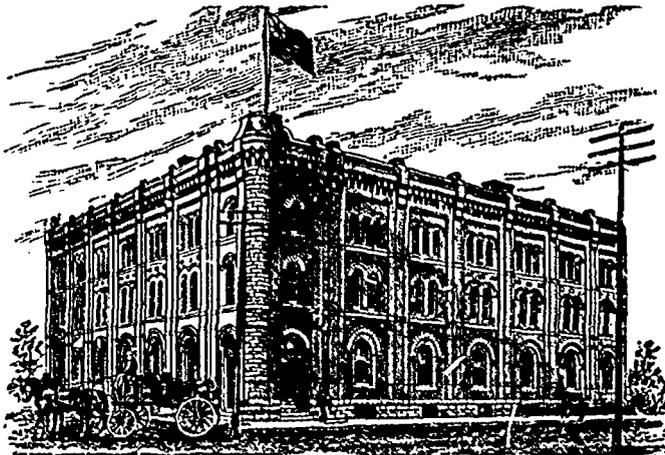


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The Territorial Experimental Farm.

In our review of the Dominion Experimental Farm report two weeks ago we dealt with the farm at Brandon, Man. This week a few of the leading points from the report of Superintendent MacKay, of the Experimental Farm at Indian Head, Assa., will be given.

In introducing his subject, Mr. MacKay makes a few remarks on the advisability of farmers in this country devoting a share of their attention to something besides wheat. He argues that to a farmer who is depending entirely on his wheat for a living, an early frost is almost ruin; whereas, if he divided his attention between wheat and some other kind of agricultural products, he would not be entirely at the mercy of the frost. This argument is good, and should be carefully considered, not only by farmers in the territories, with which his report more particularly deals, but also by Manitoba farmers.

On the question of early seeding, Mr. MacKay has a few words to say which it might be as well to copy just as they are. He says: "Another point of great importance is early seeding. Every farmer realizes this, but very few act up to it. As long as seed and land hold out seeding continues, whether it be in April, May or June. The result is that much of the late sown grain is frozen and the country sometimes on this account pronounced a failure."

The preparation of the soil also comes in for

a word of comment. His experiments have shown that the grain sown on fallowed land is several days longer ripening than that sown on fall or spring plowing.

Wheat—On the farm, 19 new and 28 old varieties were tested. Red Fife and Ladoga seem to have received the greatest amount of attention. From the tests made it appears that Ladoga is a few days earlier in ripening, but does not give quite such a large yield. The varieties of wheat which matured earliest were Karachi, Club, Bombay, and Hard Calcutta. The kind known as Gehun, is also early and gave the best results of all. This was sown April 24th, harvested August 15th, yielded 46.34 bushels to the acre and weighed 64½ lbs to the bushel. Some experiments were made with frozen wheat and the results were interesting. A quantity of No. 3 frozen Red Fife was put in by drill at the rate of two bushels per acre, and it returned 21 5/6 bushels. The drill method of putting in seed is recommended as superior in every respect to broad-cast seeding.

Barley—Thirty-two varieties of this grain were sown in the spring of 1900. Of these, all except the India sorts, were very heavy in straw and the rain storms before harvest laid down a lot of it. "The only barley not lodged was Duckbill, and this, although having more straw, than any other, was not in the least

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injured in this respect; it was, however, more discolored than any other sort, from having fewer beards and the exposed position of the grain in the heads. For earliness, yield, good straw, vigorous growth, and general appearance, none equalled the Duckbill." Duckbill is a two-rowed barley.

"Early seeding of barley on the Experimental Farm has invariably produced the best crop. Though on one occasion the early growth was cut back by frost three times; yet in the end the crop turned out the best and in view of the probability of there being a large increase in the acreage sown this spring of this grain it is recommended to sow as soon as possible after the spring opens. One and one-half bushels is sufficient seed per acre, when sown early, as it will almost certainly be cut back by the frost and will then stool out more than if sown later. 1½ to 2 bushels per acre is necessary if sown late."

We take the above paragraph just as it is in the report. Owing to the large growth of straw the grain was not so plump and rounded this year as it was last.

Oats—Oats were a good crop last year, but were also very heavy in straw. They were sown on fall and spring plowing and on fallow. That sown on the latter was badly lodged. The variety known as Prize Cluster, gave the best results both in point of earliness and in grain. The largest yield was obtained from the black oats, which gave 74 3/10 bushels to the acre.

The whole quantity of oats sown on the farm was put in between the 22nd and 26th of April and harvested between the 13th and 29th of August.

Peas—Five varieties of field peas were sown. Unfortunately a hail storm which passed over the farm on the 12th June cut off all the young leaves and battered the stocks. From this the most of them never recovered.