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Table of Contents

Practical farming, Dickson on..... 339
Feeding milch-cows, McLachlan on..... 339
Butter-making, H. Smith on..... 340
Seed-time, G. Moore on..... 340
Application of the X rays to agriculture, G. 341
Potato cultivation, Long on..... 341
The poultry-yard—By A. G. Gilbert..... 341

CORRESPONDENCE :

Wool ashes, S. Peacock on..... 342
" Prof. Shutt on..... 342
Butter-packages, A. A. Ayer on..... 342
Silage and roots, D. Mac, herson on..... 343
Crows damaging corn, G. Buchanan on..... 343

NOTES BY THE WAY :

Facaline..... 343
Food and milk-fat..... 343
A Jersey-Shorthorn record..... 343
Whole vs. cut potato-seeds..... 343
A bold man..... 343
Norman cattle..... 344
Water for sheep..... 344
Fall in prices..... 344
Agricultural-chemistry, Prof. Shutt on..... 344
S. d-report..... 344
British crops '94-'95..... 344
Feather-eating fowls..... 345
U. S. crop of potatoes..... 345
Harvest, in '95, in Manitoba..... 345
Pig-feeding..... 345
Report of the Dom. Off. analyst..... 345
Butter, cheese, &c., in London..... 345
Preservation of fresh-butter..... 345
Spaying heifers..... 345
A good old age..... 346
Lucerne..... 346
The weather..... 346
Mutton..... 346
Washing sheep..... 346
Price of wool in England..... 346
Value of the root-crop..... 346
Cheap-fattening of hogs..... 346

FARM-BUILDING :

Plans for piggeries, Prof. Robertson on..... 347
An easily built windmill..... 347
Food for milch-cows, Wilson on..... 347
Farm work for May..... 348
Hens and hen-menure..... 349

HOUSEHOLD MATTERS :

Spring-greens..... 349
Lamb's-quarters..... 350
Goose-foot..... 350
Illustrations..... 350
How to try on shoes..... 350
Walking for health..... 350
A settee-table..... 350

THE ROTHAMSTED FEEDING
EXPERIMENTS.

Formation of soils..... 352
Competition of Ag. Merit '96..... 353
Farmers' Syndicate of the P. Q..... 353
London prices-cumraat..... 353

THE DAIRY :

Advice to Inspectors of Syndicate,
Chapais..... 354
How scab works..... 354
Prof. Henry on rape..... 354

PRACTICAL FARMING.

Grasses—Wheat—Banner-oats—
Turnips.

WHAT SHALL WE SOW

In anticipation of spring seeding, I hasten to refer to the continuous seeding with Timothy and red clover without admixture with other seeds. I am not in favour of sowing from \$10 to \$14 worth of seeds on an acre, as some writers recommend, but the usual method of sowing only timothy and red clover is a mis take. For 40 years I have sown red top with timothy and clovers, and in any kind of land, and with every kind

of season, I find that there is a thicker heavier growth of hay. I was led to try it from a remark made by a mower in the time of hand mowing. He said he "didn't like red top because it was so hard to pull the scythe through." He was correct, and I like it for the same reason that he disliked it. I find it makes a thick, heavy cut of hay. In an extra dry summer it is there, and in a wet season it is there just the same. And in a good season for timothy and clover there is still a more abundant crop. And on soft, spongy land, where timothy and red clover seeds would be thrown away, and wild grass have full control, red top, and alsike clover make a heavy growth of good cattle feed.

Some farmers object to sowing it, giving as a reason that it will give horses the heaves on account of the frothy top. In my experience I have had two horses, troubled with the heaves both however were caused by overdriving and subsequent neglect. It is not necessary however to feed hay with mixture in it to horses. A good manager mows his hay away in three different kinds, the finest hay and clovers for sheep, the timothy for horses, and the intermediate for cattle. I have experimented with several kinds of seeds, but for hay, there is no mixture so good as Red top, with timothy, red, and alsike clovers. Do not mistake something else for red top: there are over 150 different grasses.

WHEAT

It has been a difficult matter for some farmers to realise that Manitoba wheat with the new process of grinding, makes a better bread than their own wheat flour, ground at the home country mill, with rarely two grists of the same quality, seriously trying the temper of the baker, and the digestion of the eater. Times changed long ago. For 12 years I have not raised wheat. Land that will raise a good crop of wheat, is certain of 50 bushels per acre of oats and barley, or peas. I have raised over 60 bushels the entire crop. There is much more money in this than in wheat, and the straw, if properly saved, is of great value for feed. Whereas, notwithstanding the statements of scientists to the contrary, wheat straw is not worth manger room for any beast, and in a short time on it the horns and bones become prominent features of the animal. As it does not pay farmers to raise straw purposely for manure, it is a study to learn why some farmers continue to sow wheat.

BANNER OATS

Clear for horses, and mixed with barley or peas to grind for pig and cattle feed, will be found an excellent oat for land suitable to grow wheat. The straw stands up well, of great quantity, and an excellent grain of great weight. There is no oat, however, that suits the general culture and soil in the Province, better than the Canada oat, but don't forget to change the seed.

TURNIPS.

For many years I have endeavoured to induce farmers to raise turnips. With those who do not understand the "Modus operandi" the difficulty of raising them at a profit is the serious objection. I do not for a moment suppose that any farmer with experience in feeding will admit the claim of scientists (as called), that there is only about 5 p. c.

of food in turnips, and as everything about the crop can be done when there is no other crop pressing, and as they can be raised at a cost for extra manual labour of about 3 cents per bushel, it is one of the best paying crops. Put in properly, they will do well on any land that is rich enough, and dry enough to cultivate properly, a well cultivated clay loam being the best. The first necessity is clean land, and clean manure. The want of this to commence with is generally where the mistake is made. If it is intended to sow on stubbleland, it ought to be harrowed over immediately after the grain is off, to start the growth of weed seeds. In a couple of weeks plough 8 in deep, and in a few days harrow well. If the land has been last in hay, it ought to be ploughed as soon as possible after the crop is off, harrow in a couple of weeks, and again as required to kill the weeds. (1) In spring following plough, and when dry, harrow. In the meantime the manure must be turned over to allow of heating sufficient to kill the weed-seeds, care being taken of firefang. When ready to sow, harrow on a dry day, and manure a strip lengthways of the field, put on more than you think necessary, turnips always repay the feed you give them.

Unless very evenly spread, run over it with the horse-rake.

Now as to making the drills. Oh yes, everyone knows how to make drills, but this is written for those who do not raise roots, because they do not know the simple way of doing it, and if there are those who know better, we hope to hear from them. Commence on the left hand side of the field and draw a light score, (you can commence work on the right hand side of the field by starting from the farther end). If your furrow is not straight, drive back and amend it. Now change the whiffle-tree clevis from the centre towards the end of the plough clevis nearest the near horse to suit making a nice drill. (this will depend on the lengths of the whiffle-tree and clevis).

Drive the off-horse back close by the edge of the furrow, and don't score too deep. There is now one drill made. Now (having provided a long, loose clevis bolt) change the whiffle tree clevis to the end of the plough clevis nearest the off horse, to allow the plough to follow the near horse in the score just made. Look away ahead between the horses and keep a straight score. With a common hand hay-rake take of the lumps and roughness from the drill. Use a stick about five feet long to draw the seed line, sow the seed, and again rake, roll lightly, (the best turnip land does not permit of rolling). These operations ought to be performed about half as fast as an easy walking pace. Sow evenings and mornings, when there is no wind, and immediately after the drills are made, they are then moist. As each strip is finished, proceed with another. In this way the work proceeds regularly, the turnips have an even start with the weeds, and the hoeing can be done without so much pressure. Formerly it was necessary, on account of the dry, to sow about the middle of June. In the late years however they do well in May. We will suppose that a turnip-seeder is not at hand, which is just as well for a small field.

If you have no experience in sowing, measure the land, count the number of drills per acre, allow two lbs of seed per acre, calculate the quantity required for each drill, and after sowing

(1) Cannot agree with loamy soil lying all the winter in a harrowed tith.—Ed.

a few drills in this way, there will be no difficulty.

It will be observed that I do not put the manure in the drill and cover it up, for the reason that when the manure is pushed into the drill with the plough, it is ready for the immediate use of the plant. The usual method of placing it in the drill makes more labour, and it is several inches from the seed. A neighbour says, "but if the manure is full of weed-seeds the deeper it is the better." Stop reader! If your manure is seedy. "Don't sow roots!"

Trenholville, April 1896.

JAMES DICKSON.

(Continued next issue.)

FEEDING MILK COWS.

First prize, Prov. Ex. '95—Pease, hay, oats—cake—three feeds a day—bran not too dear now—tares and oats—8 lbs. meal a day.

To feed milk cows so as to return a profit, it is necessary you should have good ones, as the cost of feeding is the same. A good cow well fed will return you a good profit but a poor milker makes no profit, which ever way you feed her. I kept a herd of about forty head young and old: Registered Ayrshires and high grade Ayrshires. The pure bred are the best milkers for the year round though I have grades that will milk more for a time but won't keep it up so long. I will give you in detail how I fed my own cows last winter and I never fed a ration that gave better results for the money I may say that my corn ensilage was extra good last year, being full of ears. As near as I could make it, each cow got 25 lbs ensilage 4 lbs cut hay 4 lbs ground peas and oats, and 2 lbs ground oil cakes, all mixed together and wetted a little. I mix in a large box that holds enough for a full feed and mixing at night for morning feed and in the evening for next morning's meals. This quantity I gave in two feeds, at 5 a. m. and 5 p. m., and a feed of long hay at noon. This is not heavy feeding, but I think enough for breeding cows. I do not now believe in trying to make milk and beef, at the same time, as I found it does not pay to do so. Always use clover as long as it lasts. I find it better than timothy hay, but when timothy is cut on the green side, it makes good feed as well as clover. Dry cows and young stock I give two feeds of ensilage or roots and give them more ensilage than I give the milking cattle with a midday feed of hay. I varied the feed of the milk cows by occasionally substituting mangels for the ensilage, I fed the mangels by themselves whole. I believe in keeping cows well carried and brushed (they should be groomed as regularly as horses) as well as feeding them right, and any who use the curry comb and brush well will easily save a pound or more of meal per day. I like bran well but could not afford to feed it last year at \$18.00 to \$20.00 per ton and ground peas and oats and oil meal \$25.00 or \$26.00 per ton.

When bran is \$13.00 or \$14.00 then it pays well to feed it. Pastures generally get short towards the end of July and farmers should have some green food to give milch cows then, I always make three sowings of tares and oats, the first as early as possible, so as to have a couple of months feeding when pastures are bare. After the tares and oats are finished corn is well cared