealt with is

the perennial sow thistle (Sonchus

Arvensis), which is disseminated

from the wind blown pappus, and

infests all the fields alike, land of

the same age must all be summer-

because of this weed that the four

course rotation of-1. Wheat; 2.

Wheat; 3. Oats or barley; 4.Sum-

mer-fallow is practised. The frequent stirring of the soil with the

cultivator having the desired effect

on the thick rooting intruder.

Very often timothy or western rye is sown with the oats or barley

the third year after removing the

It is

fallowed at the same time.

Modern farming is essentially a business proposition, and all the scientific principles of agriculture may be applied to the management of our western farms. The successful farmer of to-day must first of all be a business man, and buildings are situated, is exactly two miles from a station and town. This kind of land is particularly well suited to engine work, but as the farm is a small one the purchasing of a traction outfit would hardly be feasible, as the extra ex-



" How jocund did they drive their team afield.

must regard his vocation as a business enterprise in which he has invested, and from which he expects a substantial dividend. He should be a man who understands markets, and be able to follow their fluctuations intelligently, that he may dispose of the pro ducts of his industry to the best advantage. The high rate of in-terest, the scarcity and cost of hired labor are all obstacles of formidable proportions, with which the western farmer must deal. Above all a thorough practical knowledge of farming in general and in the selected district in particular is required.

Following the general rules of farm procedure in the district selected, it is not a difficult matter to outline a programme to be followed through the first three years the farm is occupied. Almost every district has its own style of farming, which seems to be best adapted to all the conditions inci-This essay dent to that district. will confine itself entirely to one part of the country, and will endeavor to show the general methods and ideas prevalent and most satisfactory in that locality only.

It is necessary then before proteeding with farm operations that some idea of the prevailing local conditions be conveyed to the reader, in order to justify the line of farming followed.

The property consists of three lundred and twenty acres of real Red River valley land. The soil is a heavy clay loam, free from stones, and all fit for cultivation. It is drained on the north by a government ditch. and faces a graded road on the south and east. The centre of the farm, where the pense entailed would necessitate a much larger capital. Breaking is done with the ordinary gang plow, having the breaking moldboards attached; this is handled quite easily by six horses, turning about four acres a day. Rolling



" The furrow oft the stubborn glebe has broke."

the newly broken land with a sod pulverizer has the effect of flattening the sods, allowing them to rot much better, and consequently backset easier. Early breaking and backsetting yield much the better crops.

Noxious weeds are the cause of considerable expense in this land, and as prevention has always proved to be cheaper than eradicaall the farm operations tion. should be conducted with the object of preventing their introduc-To this end the boundaries of the farm should be found, and marked to prevent trespassing. Sufficient seed grain pure ac to weeds and variety both should be secured to sow the twenty acres broken in wheat and oats. This will be a basis to work on, and crop the next year the land is plowed and cultivated in the late summer and fall. This system gives very good results, since it does not exhaust the soil moisture supply to such an extent as the



The fast re-ceding " Seeder."

continued growth of hay crops. Also the timothy roots add fibre to the soil, improving its texture mechanically, and preventing it from drifting the following spring. Two of the weeds will have dropped their seed before the hay is cut, and the tame hay is found to give much better results for feeding than the wild prairie grass.

Brome is used almost entirely for a permanent pasture grass, and if it secures a good sod when the land is clear, there is little chance of weeds gaining entrance. For this reason thirty acres will be seeded to brome the third year, the field fenced, and a small reservoir dug in it. About twelve pounds of grass seed should be sown per acre, and the reservoir dug in a corner, so that the field may be cultivated again without it proving an obstruction.

Deep fall plowing of all the land on which wheat is to be the next crop is necessary, as the disintegrating action of the frost has the desired effect in preparing a seed bed in land that tends to become packed and stiff. Oats, on the other hand, requiring a much looser seed bed, do better on spring plowed land. The barley land is frequently plowed twice, skim plowing the fall before, especially if wild oats are plentiful.

Whether prejudiced or otherwise the average farmer of this locality does as little mixed farming as possible, and while there is no doubt that on the older cultivated farms cattle and sheep should be much in evidence; for the beginner with a clean farm, and lacking feed, no additional stock should be bought.

The buildings with which the farm is supplied consist of a small barn 16 ft. x 28 ft., and a onestorey house, 16 ft. x 20 ft., both of which are temporary structures. These with twenty acres of land constitute the improvements of the property. No feccing has been done, but as the herd law prevails there will be no een mon 1st, 1912 of \$3,000 make the the farm etc. To con plete to followed be purely and value the farm year in ther with of each y cipal iten farm wou The pla sufficient with sepa the mann buildings, has giver the distri-

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