

The Farm.

Sow Clover.

At a recent Canadian meeting of farmers the writer of this was much impressed with the address of Professor Saunders in regard to the importance of the clover crop and its relation to the maintenance of soil fertility. It was so greatly at variance with the old-time doctrine that it sounded like a new revelation. The old doctrine was that clover took all its properties from the soil, and this address was that latest investigation revealed that about all of the nitrogen was caught from the air, and, while there was no new gifts of potash and phosphoric acid, the clover plant gathered up stores of the latent materials of these and gave them back to the soil in an assimilated form for the succeeding crop, which really amounts to a new supply. Another thing which was valuable, if it is confirmed, is that a crop of clover left upon the ground and not ploughed under until spring would, as a mulch, add a large percentage of nitrogen to the soil by this covering, in addition to the stored nitrogen gathered by the plant during its growth. It was also noticed that the figures given by the Canadian investigations run very even with those figured out by Professor Roberts at Cornell, and show that clover is clover wherever it can be grown. The figures show that the plant food secured by a full crop of clover was about an average of 125 pounds of nitrogen an acre, 35 pounds of phosphoric acid and about 120 pounds of potash, or about \$22 worth, as purchased as high-grade fertilizers.

Clover improves the land, as does no other crop, in texture, and supplies other plants while the farmer has little foreknowledge of what the effect of a purchased fertilizer will be. The fertilizing ingredients of a commercial fertilizer are not always in available forms for the plants, and possibly may be in quite as inert a condition as the plant food may be in soil depleted of its fertility by cropping. The nitrogen in dried blood, nitrate of soda and the like, is quickly available, but in wool waste, hair, hoofs and leather scrap, it is so slowly disintegrated that the plant would starve before it could get a meal of it. Materials sold in fertilizers may show high percentages of plant food, and still be almost worthless as food for plants, owing to the fixed character of the material, which even sulphuric acid cannot liberate; but the clover plant is a fertilizer agent whose goods are as represented, are in available form, and need no liberating reagent to set them free beyond the natural ferments of the soil. The cheap price of clover seed this season, and the possibilities of sowing it with all small grains, and as a catch crop in the corn, and a special crop by itself, should stimulate all farmers to sow clover with an unstinting hand, and return as nearly as possible to nature's methods of restoring and building of soils.

Possibly the soil, after several successive rotations of crops and clover, would need to be reinforced with an application of South Carolina acidulated rock and some muriate, or sulphate of potash. Then the rotation will go on again, as the nitrogen is all the time being supplied through the agency of the clover. Peas rich in nitrogen come in as a wonderful help as a catch crop, as they can be grown in fifty days, and are valuable aids in supplying plant food. Their mechanical effect upon the soil is second only to clover. Try it this year and see if 75 cents worth of clover seed put on an acre will not result as beneficially as would a ton to the acre of \$22 phosphate, and with these advantages: The clover fertility would last two or three years, instead of only one, and the mechanical effect is far superior to purchased plant food; and, lastly, there will be \$21 difference in the expense account.—(Aurota.)

Canadian Butter at the Top.

The St. Mary's Creamery Co. recently made a shipment of butter direct to England, which sold for one-half to one shilling per cwt. (113 lbs.) higher than the Danish butter was selling for at the same

time. The St. Mary's butter brought 108 shillings, and the Danish from 106 to 107 shillings. This result is very gratifying indeed, and shows what the possibilities are in the development of our export butter trade. We have as good facilities in Canada for making first-class butter as the Danes have, and we have only to make the good qualities of our butter known in order to obtain the highest price.

The St. Mary's creamery is to be commended in the efforts it is making to establish a trade with Great Britain. If every creamery would adopt the same plans, and ship all the butter made direct, it would not be long before we had created a large export demand for Canadian butter. The shipment referred to above netted 20 1/2 cents at the factory, and the company were able to pay the patrons 19 1/2 cents per lb. for butter fat. They have averaged \$13,000 lbs. of butter per month during the winter, and expect to make 15,000 lbs. during March. There are now six skimming stations in addition to the central creamery at St. Mary's. The business is growing very rapidly, and the manager, Mr. J. Stonehouse, expects to be turning out about 12,000 lbs. per week in the middle of the summer. The firm has direct connection with British commission houses, where the butter is sold on its merits.—Farming.

Care of Poultry.

Though the price of eggs has fallen off, and they are now, perhaps, about as cheap as they will be, it will still pay to give the poultry good care. Many of them will be anxious to sit, and if their intentions are serious in this direction it is better to humor them with the work of raising and bringing up a family. If well fed and watered while sitting, and while the chicks are small, most hens will begin laying again as quickly after sitting as they would if determined efforts were made to break up the habit. No matter how good the range of the fowls, they should have a little feed of whole wheat night and morning, to mix with their ration of worms and insects. Lack of grain-feeding shuts off the egg supply prematurely at the beginning of summer, and it also postpones and prolongs the moulting season, which as the hens then produce nothing, it should be the poulterers' care to make as short as possible. On a diet of grass and insects the hen does not get the material for an abundant supply of the best quality of eggs.—(American Cultivator.)

A Good Offer From a Reliable Firm.

If you want to take advantage of the "Seed Offer" advertisement of the Baird Company, wholesale druggists and seedsmen which recently appeared in this paper, they will give in addition during April only, two five cent packages of their celebrated Fly Poison Mats.

DRESSING WELL

Is Quite Easy When You Know How to Do it.

There are too many women who are careless about their home gowns. They imagine they are thrifty and economical because they put on from day to day a faded or dingy dress or skirt. Such women are neither economical nor wise; they are either misers or indifferent to the feelings of their family and friends when they act thus.

At an expense of from ten to twenty cents for one or two packages of Diamond Dyes any woman can make her faded gowns or skirts as good as new. This kind of home work is wisdom and true economy.

This spring thousands of wise and thrifty women are using the Diamond Dyes, giving new life to old and cast-off dresses and costumes, fitting them for another season's wear.

When you decide to dye, do not risk your materials with poor dyes or imitations of the Diamond Dyes; see that your dealer gives you the "Diamond" that work so easily and successfully.



Don't work: let SURPRISE SOAP do the labor for you. It's the way to wash clothes (without boiling or scalding), gives the sweetest, cleanest clothes with the least work. Follow the directions on the wrapper.



A Combination Dairy Cow

The common cow is generally very hardy but even her robust constitution will be the better and stronger, and her dairy value enhanced manifold

if during the winter you add some of

Dick's Blood Purifier

to her feed. It sharpens the appetite of an indifferent eater, tones up the system, strengthens the generative organs, and keeps her in good health for the Calving Season.

50 cents a package.

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