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the crop to stand, and waiting for the straw to color up in a natural way as is usual in normal season, it had been cut while still green or partly green, better results would have been secured. No attention should have been paid to the straw but a close examination should have been made of the berry and the cutting should have been done as quickly as possible after it had reached the soft dough stage. This would have allowed for development of the grain while standing in the stook which would have been carried on for several days longer owing to the juices or moisture in the straw. This would have checked to a great extent the development of rust, which while the crop was standing, was very rapid especially where favorable local conditions prevailed. When the berry had passed the milk stage and entered the soft dough stage it would have made a better sample of grain than if allowed to stand waiting for the straw to ripen. In many instances it might have been profitable to have cut it while in the late milk stage, especially where rust was making rapid progress. The problem of rust and frost is a serious matter and is responsible for serious losses in some seasons. We can never be sure that the wheat crops of western Canada will be harvested without suffering from one or both of these causes.

Earlier Varieties Needed

As settlement is increasing and considerable new areas of wheat lands are being brought under cultivation the need for varieties of wheat that can be depended on to mature some time early in August is pressed more and more upon us. The difficulty is that very early maturing wheat cannot be expected to yield as high as the later sort, owing to the shortness of the growing period and the absence of tillering or stooling characters. I have realized for many years past the serious need for such varieties and have endeavored to obtain them both by a search and by seed selections in the field for new types or early strains of existing varieties. I have been successful in doing so far as early maturity is concerned, but the chief difficulty has been to secure a strain that also possesses high milling and yielding characters. I have every reason to expect that one or more of the strains that I am now growing can be depended on to mature from four to ten days earlier than Marquis and correspondingly earlier than Red Fife, and still maintain equally high milling and yielding characters. Unfortunately, the hail storm of 1913 and again in 1916 that visited my farm have prevented rapid progress. Much promising material was reduced in quantity and I was prevented from checking up the effect of both rust and frost on these wheats last season. However, at the stage they had reached on August 3 when the hailstorm destroyed the crops, left me fairly confident as to their behavior in the future.

THE USE OF MANURES

Continued from Page 6

two per cent. of certain elements, one per cent. of others and a quarter of one per cent. of others can be annually released from the soil and taken up by growing plants. We cannot deplete our soils of their potential wealth, but we can, and are depleting even our best soils of their surplus wealth and productivity. We must not let the supply of total plant food get so low that the small percentage that becomes available to plants annually will be insufficient for a large crop.

It may be asked, "why add manure or other fertilizer to soils containing so much plant food?" The answer is to be found in the proportion that is available to plants. The elements added in decayed manure are quickly available to the plant, while much of that found in the soil is not. And in addition, decaying organic manures not only improve the physical condition of the soil, lessen its tendency to blow and improve its moisture holding power and its tilth, but also liberate or make available other more or less insoluble plant food elements.

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