

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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Address— THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or THE WILLIAM WELD CO., WINNIPEG, MAN.

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Clubbing Rates for 1895.

Our subscribers may obtain any of the papers mentioned below at the following price:— FARMER'S ADVOCATE and Home Magazine and Manitoba Weekly Free Press \$1 75 Manitoba Semi-Weekly Free Press 2 75 Winnipeg Weekly Tribune 1 75 Winnipeg Weekly Nor'wester 1 75 Toronto Evening News 1 50 Toronto Daily Globe, morning edition 6 00 Toronto Daily Globe, second edition 4 00 Toronto Empire, daily 6 00 Toronto Empire, evening edition 3 50 Toronto Weekly Mail or Farm and Fireside 1 30 The two combined 1 60 Toronto Weekly Globe (12 pages) 1 40 Toronto Weekly Empire 1 50 London Free Press, weekly edition 1 75 London Advertiser, weekly 1 70 Montreal Weekly Witness 1 60

Flax Growing.

In order to obtain fuller and more definite data as to the growing of flax in Manitoba, we recently sent to a number of farmers living in the southern and eastern parts of the province, who have been growing this crop for some years, the following questions:—

- 1. Do you consider old land or breaking the best? 2. Do you consider spring or fall plowing the best? 3. Do you consider it a more exhaustive crop on the soil than other cereals? 4. Has manure been tried; with what results? 5. When is best time to sow? 6. How much seed per acre? 7. How long does it take to ripen? 8. What is the best way of harvesting? 9. If with binder, should sheaves be tied, stooked and stacked as other grain? 10. Do threshers carry special flax screens? Do they make a clean job of threshing it? What do they charge per bushel? 11. What is the average yield per acre? and what will the average be this year? 12. What is the average price? 13. Have you ever seen it tried along with barley, to be separated when threshed? 14. Do you consider it a profitable crop for the farmer?

Below we publish the very complete answers to these questions, kindly furnished us by Donald Fraser & Sons, Emerson; the other reports in most cases agree with the Messrs. Fraser. There is some difference of opinion as to the first two questions. In no case had manure been tried.

As to time of sowing, the answers give the latter part of May, but Messrs. Fraser draw attention to the danger of frost to the young plant, and we think June 1st is early enough for sowing. Near Niverville, on the east side of the Red River, the price of threshing is given at from four to seven cents; and in one case twenty bushels per acre is reported for this year. While on the west side of the Red River, and near Manitoba, threshing costs from seven to ten cents per bushel, Messrs. Fraser are doubtless right that seven cents would be a fair charge. All agree that it can be threshed properly if the separator is provided with proper screens and the thresher knows his business; and all agree in the main with the method of harvesting and handling recommended below. None have tried it sown with barley, but we would call special attention to the answer given this question by Fraser & Sons:—We have known of it being grown with barley and separated afterwards, the cleanings containing broken and small barley and some flax, making capital feed when boiled and mixed with other feed. All agree that flax may be profitably grown by the Manitoba farmers.

We are not done with this subject yet, and want further information, and will be pleased to hear from others who have facts of interest to give.

Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:—Yours of the 29th ult. to hand, and in reply would say in answer to your questions re flax:—

- 1. Old land will give the largest yield per acre, while the seed is equally as good. 2. Like other cereals, sometimes fall plowing proves better, other times just the reverse; this largely depends on circumstances, seasons, etc. 3. Somewhat more exhaustive, but not so much so as was considered years ago. 4. We have not tried manure, but are satisfied that it would prove beneficial, and, indeed, very much so. 5. Our experience is that at the close of sowing the wheat is the best time; there is great danger of the spring frost hurting the young plant. We have lost a whole crop in this way, where a severe frost came after the plant was through the ground. 6. One half-bushel per acre. 7. About the time taken by Red Fife wheat, possibly a few days longer. 8. By taking the binding attachment off the binder, and instead arrange a box with a false front, which is removed by the driver when it is full, by simply moving a lever. Any handy farmer can make this box. The Self-Rake reaper is possibly the best machine to cut flax with; it makes an excellent job, cutting and bundling it ready for the thresher. 9. We consider it better not to bind or stack flax. It cannot possibly be threshed as clean as it can by putting off in loose bundles and threshing out of the bunch; it then can be fed into the machine much more loosely, as it does not become matted, consequently threshing it much cleaner. 10. Yes; threshers carry special flax screens; they do where they understand their business. The usual charge here is ten cents per bushel; some have threshed as low as seven cents; when it yielded as it did in this district in 1893, a thresher could make a profit threshing at seven cents. 11. The average yield per acre is about fifteen bushels. This season having been so remarkably dry, the average in this section is only about eleven bushels per acre. 12. Up to this year, the usual price has been about 80 to 85 cents per bushel; this season from \$1.00 to \$1.10 per bushel. 13. We have no experience in sowing with barley, any further than for green feed; for this purpose it answers admirably. It makes the best of feed to use instead of hay. 14. We consider it a profitable crop for the western farmer,—not to go into it exclusively, but each

season to have a good piece of it, in keeping with the proportion of other grains sown. Many of our farmers in this district have profited by having a good piece of flax for the past seasons.

D. FRASER & SONS, Emerson, Man.

FLAX AT THE EXPERIMENTAL FARM, BRANDON.

Several experiments were made the past season at Brandon with flax: one, thick against thin sowing, shows considerable increase in yield in favor of thick sowing. It will be noticed in this connection that Mr. Bedford in every case sowed thicker than any of the Southern Manitoba growers in the above reports. In the test of early vs. late sowing, the balance is in favor of late sowing. Mr. Bedford says there was no trouble from early frost in spring. In detail these experiments are as follows:

Sown on summer-fallow with common drill, cut with binder, and threshed out of stook:

Table with 4 columns: Sowing Date, Seed per Acre, Yield per Acre, Weight per Bushel. Rows include Thick and Thin sowing, Early and Late sowing, and Flax mixed with Oats. Includes notes: 'Another experiment was made with flax and oats mixed for feed' and 'The oats were nearly ripe. The flax was ripe.'

How to Drench a Horse.

Much unnecessary cruelty has been borne by horses, simply from the ignorant brutality of attendants. The too common method of drenching a horse by way of his nostrils, merits attention on the part of societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals. Not only is such a practice extremely painful to the patient, but there is great danger of a portion of the fluid entering the windpipe instead of the gullet, thereby reaching the lungs as a foreign substance, causing violent coughing, irritation, and finally, inflammation of the lungs.

In most farmers' stables, drenching bits and such improved appliances are seldom at hand, the ordinary method being with a twitch in the nose, and the use of a long-necked bottle. In this, there is always the attendant danger of the bottle being broken by the teeth, allowing portions of the glass to be swallowed, causing much danger to the horse. To do away with risk of breaking the bottle, an ordinary bridle is recommended, with long reins attached to the upper side of the bit rings, passed through rings in the "sleeper" of the loft, directly over where the horse is to stand. Now, stand on something high enough to bring you within easy reach of his mouth when the head is raised. By means of the loose reins, draw his head high enough so that the medicine cannot run from the corners of the mouth. Allow the tongue perfect freedom, and with the right hand pour the liquid slowly into his mouth at the corner, when he will soon be noticed to swallow. Should he remain without swallowing too long, just confine the nostrils for a moment with the hand, and the medicine will go down. His head should be lowered once or twice during the operation if the dose is large.

A Word With Our Readers and Agents.

The publishers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE respectfully request the assistance of its friends everywhere in extending its circulation during the subscription season now begun. By so doing you will benefit others and do us a good turn.

In order to facilitate making up our extensive mailing lists, we ask all our present readers to renew promptly.

Agents or those desiring to secure new subscribers will be specially interested in the splendid list of premiums offered on another page. Read it. The proper time to begin work is now.

Sample copies and terms will be sent on application.