

Farming in Nova Scotia.

BY LAURA ROSE.

HAY THE PRINCIPAL CROP.

This morning, from my window I watched a man as he swung, with even stroke, the long blade of the scythe, and I thought how much muscular force he was expending and how tired and sore his arms and back must be by the end of the day. Much of the hay in this country is cut with the scythe, for in many places the land is such that a mowing machine could not be used.

There is a charm about a hay-field no other crop possesses. Wheat is never anything but wheat; but hay may be clover of different kinds, grasses of various sorts, or a combination of them all. We admire the tender green the fields have in early spring, then later on when the bloom comes on the clover and the grasses, how sweet and lovely. Even in death it exhales a fragrance about which poets sing.

I have tried so hard to get a picture of a Nova Scotia haying scene. The women do most of the raking, and to see them with their sun-bonnets and large white aprons on, skillfully gathering up the hay with long rakes, is a pretty sight. They are fond of the work too, and would rather do it than be indoors. Many of the hay wagons have but two wheels, and the long poles reaching from the back serve as shaves for the one horse which draws the load. One locality I was in oxen were altogether used for this work.

The land here is spoken of as upland, that on the hills; intervale, that between the hills, usually the flats along a river, and marsh or dyke land, that recovered from the sea. The latter is the most valuable and fertile. Year after year it stands constant cropping with hay, gets nothing returned to it, and will yield three or four tons to the acre. Such land sells for \$100 an acre.

Many of the intervalles are permanent hay-fields, as one farmer, pointing to some fields, said: "There's land that's never felt the snout of a plow." He also told me that after the hay was taken off, the land received a top-dressing, which prevented the cattle from clipping the aftergrowth too closely, and also protected it from being winter-killed, while, of course, at the same time it enriched the soil. For this dressing a compost is made. You will often see a pile of it by the roadside. It is made of good earth or sod and manure put in layers. Very often, when near the sea, seaweed is largely used also.

The uplands are plowed under every four or five years and seeded down again. The land in many places looks poor, the hay on it being chiefly daisies, buttercups and brown-top grass. Ox-eyed daisies, they say, are native to the soil here, and the farmers do not seem to mind them in the least. I've seen hay-field after hay-field as white as a sheet with daisies. When cut with the petals still on, I've been told, they make good feed and are readily eaten by the stock. In speaking to one man about the daisy crop, he said: "Sheep are dainty feeders, and they will pick out the daisies first from the hay."

The only extensive crop raised here is hay. Very little wheat is grown, many farmers not putting in any, others just enough to make the family flour. They get it ground at the country mills, and it makes a very dark, sweet, wholesome bread. The oat crop is good this year. I frequently ask how many acres they have in oats, and the reply is always the number of bushels they have sown, usually from ten to twenty bushels. The American Banner is the variety mostly grown, as it seems well adapted to these parts. I have seen a few small patches of buckwheat and barley. I may say no corn is grown, and very few roots, excepting potatoes.

I am puzzled at times to know just how farmers do make a living. They have little or no grain for sale; they feed their hay to some stock which could hardly be entered as first-class; not a great many cows are kept, and the majority of these only give milk during the summer months when butter is cheap; and few pigs and poultry are raised. The complaint often is that there is no market for these things; but if they were raised in sufficient quantities, it would induce buyers to come in, and instead of prices decreasing, they would increase. Now the farmer has to take the first chance to sell, for fear it may be his last, but were the supply greater, there would be more buyers, hence more competition.

True, the people in this Province do not depend, in many cases, solely on agriculture. Their interest and labors are often spread over many fields, mining, fishing and lumbering receiving even greater attention than farming; and perhaps this has much to do with the run-down appearance of many of the farms.

The season was very backward. Farmers were late in getting at their hay. The broken weather has hindered the work, and the heaviest freshets that have been for years have flooded the marsh lands, and although this is September, there is still hay to cut in some places. As one farmer remarked, he thought he'd have to wait until it froze up so he could run the mower on the ice.

But there is a crop, and a most valuable one,

that is to be found thriving on nearly every farm. I see it peeping from behind the barn, or the side of the house, or perhaps "from the windows open wide, heads and shoulders clear outside"—the children—"the riches of the poor," and, verily, a fortune many a rich man might earnestly covet. They are frequently at our meetings, are well behaved, never meddle, and I like to look into their honest, sunburnt little faces, eagerly listening to all I say—God bless them—and may Nova Scotia sustain her reputation for producing more smart men than any other Province in the Dominion.

Guysboro Co., N. S., Sept., 1902.

Education of a Farmer.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Education as a factor in the making of a farmer has until very recent years received little or no attention. Just why the erroneous idea, that education is of no practical benefit to the man who intends to make farming his life's work, should have prevailed so long is a question difficult to answer. It means that agriculture, one of the noblest callings man can follow, has received little consideration, not only from people in other professions, but particularly from the farmers themselves. Although it has advanced steadily from the earliest civilization, yet it has never reached the position that it should occupy, and never had the pride nor ambition to lift it to its proper level that it should have had. Only now we are beginning to appreciate its intellectual needs.

Lack of education and agricultural training has been one of the greatest drawbacks to advancement. Until very recent years the idea of a special training in agriculture was scoffed at by

is lack of representation in Parliament or politics. We are living in a country whose resources are almost purely agricultural and where agricultural interests should receive first attention. How can we get the proper consideration as long as politics and Government are in the hands of professional politicians and men in other professions? We should have our own representative farmers in Parliament, and they should be men capable of good judgment and of holding their own against others. These things can only be attained by education. Give every boy a good common schooling, and, if possible, a course in agriculture, that he may be able to work, not by guess, but by principle, and be able to give a reason for any particular course of action. The education will broaden and train his mind so that he will be able to run his farm with greater pleasure and profit. He will thus also acquire the habit of reading and of thinking for himself, and with the many valuable but low-priced papers, magazines and other literature on the market, he will become a well-read and intellectual man, capable of carrying on his work in a thorough and businesslike manner, the intellectual equal of his city brother.

J. C. W.

Harvesting on the Irrigated Lands.

The harvest on the irrigated lands about Lethbridge and neighboring settlements has been a plentiful one. Fall wheat is an undoubted success, and the acreage in all the irrigated districts has increased greatly this year. It is more than double that of last year. Wheat is a good sample, and all crops have come in much faster than was expected, owing to the exceptionally fine, dry weather of the past month. Threshing operations have shown a larger yield than last year, owing principally to much of the land being now second and third year land. Irrigation has not been generally necessary, owing to the wet weather of the growing season, and much land that was formerly considered suitable for ranching has produced fine grain and root crops, though roots are not as satisfactory a crop as usual.

The Mormon town of Raymond has become a place of seven hundred inhabitants in one year, with an area of four thousand acres in its neighborhood under crop. This land, which is principally under grain, will be principally sown with sugar beets for the new factory which is to be erected in the near future. The concern promises to be a big thing for the district.

It will have a capacity of four hundred tons of beets a day, will cover an area of about three acres, and the contract price for building it is \$730,000.

J. McCAIG.

Cutting Corn.

The best time to cut corn, probably, when the stalk and ear are wanted, is when the ear is just passing out of the glazed stage to the stage of completed ripeness. The nutriment is then all in the stalk and ear together. When corn is cut at that stage, the ear is not likely to shrivel, and the stalk has a palatability far ahead of that which is possessed by the stalk which is allowed to cure on the ground before it is cut. If corn could all be cut at that stage it would be well, but where a large acreage is to be cut, so that cutting it is going to cover several days, it may be well to begin when the crop is not yet quite ready, as before it is all cut some of it will be a little too ripe.—[The Farmer of St. Paul.

Good Agents Wanted.

Farmers or farmers' sons who will undertake to represent the "Farmer's Advocate" at the fairs this fall, and secure new subscriptions, should write us at once for terms, sample copies and outfit. State what fair or fairs, and the dates. It is a pleasure to canvass for a paper that everybody likes. Try it.

Mr. Maxwell Smith, of Vancouver, has been appointed inspector for British Columbia under the Dominion Fruit Marks Act. Extra men will be appointed also to assist inspecting apple shipments at Montreal.



CRIMSON HERO = 43477 = AND RECIPROCITY.

Shorthorn bull, roan, under one year, and white steer, one year and under two; winners of first prizes, Toronto Industrial Exhibition, 1902.

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