

### Warning on Beardless Barley.

A correspondent sends us the following:—  
"Do not sow the so called sixty-day barley. All parties that have tried it here have disposed of the stock and will use the Manchuria or Odessa six-rowed sorts. The sixty-day barley is a failure as a yielder and shells badly; in fact, the whole head breaks off. It does not stool out like the six-rowed, and further, will not kill out the wild oat pest. You cannot grow a grain crop and expect the wild oat not to mature to seed. The above advice may save people useless expense. I. K."

### Plows Wild Oats Up.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I noticed on page 531, No 759, an article headed "Deep Plowing for Wild Oats." My opinion is not to plow down wild oats but to plow them up. Now, say in the fall the land that has the wild oats on is plowed from one to two inches deep; that will stir the ground up and make them grow from the root and also turn down the seed that has shelled out in the harvest time and they also will sprout. Then just while they are in the spring green summer-fallow or if there is not time cut them green for feed; then plow deep in the fall. If any farmer is benefitted from this method I should feel grateful and should like to hear of how others treat wild oats.

Man.

P. M.

### Seed Tested at Calgary.

The following is the list of the number of samples of seed tested at the Western Seed Laboratory at Calgary from January 25th. to April 20th, and indicates that the farmers of the Western provinces have made fairly good use of the opportunities afforded them of determining the vitality and purity of their seeds. Judging by the numbers of samples received from Saskatchewan it would appear that a laboratory for that province would be well patronized.

	Alta.	B. C.	Sask.	Total.
Wheat .....	63	5	47	115
Oats .....	188	3	16	207
Barley .....	33	3	7	43
Rye .....	1	0	0	1
Peas & Beans .....	2	0	0	2
Flax .....	5	0	5	10
Rape .....	0	2	0	2
Timothy .....	7	48	1	56
Other Grasses .....	15	39	1	55
Alfalfa .....	4	17	0	21
Red Clover .....	3	56	1	60
Alsike Clover .....	2	23	0	25
Other Clovers ..	1	20	1	22
Vegetables .....	63	0	0	63
	387	216	79	682

### Experimental Farm in the Peace Valley.

Readers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE have noticed articles from time to time by F. S. Lawrence of Fort Vermilion, Alta., on different subjects pertaining to the Peace River and the empire in the far Northwest. Lately Mr. Lawrence has been appointed by the Dominion Government to conduct experiments with farm crops and fruits in the Peace River Valley and to have charge of a meteorological station. The valley is expected to be opened for settlement in a few years and it is desired to have data and demonstrations to inspire confidence in the land. Already over 30,000 bushels per year have been raised at Fort Vermilion and Peace River Crossing, and there is every promise that an immense population can be supported in the country adjacent.

Fredric S. Lawrence was born October 9th, 1875, and went with his father, the late E. J. Lawrence, to the Peace River in 1879, taking from May 2nd to September 8th to reach their destination. He made his first trip up the river in 1891 and brought back a thrasher on a raft, covering the distance, 300 miles, in sixty hours.

In 1893 he made his first exit from the valley fastness and took in the exhibition at Winnipeg and the Worlds' Fair at Chicago.

In 1896, after studying at odd times, Mr. Lawrence entered Purdue, Ind., University and took the mechanical engineering course for two years. After having travelled extensively in Eastern Canada and the United States, he returned with his young bride to their home in the Peace River country, where he, with his brother, has been extensively engaged in farming and milling.

### Bulkley Valley, B. C.

The pioneer is penetrating the seclusions of the Canadian mountains and vast fertile valleys are becoming familiar to the agricultural prospector. One of the latest of these to demand public notice is the Bulkley Valley, which lies in the heart of the mountains some 760 miles north of Vancouver. The valley is reached via Prince Rupert, the Skeena river and the pioneer town of Hazelton. Settlement was begun in the Bulkley Valley some years ago and the land is reported fertile, the climate pleasant and there is the firm conviction in the mind of every Bulkleyite that the G. T. P., the C. N. R. and the G. N. R. will all run through the valley, which is about one hundred miles in length and estimated to be capable of supporting an agricultural population of 100,000. An enterprising lady, Mrs. E. Morrison

Grout, has begun the publication of a paper, the *Bulkley Pioneer*, devoted to the interests of the northern interior of British Columbia and all things considered the Pacific province should this year experience an expansion partially commensurate with her abounding resources.

### Room for Lots of Improvement.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Practically I am not a thrasher, but have been working around an outfit as a helper some twenty years or more, first as a farm hand and later sometimes as an employer of the machine and sometimes on the gang or crew. My remarks will therefore be made a good deal from observation. It seems a very vexed and unsatisfactory business if we judge from remarks of those who are financially concerned in the success of a threshing outfit, much more so since expensive, complicated machinery has come into use. The principal trouble is that something keeps going wrong and it's buying, repairs, fix, fix, fix, from start of season till end and then an outlay of \$200 and more often more before another season can be rightly undertaken. This is not only on an outfit which has done considerable duty, but on a rig only a year or two in usage. If some of the smaller machines used on the farm gave so much trouble they would soon be discarded.



F. S. LAWRENCE.

In Charge of Experiments at Fort Vermilion, Alta.

There is a strong feeling that these huge engines and big machines are not what they promised to be. They fail to make a return on money invested and for many reasons, some of which are: Dead capital about 10½ months a year; a large force to operate if they run and this force creating a huge loss and expense when they don't run; yearly outlay for repairs and their premature wreck on account of weather usage whether in active service or idle.

I think it more satisfactory to have an individual owner if possible. Too many cooks spoil a meal, generally a business enterprise also. I have known of co-operative ownership, but it does not generally work satisfactorily. Nearly all the outfits operating here are controlled individually, sometimes a partner being taken. I have thought considerable about a different system of threshing; also read all I could to find information. I'll give you my reasoning! An outfit run by a gasoline engine commends itself to me. Suppose we put the price of gasoline against the wages of men and horses necessary to run a steam engine. If it is necessary to have to lay off the expense is practically stopped and it is not necessary to pay a man for firing, say two hours every morning, and no money coming in. A good mechanic ought to be able to superintend both ends if he has a first class article and fully understands his business. This leaves every man to fill some other place. If shock threshing is being done I should like a rig that would handle what four teams would draw in. Should endeavor to have small stationary or portable bins and save grain teams if possible. The horses should not all be threshing on Manitoba farms, but a complete outfit left on each farm enough to work on the land all the time. If rain, wind or breakdown occurs the teams and men engaged threshing should not be any more than two miles or less from their own farms, so they could immediately turn to something else. Three or four farmers could keep this outfit running. They could stack some each before commencing as a means of having some clear land to work on with a cultivator or plow. If a shower interfered with shocks and they were anxious to thresh, the stacks might go. If not particularly necessary to run the men and teams could work at home and the stacks left till the shock wheat was finished. Under present conditions I always stack, as I have no say in a machine and no idea when I might get threshed; consequently deem it advisable to clear the fields. Another point I have against shock threshing is on account of the outfits at present bringing such a large gang that if a lay-up occurs on many of them the farmer bears the whole expense and inconvenience. This would be eliminated on a small outfit with men and teams not far from home. Supposing the outfit were owned as a complement of the farm machinery of four farmers. If they had time to spare a job

or two extra might be taken in, the farmers finding their own men and teams in proximity to where the threshing is done. I should have no objection to shock threshing under conditions similar to the above, as it is a matter not very encouraging to stack or handle grain twice in a short season, as it is not often we make any more than one or two cents premium over what is threshed in fairly good time. I still believe, however, that stacking improves the grain, but the stacker is not recompensed enough under our present selling system. I have had no experience in co-operative ownership, but my first year's crop was threshed by a syndicate outfit in which I was persuaded to join and shock thresh and I was not in love with the system at all. They told me five jobs would take about three weeks, but we were about two months and I never got a plow cleaned that fall. The small outfit commends itself to me, for the following reasons: Less dead money invested; chances of better employment of time; separator easier put out of the weather the time not in use or canvassed during bad weather while in use; the engine housed more conveniently in winter or summer and used for crushing or cutting, perhaps sawing wood occasionally. Sawing wood, however, is perhaps too easy a job for an engine developing enough power to thresh with. As I have been told they use the same amount of gasoline as when employed on heavier work.

The trouble with a steam engine in Manitoba is getting the fuel. Straw may be wet or it may be so windy only an occasional day is suitable and we have lots of work in fine weather, but less in rough or wet time. This is just where a gasoline would come in. A small building would hold all under cover and I don't think there is much danger of fire. Lack of knowledge or experience in handling a gasoline engine will deter its usage for some time as a general thing. The price of whatever material is used as the explosive will also be a feature to reckon with. I think our young men who are not particularly employed in winter or needed on the farm ought to study engineering and obtain knowledge as practical machinists.

I should prefer for the farmers to hire and control the harvest and threshing hands altogether. Under present system the farmer and thrasher work in opposition to each other in their endeavor to secure their men. The farmer has to put up the board work or no work and it's not a social affair to some men to sponge board, neither is it just for the farmer to put up board free.

In 1905 some threshers claimed they ought to have 6 cents for shock threshing oats and barley. Some years oats are only 20 or 22 cents a bushel. Supposing this the case, if we take a tenant farmer who pays one-third for rent, say 7 cents on a bushel, and 6 cents for threshing, besides board and his own work at threshing, say 7 cents more and he has 7 cents for all the rest of his work. How many acres or how many bushels to the acre would it take for the farmer to have margin enough to live? The stack threshing price of 4 cents is also too high. A good man on a flail or "poverty stick" can make fair wages at that price if he works the hours he does on a threshing crew. Complex machinery is above its value when it increases the cost of production over manual or hand labor. The quality of crop a machine (either large or small) has to thresh will many times make the balance profit or loss. Farmers themselves can control this to a certain extent. Some have dirty or bad threshing every year; poor crop; tangled, over ripe, bad sheaves; wet stacks, or weedy land; threshing preparation only half ready and things out of shape in general. Others seem to have it vice versa. It is a matter that could stand lots of discussion and improvement.

GEO. ARMSTRONG.

### Rabies (Hydrophobia), Madness in Dogs.

In another place reference was made to a mad dog scare which exists in some parts of Manitoba, and in order to give a little information on a subject which fortunately rarely crops up, some of the evidences of this disease as it appears in dogs are submitted, and the length of time usually elapsing between a bite from a mad dog and the appearance of the disease in the animal bitten.

In all cases the transmission of the infective matter to other animals appears to be directly effected by the bite of a rabid animal without any intermediate bearer. Rabies is therefore to be looked upon as an inoculation disease, the saliva serving as the vehicle for the contagium. Roux and Nocard have pointed out the very important fact that two or even three days before the appearance of rabies the saliva contains the contagium, and is consequently virulent towards the end of the period of incubation.

If the virus contained in the saliva of a rabid animal penetrates the skin, it may remain for a long time at the site of the bite, or it may enter sooner or later into the body by means of the blood or along the nerve tracts. According to the most recent investigations, it appears that the virus of rabies moves from the bitten part chiefly within the nerve tracts in a direction towards the central nervous system. It is evident that the virus becomes best developed in the brain and spinal cord—the former being the principal seat for the development of furious madness, the latter for that dumb madness—two forms which appear in the dog. Inoculation experiments have shown that the disease breaks out