

The Old Thanksgiving Date Best.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

You are right in your contention that the Government has done wrong in changing the date of Thanksgiving from the middle or latter part of November—when everything is safely housed and stored for the winter, and the farmers can go to church to thank and "Praise God from whom all blessings flow"—to the latter part of October, when the farmers from one end of this Dominion to the other are just at their busiest time, getting in their roots, plowing, and getting their grain to the elevators. The farmer does not regard it as Thanksgiving at all, and neither is it.

Certainly the farmers, who are in the majority, were not consulted when the change was made. It was changed to suit those who, as a rule, sneer at farmers; it is a much nicer time of year to go somewhere for pleasure. By all means let us get back to the old time of having Thanksgiving; or at least do not change it until the farmers themselves ask for a change.

"NOVA SCOTIAN."

Among the Germans of Lunenburg County, N. S.

By Laura Rose.

I have spent the greater part of my time this year in Lunenburg County, and it has afforded me further opportunity for studying the people and conditions of this Eastern Province.

In previous years I have mingled among the Scotch—principally Highlanders—the French and the English, but this season I have sojourned among the Germans, for Lunenburg County is nearly altogether settled with this industrious, steady-going race. I liked them very much indeed. Like the people in other parts of Nova Scotia their interests are varied, and as a consequence farming does not receive as much attention as it should. In the northern and central parts of the county lumbering is extensively carried on; every few miles a mill would be in operation. The men in the southern section of the county follow the sea, but all own a nice bit of land of their own, and to a more or less extent farm.

I was particularly attracted to their neat, comfortable homes, surrounded by trees and well-kept pretty flower beds. They make the most of what they have, and it would be an object lesson to many an Ontario farmer in much better circumstances to see the general tidiness and thrift of the German homestead. The cleared land is largely in hay. Oats and barley are grown to some extent. I saw only one or two small patches of wheat. It seemed strange to me when they were harvesting their grain to see them haul it by ox team to the threshing mill, which was usually in connection with a sawmill, and run by water-power. The grain was thrown off the wagon onto the threshing floor, so that the wagon would be empty to catch the straw. The average farmer would have from fifty to two hundred bushels of grain from his farm.

One thing every farm seemed to possess was a real good garden—just such a garden as you would expect a German to have. Never in my travels have I seen vegetables thrive better. They grow peas and beans, both for summer and winter use, for the Germans take peas in the same manner as we do beans. They raise any amount of cucumbers, and put them down almost by the barrel for winter pickles. I wonder if any of the Ontario people ever tried cream with a little vinegar, pepper and salt on sliced cucumbers? It makes a splendid dish. Every garden had its little bed of coriander seed to put in the sausage in the fall.

I never saw private gardens with such large patches of fine cabbage. I fancy sauerkraut has lost none of its charm to the German palate in Nova Scotia. Potatoes are a good crop, and more roots are grown for the cattle than in the Eastern counties. Some farmers had corn to cut green for their cows, but frost comes too late and too early to ensure its maturing sufficiently for the silo. Along the edge of the garden, bordering the grass, pumpkins are planted, and the vines trail far over the cut sward.

Ask any Nova Scotian what Lunenburg County is noted for, and the invariable reply will be oxen. I doubt if in any part of the Dominion any more or better oxen are raised than in this German county. I would see more oxen in one day than in a lifetime in Ontario.

The Germans are experts in rearing and breaking in oxen. Instead of the ordinary neckyoke, which is apt to chafe the shoulders, they have a double yoke, made to fit behind the horns, and strapped on in front of the horns, so that the strain all comes from the head, and the oxen can more quickly and surely respond to the voice of the driver or the crack of his whip. It is astonishing to see how well they understand each command given them. The farmers take a great pride in having their oxen in good flesh and well-cared for. Besides doing all the farm work horses usually perform, the oxen are used to truck produce to market, haul the lumber, etc., a very slow but equally safe way. A large, well-broken yoke of oxen brings from \$130 to \$160, while an exceptionally good pair may sell for \$200. They are bought up in large numbers to work in the lumber woods of large companies in the winter. They can get around and go into places where a horse would run the risk of breaking its legs.

Dairying does not receive much attention, from three to five cows being kept on a farm. They complain of

having no steady, good market, and have to depend largely on the country store to take what butter they have for sale. However, the interest in our work was most satisfactory, and the average attendance at our meetings the largest I have had in any county in the Province.

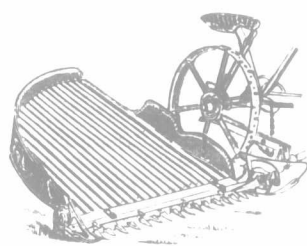


Crossing the Ferry, Queen's Co., N. S.

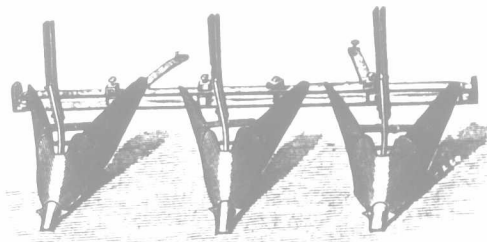
Growing, Harvesting, Threshing and Marketing of Alsike and Red Clover Seed.

Alsike and red clover seed is destined to become one of the most profitable crops for farmers to grow in the Province of Ontario. Heretofore, it has not received the necessary attention to give the best results. In order to secure the largest yield of seed that will command the highest price, the land must be free from all noxious weeds. This is accomplished by adopting a systematic rotation of crops. When preparing the land for seeding, plow shallow early in the autumn. Then roll and harrow. In, say two weeks, when weeds have commenced to grow (both from roots and seeds), cultivate the land with points (six inches wide) on the feet of the cultivator, and then harrow. Repeat cultivating and harrowing until the end of October. Then rib the land shallow with a ribbing attachment, now manufactured to attach to any of the modern cultivators (see illustration No. 1). On no account should the land be plowed after this treatment, as it would tend to bring up from below weed seeds which would otherwise lie dormant.

In the spring harrow first, then cultivate with narrow points, and again harrow before seeding. Supposing the grain drill is used, sow the clover



Clover Seed Table.



Set of Ribbers.

seed in front of the grain spouts, so that all the clover seeds will be thrown between the rows of grain, and not be so liable to get choked out with the grain. When seeding with oats or spring wheat, sow five pecks per acre; barley, six pecks; alsike, twelve pounds, and red clover twelve pounds (both grain and clover should be free from other seeds). After seeding level the land with a light harrow or Breed weeder.

To avoid the red clover midge it is necessary to pasture or cut for hay early in June. If the latter, it might be gone over with a mower to cut off any weeds or stalks of clover, so that the second crop (which is intended for seed) will bloom evenly and early before the second brood of midge is sufficiently advanced to do any material damage to the crop of seed. The midge does not injure alsike, so that it is not necessary to pasture or cut the first growth for hay, unless there is danger of it growing too rank for the best quality of seed. While the wind has much to do with the fertilizing of both alsike and red clovers, still, in sections where bees are kept in large numbers there are the greatest yields of alsike. Red clover is fertilized mostly by bumblebees and wind. All weeds should be either pulled or cut

in the crops of both alsike and red clover before they mature; even timothy seed in alsike injures the sale very materially.

In harvesting both alsike and red clover, the most satisfactory plan is to attach a clover seed table on the cutter bar of mowing machine (see illustration No. 2). All clover that shells out while cutting is caught in the table below the slats. A man walks and puts off the clover in bunches with a fork or rake made for the purpose. A seat can be put on the mower for the man who puts off the clover at an additional cost of \$2.50. The cost of table complete is \$11.00 for a five-foot cutter bar. After a few days, when the clover has become thoroughly dried, the bunches should be turned on a fine day and hauled to barn or stack as soon as dry, or better still, thresh with clover huller as it is hauled from the field. When a large quantity is put in a barn or stack for a week or more it is liable to heat, and even if only slightly, gives the seed a dull appearance which lessens its market value.

The marketing of clover seed is, to a certain extent, a speculation. As a rule, it is advisable to sell early. Last season too much seed was shipped out of the country, and there was a shortage in the spring for seeding, but this may not occur again for several years.

There is no part of the world better adapted to grow the choicest quality of both alsike and red clover seed than the Province of Ontario, and our farmers should certainly take advantage of their opportunity.

WM. RENNIE, Sr.

Lucerne as a Crop and as a Feed.

Mr. John McKee, of H. & J. McKee, Norwich, Ont., has great faith in the value of lucerne as a profitable field crop and as a feed. They use it largely for soiling to supplement a somewhat limited pasture area, and find it a prime summer as well as winter fodder for all classes of stock.

Their farm consists of one hundred and twenty acres, and intensive dairying is the line followed, the milk being retailed at five cents a quart in the neighboring town of Norwich. From 35 to 40 cattle and 4 horses are kept. The pasture area consists of about five acres of flat and eight or ten acres of rough timbered land. This is supplemented with the aftermath of the hay-fields, but a good deal of reliance is placed upon lucerne, which is cut with the mower, raked with an ordinary sulky, and carted to the flat land where it is thrown on the ground. The cows eat it up without waste, says Mr. McKee, and, of course, milk heavily upon it. About half the summer feed is lucerne. A reaper, by the way, had been bought to cut this lucerne, but it did not work well in the heavy green stuff, and the mower was again resorted to. When corn comes on it is used as well as lucerne, one feed a day being given of each.

From the time they start cutting it, lucerne constitutes the feed of the horses, for which class of stock they have found nothing better, though in recommending it they do not omit a word of caution about limiting the allowance. Failure to do so would result in overeating, which induces heaves. Calves also are fed on it, being kept stabled in the day time and fed the alfalfa at night. An instance Mr. McKee related is worth noting here. During the busy season, instead of lucerne, the hired man gave the calves green clover a couple of evenings. Over night one of them bloated, and in spite of treatment with the trochar, it died. As they had never had any trouble with bloating on lucerne, some might conclude from this case that clover is more liable to cause bloating than lucerne. Certainly such a conclusion would be unwarranted, but had the case been the other way, there would have been many to pronounce lucerne a dangerous feed. Many new ideas are discredited upon even less substantial evidence. The fact is that the feeding of either clover or lucerne as a soiling crop is quite safe, and the chances are that something else than the green feed was responsible for this and other similar cases of bloating that have been recorded. In pasturing, however, a reasonable amount of care should be taken with either crop.

A word may be added re their experience in seeding. They have two pieces; the larger one, of seven acres, was seeded five or six years ago on a piece of land that had been in pasture a number of years. This was manured and planted to corn, the corn stubble was plowed lightly and sown with a light seeding of oats, seeded to lucerne. The catch was very successful, and the lucerne has held well. A few years ago, when so much fall wheat and clover was killed out, the lucerne was injured only in spots. When weather permits harvesting the first crop of the season in time, three cuttings a year are secured, running an equivalent of about two tons of cured hay per acre from the first crop, one to one and a half tons from the second crop, and a ton per acre from the third cutting. Another piece of one acre was sowed alone this year on a piece that had been previously broken out of lucerne. The season being favorable, a heavy growth followed and two cuttings have been made already.