

EDITORIAL.

An Unbeaten Record.

The Arctic Ice Co., like many of Winnipeg's most enterprising firms, have gone extensively into farming. Their farm, comprising 640 acres of excellent land, is situated east of the city of Winnipeg about four miles. Considering the short length of time, a little over a year, this farm has been occupied, much has been accomplished, and about 200 acres made ready for crops.

One of the most important features in connection with their farming operations, however, is their Clydesdale stallion Prince of Eastfield (6183), the subject of our frontispiece illustration. As will be seen, this horse is one of the massive sort, having lots of bone of that clean, flinty quality so essential in a first-class draft horse. He has a nice head and neck, grand quarters and a good middle; his legs are well feathered, and his feet and pasterns right.

Prince of Eastfield is a dark bay, with only a small white spot on face; foaled June, 1885. Bred by John L. Imrie, Maryhill; sired by Prince of Wales (673); dam Jess of Blackhill (5475), by Young Lorne (997); grand dam Flora (179), by Young Lofty (987)—a pedigree any horse might be well proud of. He was imported by Robert Ness, of Howick, P. Q., who has imported many of the best horses ever brought into Canada, and the fact of his having brought out the Prince should of itself be a sufficient guarantee of his superior individuality.

Prince of Eastfield has been exhibited many times both in Scotland and since his importation in 1891 in Canada, and has in every case won first place, never having been beaten. The following are his Canadian victories:—In 1891, first and sweepstakes at Canada Central (Ottawa), Huntington County and Sherbrooke fairs, and first in his class at Montreal. In 1892, he was first at Hochelaga Spring Stallion Show, and after being brought west captured first in his class at the Winnipeg Industrial, and also first in the Springfield fall fair. He is at present in only moderate flesh, and will be travelled east and west of the city.

The Company has one Clyde mare in foal to Prince. Besides a number of Clyde-bred mares, the Company keep a herd of upwards of eighty grade cattle, headed by the Shorthorn bull Captain = 4386 =, and also ten brood sows, upon which they are using a Chester White hog.

Rape Growing.

Though until recently comparatively unknown in this country, rape has been grown as a food for fattening lambs in England for many years. This practice has been introduced in a number of places in Ontario, and especially in the county of Wellington, where it has long played an important part in the finishing of lambs for the Buffalo market. The fattening of lambs on rape has lately been brought prominently before the public by experiments conducted at the Ontario Experimental Station, Guelph. Still, the rape is practically an unknown plant to many farmers, and we would advise all to sow a small area as an experiment. In appearance the plant resembles the turnip, to which it is closely related. The main difference is that rape has no fleshy bulb-like root, but the condition and preparation of the soil are similar. The soil should be plowed in the fall and well worked in the spring. This plant gives good returns for all manure applied, and as it is considered one of the best cleaning crops, it will take the place of a summerfallow. The more work and cultivation given the land before sowing, the less will be required to keep the weeds down after the plants are up. Sow from the twelfth of June to the middle of July in drills as for turnips, twenty-seven or thirty inches apart, with about one and a-half to two pounds of seed per acre. Use a common turnip drill. The most satisfactory results are obtained from slightly raised drills, but one disadvantage in this system, which will not be found in flat cultivation, is that the lambs require careful watching, or they will be liable to get on their backs between the rows.

Do not leave the plants too thick in the row, as they require plenty of room. Start the scuffer as soon as the plants appear, and keep it going, not only to kill the weeds, but also to keep the surface loose and prevent evaporation. The rape should be ready for pasturing by the first of August, if sown about the middle of June, or before the 25th. An acre should carry ten to fifteen lambs from that date to the end of the season. Rape is acknowledged by all to be the best late fattening feed for sheep and lambs. Cattle can also be profitably fed on it, but they require more attention. Always feed stock well before turning on rape. If turned

on hungry, animals are liable to eat too much, and loss may occur. When buying lambs for feeding always get the best obtainable, well-bred ones if possible; poor, late culls are dear at any price. If at all possible, plow land used for this crop in the fall, for after the tramping of lambs in all kinds of weather it should be turned up to the mellowing influence of the winter's frosts. Great care is necessary when buying the seed; obtain it from some reliable seedsmen, and have him guarantee that it is the right kind. If this is done, and the seed does not turn out to be as represented, damages can be collected from the seedsmen. Last year, the rape on the Experimental Farm, Guelph, and also on the farms in that and other parts, was of an inferior variety, supposed to be a hybrid much larger than bird rape; but like it, ripens seed the first year, and thus was practically worthless for pasture. A variety called the Dwarf Essex, which does not seed the year it is sown, has given general satisfaction. Much seed resembling rape has been palmed off on farmers; among others a German rape, which is grown for bird food, and as it produces enormous quantities of seed, it can be sold much cheaper than the true rape for feeding. The true rape is known when the second leaf appears, it being smooth and glossy like the Swedish turnip, while the other varieties have a course, rough leaf like wild mustard. Test your seed before you sow; buy early, and sow a little in boxes.

Corn Culture.

The great increase in the number of silos in Ontario during the last two or three years has increased the acreage of corn, and in each succeeding year farmers who have never grown corn for fodder before try it, to a greater or less extent, and those who have grown it for years are increasing their acreage. Corn requires a dry, warm, thoroughly prepared soil, and plenty of sunlight; for this reason it is better to plant in rows running north and south. A clover sod makes a good seed-bed for corn, but it must be thoroughly worked up.

If the land is stubble plow it deep in the fall, manure and either plow or cultivate thoroughly in the spring. Sow about the 24th of May, either earlier or later according to the location and season. It is not well to plant too soon. The seed is better in the barn than rotting in a cold, wet soil. In sowing use the common seed drill, and stop a number of the spouts so that the drills will be a suitable distance apart. Allow about half a bushel of seed to the acre. As soon as the corn is up give it a stroke with a light harrow; repeat two or three times until the plant grows so high that the harrow pulls the plants out by the roots. The harrow will kill a large number of weeds, pulverizes the soil, does the corn good, and is the cheapest method of cultivation. When too high to harrow start the horse hoe at work, and keep it going during the summer, not only as a weed cleaner, but also to loosen the soil so that it will retain the moisture. Do not let the soil crust after a rain. The cultivation should be shallow, so that the roots of the plant be not injured.

Each grower should plant the varieties which mature in his own district. If the corn is nearly ripe these will have no unnecessary delay in waiting for it to wilt before putting in the silo—the silage will be better in every respect.

The further north the shorter the season of growth, therefore a variety will be needed which will mature in less time than is required for warmer localities; as a rule, the large varieties are later in coming to maturity.

Mammoth Southern Sweet and Red Cob Ensilage will do well for the more southern portions of Ontario. Thoroughbred White Flint, Pearce's Prolific, Angel of Midnight, Smutnose and Longfellow are all favorites, requiring less time to complete the growth than the first named varieties. For farther north it is likely that a still earlier corn, such as Mammoth Cuban or Crompton's Early, would give better satisfaction. But the best advice to each grower is, sow the bulk of your crop of some variety which has been tried in your own neighborhood, either by yourself or some good farmer; also test the different varieties of newer sorts in small plots. In this way each farmer is always sure of what he is doing.

Roots.

It is necessary for the stock-keeper to provide some succulent food for his animals. If he has a silo, he will find that corn is the cheapest and most convenient crop to grow for this purpose. If he has not a silo, he will have to use roots of some kind as a substitute. Turnips are doubtless the most important root; they are the mainstay of the British farmer. Cattle continually fed upon dry feed frequently "go off their feed." Turnips aid digestion and give a relish to the dry fodder. A larger acreage should be grown by nine-tenths of our farmers.

If you have not a silo already, why not build one this season?

Try an acre of the Robinson combination of corn and English horse beans. See page 123, April 1st issue.

Don't stop the grain feed all at once and depend on the pasture to keep the animals in good order. Get them used to the grass gradually.

Be sure and tag your sheep well before letting them out to grass. It will save you many pounds of wool, and perhaps prevent losing some of them.

See that the fences are all up before the animals are turned out in the spring, and they will never fall into bad habits. A farmer who has good fences never has breachy beasts.

Harrow the field that has not been plowed yet. It will keep the surface fine, prevent evaporation and baking, and therefore will be much easier to plow and harrow later on.

Sow rape or corn on the field that you are getting ready to summerfallow, and thus kill the weeds and get a good crop of feed. A farmer cannot afford to lose a season's crop from any field.

How many worthless dogs are kept in your neighborhood? Which are of the most use on a farm, dogs or sheep? If Ontario's Minister of Agriculture had his way, all the useless curs would go.

Go over the orchards carefully, if you have not already done so, and cut out all the black knot in the plum and cherry trees. Do not throw them down in the brush heap, but be sure to burn them.

Seeding will be well under way before this number reaches our readers, and in some places nearly over. Farmers will be thinking of roots, corn and potatoes. Are you going to try an acre or more of rape to fatten your lambs on this fall?

What varieties of the different root crops are you going to sow this spring? It will pay you to study carefully the letters on corn, roots and potatoes in the issue of March 15th. These notes are written by practical farmers from all parts of the province, and are short, pithy, and to the point.

This is the most critical time of the year for the stock breeder, just between winter and spring. Keep the animals in until the pastures are firm and the grass has made a good start. Stock of all kinds will be very restless now, and must have a more generous allowance of succulent food, as ensilage or roots, to bring them out in good order.

Chief Buchanan, of the World's Fair, will consult as far as possible the wishes of the exhibitors as regards the appointment of judges. Some associations have asked for single judges, others prefer the three judge system. Requests will all be honored as far as possible. If associations have judges to recommend, it will be well to send their names to Mr. Buchanan as soon as possible.

The World's Fair Staff, Canadian Division.

The following are the names of the Canadian World's Fair officials, who will be under the direction of Mr. Larke, World's Fair Commissioner for Canada:—

Mr. W. D. Dimock, of Truro, N. S., is the secretary and accountant to the commissioner; Mr. T. G. Bell, Ottawa, press agent; L. H. Lafleur, Montreal, clerk; J. H. Tracey, Ottawa, secretary to the executive commissioner; Peter Hughes, Ottawa, George Parsons, Halifax, and S. Stanton, Bongards Corners, Ont., clerks; J. B. Samson, Ottawa, messenger.

In the department of manufactures, Mr. James Lobb, of Toronto, is superintendent; E. A. Charters, Sussex, N. B., assistant superintendent; Miss Barrett, Ottawa, in charge of ladies' work department.

Of the liberal arts department, Mr. Wilson Morton, Toronto, is superintendent.

In the agricultural department, R. S. Hodgins, of Lucan, Ont., is superintendent; O. Turcotte, Quebec, assistant superintendent; J. P. Redmond, Gamaoque, dairy assistant.

J. Lloyd Jones, of Brantford, is superintendent of the live stock department; J. Riecheldt, of Haldimand County, assistant in forestry; James Clarke, of Dundas, superintendent of the machinery department.

J. A. G. Goulet, of St. Eustache, is superintendent of agricultural machinery.

W. N. Andrews, of Montreal, superintendent of transportation; Roger Marion, St. Boniface, assistant superintendent.

L. Woolverton, of Grimsby, superintendent of horticulture, and M. Swanson, of Goderich, assistant superintendent.