

FARM

Comment upon farming operations invited.

Machinery at Fairs

The motor test which the Winnipeg Industrial management made a part of the program of their exhibition this year attracted more attention perhaps than any other feature at the fair, more at least than any other machinery feature. Here was a new departure in machinery exhibiting. Up till now manufacturers have been content merely to display their goods at exhibitions, and exhibition managers have simply permitted them to exhibit, no awards ever being made, the manufacturer being satisfied to bear the expense of making an attractive display for the advertising benefits resulting. Traction engines would tear up the turf or give an exhibition of their hill climbing powers by racing up and down a specially arranged incline. Motors would "mote", separators hum hungrily, fanning mills would be busy at work on some specially selected mixtures of grain, machinery of all kinds would be in motion, and the farmer, if he came to the fair to buy an implement or machine had no more chance there of selecting the best than he would have had dealing with his agent at home. If he wanted to buy he would do business with the best talker and take whatever machine that fellow happened to be selling.

But it would be different could tests be carried on at our exhibitions, and awards made for the best machinery, just as awards are made now for the best livestock, the best butter or cheese manufactured, or the best farm products produced. And there are no serious difficulties in the way of such tests being made. With some lines of machinery of course, contests are impossible, but with much of it tests could be made, the usefulness of certain features demonstrated or competitions carried out in which one manufacturer's product is pitted against another's with competent judges to determine which machine worked most satisfactorily and economically.

The motor contest at the Industrial amply demonstrated that manufacturers are not unwilling to enter their machines for such competitions as these. They went into the business with an enthusiasm that carried the feature through to one of the most interesting and valuable conclusions that any exhibition feature was ever carried to at Winnipeg or anywhere else. And while the farm motor men were pulling off their hauling and plowing tests, cream separators were being tested to determine their efficiency for farm use. There is no fear but that other manufacturers will go in for machinery competitions quite the same as the motor and cream separator men went in for these. We need more exhibition features like what the light motor competition was and we believe as fairs are developing nowadays it will not be long before contests for machinery, or at least of those lines that can be satisfactorily tested in this way, will be put on by most of our larger exhibitions. Farmers need to be absolutely certain, in these days of high priced machines, that the thing they put money into possesses some merit other than a loquacious salesman—if he can be called such.

The Peoples' Farm at Brandon

Time was when the experimental farm at Brandon was more of an agricultural mecca than at present. The farm was made use of as a rendezvous for Farmers' Institute workers, for agricultural society picnics and to it frequently trekked, in small parties, those farmers throughout the province who are interested in the pursuit of some phase of advanced agriculture. These men yet go up frequently to Brandon and discuss with the director the matters they are interested in, but the public excursions and pic-nics are no more to be seen. And the reason given is that such outings meant a smaller attendance at the fair. Thereby is created a problem of policy, and the policy adopted has been to foster the fair. That the public loses considerable interest and inspiration by the adoption of this policy there is no doubt, for the Brandon farm is a point of some considerable interest and is becoming more so.

For a year now the farm has been under the charge of James Murray, B.S.A., a man who is always willing that his work shall be his only

commendation, and judging by his work no man could be more highly commended. Dr. Saunders, of Ottawa, who is over all the Dominion experimental farms of course directs the general scope of the work at Brandon, but it is in carrying out the work designed and in the conduct of other work and in attention to the various details of farm management that Mr. Murray excels. Dr. Saunders, as we have remarked before, appears to have come to regard the functions of the several experimental farms to be that of showing comparisons of yields of different varieties and kinds of grains. Problems of a provincial nature that might be elucidated by experimentation are entirely ignored and were it not for the fact that

and mixtures of clovers and grasses, then there are larger field plots of red clover, alfalfa, and mixtures of these with timothy and rye grass. These plots were cut and the hay stored about the middle of July and the aftermath is now a waving green. The plots are in the valley but over the hill on the upland sandy prairie, clover has been established with rye grass, and the best of hay was cut this year. Continuous demonstration upon plots and the field, should in time firmly convince the Manitoba farmer that clover growing is not only feasible but is one of the most essential practices in the up-keep of land.

A USE FOR CORN.

In connection with the growing of grain on the experimental plots Mr. Murray has noticed rather a singular thing that may have considerable effect upon the future of our agriculture, and that is, that when a crop of corn is grown upon rank soil, the succeeding crop of grain is much stiffer in the straw and stands up before the heavy rains that usually come in late July. Corn, therefore, is being more extensively grown, the fodder is useful, the land is well cultivated when it is growing, and Mr. Murray's convictions are being vindicated with respect to the effects of corn upon the soil, and the following crops of straw. The plots at Brandon are difficult to handle as they are in the low land of the river bottom, but on the same soil are growing splendid field crops, and a desperate fight is being waged with couch grass that has got a firm hold on some of the land.

WORK WITH STOCK.

The Brandon farm is essentially a stock farm by reason of its location, the nature of the soil, its spring creek, and its large run of rough land by a big ravine. For years this rough land has been only partially utilized, but one of Mr. Murray's first innovations was to put steers on this run, and feed them outside last winter. The venture was a success, notwithstanding lack of fencing forced an early sale before the market had made its spring rise. This outdoor feeding work is being followed up and the rough land grazed by twenty two-year-old steers, which will be run in the ravine all winter on straw and a light ration of chop. Out of these feeding tests something will be demonstrated, and the signs seem to point that it will be that cattle are easily fed to a profit outdoors in a Manitoba winter.

With hogs also some investigation work is being carried on. Different summer pasture crops are being tried, grains, grasses, rape, etc., and the gains of hogs on each plot kept tab of. This work is probably more important to the average farmer than that with cattle, and both are deserving of being pushed to definite conclusions.

From all appearances the people's farm at Brandon is in safe charge. Work of importance is being carried forward. A new root house and silo are in course of erection, patch work experimenting and cropping is being abolished, and if we mistake not, the west at large and the stock farmers at Manitoba particularly will be immensely benefitted by Mr. Murray's incumbency of the directorate of Brandon Experimental Farm.

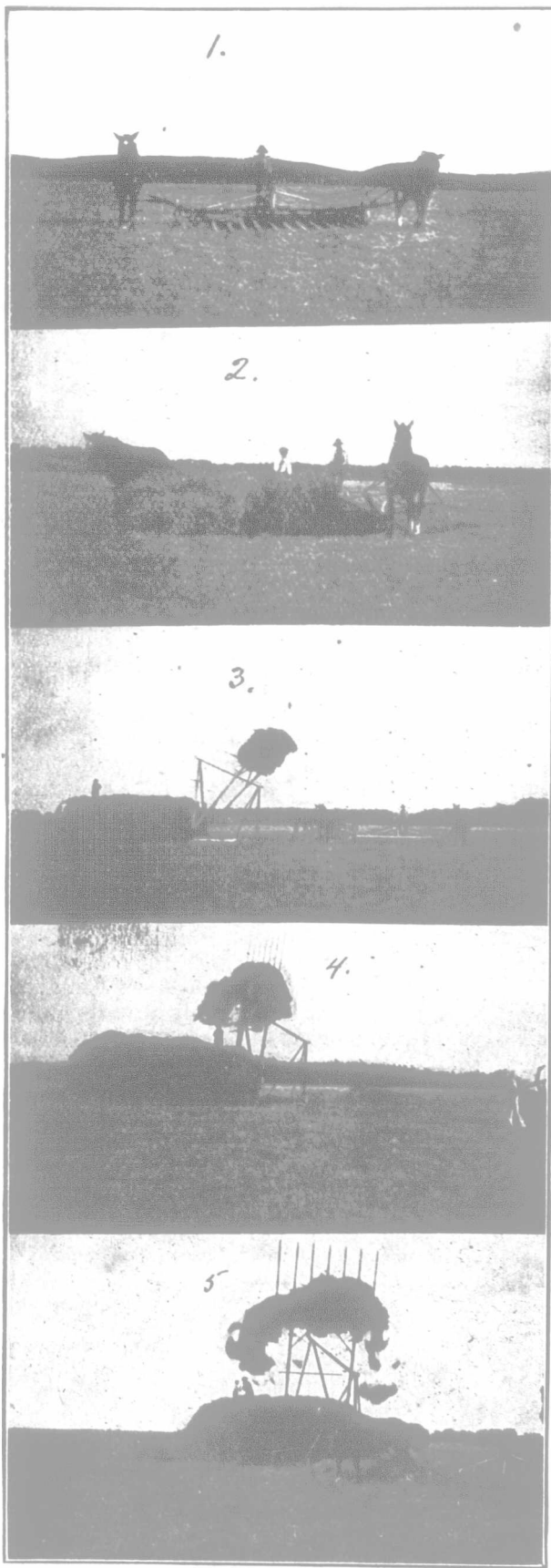
Eradicating French Weed

Your editorial, "The New Method of Weed Eradication," is of special interest to me. It is to be regretted you did not publish a number of formulae for mixing weed-destroying ingredients, such as iron sulphate, copper sulphate, common salt, etc., in connection with the excellent article appearing in your issue under date of July 15th. If there be anything on earth that will eradicate French weed, I want to know it. I have a few of these infernal weeds and have been told that I cannot possibly rid myself of them, no matter what is done to kill them. They are on ground I am summer fallowing. Where can I obtain information re results obtained by spraying against weeds? I also appreciate much your hints on summer fallowing.

Alta.

P. L. C.

French weed is not by any means the most serious weed pest on earth as you would probably discover were you up against some of the species now beginning to infest the farms of Manitoba and eastern Saskatchewan. In some cases satisfactory results have been obtained by spraying with one of the chemicals mentioned in the article you refer to. As a general rule, however, especially in cases like yours, it is best to depend on cultivation or hand pulling to get rid of the pest. Summer fallowing, if properly and thoroughly done, plowing early in June and again towards the end of August, will catch most of the seeds or plants in the upper soil strata, but as the seed will remain in the ground for several years without injury to its vitality, the weeds are likely to grow again after each plowing.



HAY STACKING ILLUSTRATED

the director of the Brandon farm has a keen interest in work other than simply check experimenting, the farm would be in serious danger of sinking into disrepute. But the experimental plots are not neglected, they are as neatly kept and are growing as evenly as we have ever seen them. Varieties of all kinds of grain range across the plots, of which the results of the yields are given each year in an advanced form in this paper and in their final address in the report of experimental farms.

THE GRASSES AND CLOVERS.

In addition to grains Mr. Murray has sown several plots to grasses and clovers. The clover plots lay along the main drive and are observed by all who visit the farm. There are alfalfa plots, one in seed sown in the west, red clover plots, alsike plots of it volunteer