

back-setting a good seed bed may be prepared with a disc harrow, and the land is then ready for seeding.

Many good farmers prefer to break five to six inches in depth, turning the sod well over and afterwards discing thoroughly so as to make a good seed bed. In fact, this practice has been almost exclusively followed in the Irrigation Block and wherever winter wheat is to be seeded on the new land.

It will be well to break no more than can be done properly and worked thoroughly. When land is broken very early in the season, much of the vegetation is not killed, and soon accommodates itself to changed conditions; continuing to grow; while when plowing is done after the growth of grass has advanced a little, most of the herbage will be killed.

The rotting of the sod will be greatly facilitated by rolling immediately after breaking with a heavily weighted roller, in order to pack the soil closely so as to exclude air spaces and retain the moisture which, with heat, is essential to induce the necessary fermentation required to cause the breaking down of the vegetable matter and the mellowing of the soil. Late breaking is apt to dry out too much to allow the vegetable matter to rot, and this is also the result when the sod is set up on edge or in kinks instead of being turned over neatly with the grass side down.

Settlers in the Irrigation Block generally arrange for the breaking of a small area of their farms prior to settlement, so that they may not be delayed in producing results. As previously explained, the Company has made it a practice to undertake to contract for work of that nature as a matter of convenience to our clients.

Seed Grain.

Investigations covering a number of years have conclusively proved that there is no agricultural loss as considerable as that due to the use of inferior seed grain. Every settler should satisfy himself that his seed grain is clean, well matured, and of the very best variety.

Seed Selection.—Commencing when the first crop is ripe, settlers should hand select a number of the best formed and earliest ripening heads of the various grains. Shell these heads carefully and sow them in narrow garden plots the following year. All inferior heads should be removed from those plots, and in that manner the very best and cleanest of seed grain can be developed on every farm within a few years. Those who can afford to do it will be able to purchase seed grain from farmers who have obtained quantities of good seed by following out this method.

Change of Seed.—The idea that a change of seed is necessary periodically, is entirely erroneous. If grain "runs out," it is due to shiftless farming and failure to provide a good foundation, and not to any inherent weakness in the seed itself. As a matter of fact, the longer any sample of grain is grown on a farm, the better it should adapt itself to the peculiar conditions of that particular farm and district.

Seed Testing.—The Dominion Government has opened a branch office of the Dominion Seed Laboratory at Calgary. The mission of that office is to test free of all charge, samples of seed grain sent in by farmers. Before