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Experimental Farming.

At a recent meeting of the Brandon Farmers Institute, S. A. Bedford, superintendent of the Dominion experimental farm at Brandon, gave an account of the experiments carried on at the farm last year. As the seeding season is now close at hand, these experiments will prove peculiarly valuable to farmers. Mr. Bedford explained regarding wheat that what was desired in making the various tests of new varieties was to get a wheat possessing at least as good milling qualities as the red fife, which would ripen earlier. Eleven of the most productive varieties experimented with were described in detail and their good and bad qualities enlarged upon. Preston, a cross-bred variety, yielded 52 bushels to the acre, in a large field, but it was not any earlier, and its milling qualities have yet to be tested. Percy, another cross-bred, yielded 48 bushels, and ripened in 125 days, while the red fife took 133 days, and Colorado and Ladoga 128 days. Nine out of the eleven varieties had good stiff straw. None of the tests had been such as would warrant him in recommending that any of the varieties be adopted in place of the old standby, red fife. Further tests would be made from year to year in the hope of securing a variety that would combine the three necessary essentials of early ripening, good yielding and good milling qualities.

The results of early and late sowing were given with the different varieties, all showing best returns from that sown the third week of wheat seeding, both in yield and weight per bushel. Wheat on summer fallow yielded 48 bushels, drilled on wheat stubble which had been the first crop after summer fallow, 54 bushels; spring ploughed 24 bushels; fall ploughed 18 bushels. He explained that sowing on stubble might be considered bad farming, but he thought all would agree with him in recommending that which gave the best results. In sowing on stubble he did not harrow either before or after seeding, which was done with the press drill. After a crop of wheat on summer fallow followed by one on the stubble, the land should be well ploughed and sown to coarse grains.

Experiments made last year in manuring land for wheat did not show any very great increase in yield. Green manure gave a fraction over 25 bushels, rotted manure 25 bushels, and without manure a fraction over 24 bushels per acre. He expressed the opinion that the effect of the manure would be more shown on succeeding crops.

The result of tests made with bluestone on plots ten feet square were as follows: The seed sown was very badly smutted, being almost black with it. In that from seed dipped in a liquid made of one pound of bluestone to three pails of water, there were 82 smutted heads and the crop yielded 14 bushels per acre. Sprinkled with a liquid containing one

pound of bluestone for every five bushels of wheat there were 256 smutted heads, with a yield of 48 bushels. Sprinkled with a liquid containing one pound of bluestone to every ten bushels of wheat there were 1248 smutted heads, with a yield of 88 bushels. In that sown without being bluestoned there were 3,685 smutted heads, and it only yielded 17 bushels per acre.

For putting in the seed, the returns from that sown with the drill are again ahead of that sown broadcast. Press drill 46 bushels; common shoe drill 44 bushels; broadcast 37 bushels per acre.

Oats.—The banner gave the largest yield—101 bushels to the acre. Mennonite (a Russian oat) 93, American beauty 96. The effect of bluestoning to prevent smut was satisfactory. Seed dipped showed 839 bad heads and yielded 68 bushels, while that not treated showed 1,632 bad heads and only yielded 42 bushels per acre. Sow on spring ploughing.

Barley, six-row.—Mensury yielded, 68, Royal 65, Surprise 65, Nugent 68.

Barley, two-row.—French Chevalier 62 bushels, Emerson 61, Sidney 60, Canada Thrope 58. Sown on spring ploughing.

Peas.—Pride 68 bushels, Crown 60, Potter 56, Mummy 53. All these varieties had done well last season as the large yields per acre showed. He recommended sowing two pecks of oats per acre along with the peas to hold them up so that they could be cut with a binder. With a fair average crop this could be done, but not with such a crop as those on the farm last year.

The following tests made with the different crops after flax were given: Wheat, after flax, 80 bushels; wheat, after wheat, 27 bushels; oats, after flax, 61 bushels; oats, after wheat, 57 bushels; barley, after flax, 51 bushels; barley, after wheat, 40 bushels. Effect of plowing flax and wheat land on the next crop: Wheat with ploughing, 24 bushels; wheat, without ploughing, 33 bushels; oats, with ploughing, 67 bushels; oats, without ploughing 52 bushels; barley, with ploughing, 48 bushels, barley, without ploughing, 42 bushels.

Fodder.—Peas wheat and oats sown together yielded 5 tons per acre. Peas, barley and oats, 4 tons per acre, and tares and oats, 4 tons per acre.

Millets.—Golden gave 8½ tons, Hungarian 8½ tons, and common 8 tons.

Corn.—For fodder gave from 11 to 14 tons per acre and made excellent winter feed.

Tests of turnips, mangles and carrots were given with the names of the best varieties, and the third week in May recommended for sowing all of them.

Wanted, a Cottage Hospital.

The Commercial been requested to publish the following from the Assiniboian: Saltcoats

is 260 miles from the nearest hospital, with the worst possible travelling convenience. There is only one doctor to attend the sick, scattered over some hundreds of miles of country. Medical aid under these circumstances is not only expensive but in numerous instances quite beyond reach. It is possible to overcome all this by the erection of a cottage hospital at Saltcoats. The Rev. T. A. Teitelbaum, the episcopal clergyman of Saltcoats, Canada, is asking for funds to enable him to undertake the erection of this much needed institution. The Archbishop of Rupert's Land—Dr. Machray and the Bishop of Q'Appelle—Dr. Burn, have highly commended this work. Mr. Teitelbaum will acknowledge through the Cottage Hospital Monthly all contributions for this purpose sent him. Those who in their own homes know what good and careful nursing means in days of sickness, will sympathize with this work. Donations no matter how small, will be gratefully received. We take much pleasure in endorsing this philanthropic movement and heartily commend it to our readers, as one well worthy of their support.

Literary Notes

The Commercial has received from John A. Murdoch, publisher of the Pilot Mound Sentinel, a little book called "In the Woods and on the Waters." Mr. Murdoch is well able to write a pleasing story under such a heading. He is a man of no mean literary ability, and a lover of nature—one of nature's gentlemen in fact. Mr. Murdoch is moreover a Canadian pioneer, and is familiar with the scenes of which he writes. The book should be very interesting to the rising generation of Canadians, who would care to know something of life in the early days in the woodlands of Canada. Mr. Murdoch weaves an interesting story of love, incident and adventure on the shores of wild lakes and rivers with vivid descriptions of bush life in the early days of the settlement of eastern Ontario, telling of narrow escapes and exciting encounters with wild animals. An account of the actions of a remarkable character who lived a solitary life far in the woods, and a pleasing description of the great forests of Canada as they appeared in primeval wildness; birds, beasts and fishes, as they existed in the unsettled solitudes and in the wild lakes and rivers of the wilderness. Said to be the only story of the kind in existence. Price 60 cents, by mail prepaid. If not for sale by your bookseller address W. Murdoch, Pilot Mound, Manitoba.

There was a weak feeling in the market for oats at Montreal on March 5 and prices declined ½ to 1c per bushels. Sales of car lots of No. 2 Ontario white were made early in the day at 29½c, but later a ¼c more was bid for some.