

ends and loose pieces, but two weeks of hot sun after they have been roughly split up makes a great change. Two or three days pulling about with a mattock is usually all that will be needed. As soon as they are dry enough put a spoonful of coal oil here and there, and thus hundreds of little fires can be started in a day in these old logs, which will smoulder away, often for weeks, and when the rain finally comes it is surprising what a difference this will have made in the clearing. They will not be all burnt up, but a good many of them will be, and they will all be much reduced in size. This rotten wood will smoulder like peat and dry up as it goes along.

Seeding the Cleared Land.

Seeding down the clearing comes next, and this is one of the most important things in all the clearing operations, as on it depends very largely the profits for the next three years. The new crop of grass seeds is not yet in the hands of the dealers, and their stocks at this time of the year (August) are often low; so if buying the seed is put off until the land is ready, there may be difficulty in getting it, and seeding must be done almost immediately the ashes of the first fire are cool, and in any case before the fall rains come. (If a heavy rain falls on the ashes before seeding, it forms when it dries a thin skin, which prevents many of the seeds germinating and leaves them exposed to the birds.) The grass or clover seeds should, therefore, be bought in May or June. If they are sown, say, about the end of August or middle of September, the clearing will be green within a week after the first rain. Many people think it better to put off sowing the seed until the following spring, as they think the young clover is liable to be killed out by frost in the winter; the writer has tried it both ways and unhesitatingly says—seed in the early fall. There is no frost here to hurt clover when it is once rooted, and although the young clover may be killed out in spots if there happens to be a particularly severe winter (that is, severe for British Columbia), this will very rarely happen, and if the seed gets a good start in the fall it will mean a good pasture the next year, while if the seeding is delayed till spring the pasture is nowhere near as good. The kind of seed used will depend to some extent on the kind of soil and how long it is intended to wait before ploughing. The best pasture is a mixture of 5 lbs. timothy, 2 lbs. orchard grass, 2 lbs. small white clover, 5 lbs. medium red clover, and about 2 lbs. rye grass or cocksfoot; but in practice, and remembering that when the land is ploughed the clover makes a good manure while the grasses do not amount to much in this respect, it is found that about 7 lbs. timothy, 2 lbs. small white clover and about 8 lbs. medium red clover do the best. In low, damp places put most of the timothy and none of the white small clover, and on the higher and drier ground put very little timothy and all the white clover; better use too much seed rather than too little. If it is intended to use the land more than three years for pasture before stumping and ploughing, it is as well to leave out the red clover entirely, using more timothy seed and a little cocksfoot or orchard grass, as the red clover will run out in three or four years under ordinary circumstances and weeds take its place. The second year's chopping, for this reason, is nearly always better without the clover. Be sure and get clean seed, the very best is none too good; and while on this subject it might not be out of place to remind the new settler that the highest standard of excellence should always be