

to the front, and that finally obtained from Kars, Ont., was of an inferior quality due to the rainy season. The seed was small, undeveloped, and ripened slowly, so that of the seed gathered, little was in first-class condition. The experiments of 1912 and 1913 had proved that wild rice seed could be stored dry for two or three weeks and still give a fair average percentage of germination. It was hoped to find now the average time for complete loss of vitality of those seeds preserved dry. The seed on hand was not conducive to a fair test, but twenty-four tests were made. It was found that seeds kept dry for four weeks gave 45 per cent, for six weeks 14 per cent and for seven weeks 1 per cent. It was concluded that for all practical purposes, wild rice seed should not be kept dry for longer than two or three weeks before sowing, or storing in water.

SUMMARY OF GERMINATION TESTS.

- (1) Wild rice may be kept dry for two or three weeks under ordinary conditions and retain a germination percentage of at least 50.
- (2) Seed packed dry gives better results for a journey of two or three weeks than that packed moist.
- (3) Seeds to be kept dry for transportation and sowing should not be exposed to the sun after gathering.
- (4) Wild rice to be transported for seed should be gathered on a dry day in a dry vessel and kept in a cool dry place. It should be stirred or turned over two or three times the first one or two hours and then shipped as soon as possible. Each day after gathering means a certain loss of vitality.
- (5) Fully mature seeds, kept dry, retain their vitality for a longer period than immature seeds.
- (6) Seed gathered at Rice lake, Ont., and westward, being of a larger variety than the eastern, appears to give a higher germination percentage than the latter, when kept dry for two or three weeks.

CULTIVATION.

As mentioned above, wild rice grows naturally in a mud-bottomed bed in shallow waters which are not stagnant nor yet too swiftly flowing.



Photo—F. Fyles

Suitable bed for wild rice along a shallow, mud-bottomed stream.