

Carman, Manitoba,

the terminus of a branch line from the southwestern section of the C. P. R. is, from its rapid growth since the advent of the railway there, about two years ago, attracting attention. From the small and comparatively unknown village of that time it has rapidly grown, so that today we have a flourishing town, replete with everything necessary to the carrying on of the work of that district. It has a population to-day of 500, with every prospect of a rapid increase. There are well-stocked stores, comfortable boarding houses, warehouses, and representatives of the leading implement makers. There are churches of the Presbyterian, Church of England, Baptist, Methodist and Disciples denominations. The "Carman Farmers' Elevator Co." have recently erected an elevator, having a capacity of 60,000 bushels, at a cost of \$13,000. This undertaking reflects the highest credit on the spirit of enterprise of its promoters. There are also two other excellent elevators, the one owned by Messrs. Roblin and Armistage having a capacity for 30,000 bushels; the other by "The Lake of the Woods Milling Company," with a capacity of 20,000 bushels. The school has been found altogether inadequate to the requirements of the town, and a new house, which, as a building, and, we believe, along the line of complete efficiency, will be a credit to the whole province, is now being erected at a cost of \$6,000. The Carman Standard, owned and edited by Mr. E. A. Burbank, is published weekly. The country to the north of the town is but thinly settled, but as one looks down from the top of the new elevator upon the stirring little town nestling among the trees—a pretty sight—and away to the west, east and south, in the direction of Rowland, a rising little place some ten or more miles away on the Northern Pacific & Manitoba Railway, upon the miles of shocked up grain ready to be gathered in, and the numerous homesteads thick upon these broad prairies, one readily understands its recent growth and the faith of its people in its future prosperity. There is probably nowhere in Manitoba a more prosperous district, nor one with a probably brighter future than that of the municipality of Dufferin.

Orchard Grass.

Dactylis glomerata.—It is somewhat difficult to assign to this grass its position in comparison with other grasses, for considerable differences of opinion exist as to its merits; yet it is noticeable that the authorities on the subject in America seem, on the whole, largely to favor it. Historically, its general introduction is of somewhat modern date, though it has been known in England for a very long time; yet there it was apparently never appreciated till it was imported from Virginia in 1764. About the beginning of the present century it was cultivated on a large scale in Norfolk, and about the same time its cultivation was commenced in Switzerland. While on this side of the Atlantic this grass is most widely known by the name we have used, but in Britain it is more generally called "Cocksfoot" or "Rough Cocksfoot", from a fancied resemblance of the flowering stalk in shape to a cock's foot.

Botanically orchard grass forms a simple compact tuft, which is not deeply seated in the ground, but stands out like a cushion. There

are no running stems produced, and the leaves (five or six in number on each culm) are long, rough and strongly keeled with very inconspicuous ribs. The general color is a light green. The flowering stem is a one-sided panicle, which carries a number of tufts of spikelets, each spikelet containing three or four flowers. The shape of these tufts, or rather of a row of them, has given rise to the name *Dactylis*, which is derived from the Greek word for "a finger", there being a certain resemblance to a finger in the long, compact row of tufts.

Orchard grass is very widely distributed, being indigenous to Britain, Europe, North America, North Africa, India and Siberia. It grows chiefly in pastures, woods and waste places, and may be said to grow anywhere between 29° and 48° Lat., which is, roughly, from the central part of Texas to the most northerly of Lake Superior. The agricultural value of orchard grass is high, on account of its adaptability to many kinds of soil and the rapidity of its growth, and also by reason of the thick foliage which it produces, which leafiness is well adapted to use in shaded places, whence its name of orchard grass; yet it would be a mistake to suppose that it grows better in shade than in the open. It is certainly better adapted for a hay crop than for pasture, as the bunches are very liable to be pulled out by stock. But here we meet, perhaps, its most serious fault, viz., that it is not thick enough on an ordinary sowing, and that thus a considerable portion of ground is left uncovered; but this difficulty is obviated by the use of some other grass along with it. Red-top is mentioned by some, but red clover seems to be altogether the best, as it is at its best bloom when the orchard grass is ready to cut. And just here comes the objection to using Red-top, that in a few years it will kill out the orchard grass by means of its great productivity.

There is very little danger to orchard grass from extremes of the seasons, as in case of drought. If the soil be deep enough the roots will penetrate to a sufficient depth to secure them from being affected; but it is just during a period of drought that the greatest risk exists of the plants being pulled up. Late frosts may be very injurious, but the cold of winter will have no effect. The land best adapted to this grass is loamy or clay soil—rich, deep, but not holding too much water; in short, any soil which is not poor. Even sandy soils, if they contain enough moisture, are admirably adapted for its production, though not in the quantity that better soils yield. It makes a very durable turf, and is practically not injured by anything but ploughing. The greatest development is reached in the second year after sowing, and the aftermath will always be very luxuriant. But in this grass, as well as others, care must be taken in regard to cutting, for all authorities seem to be agreed that orchard grass should be cut before it flowers, which occurs quite early in the season. If left till later the culms become hard and are not so readily eaten. This fact is fully noted in Switzerland, where this is the staple grass, and the Swiss have even a proverb that "Cocksfoot grows under the scythe."

As a feed hay, one author says: "Cut at the proper age, it makes a much better hay than timothy, and is greatly preferred by animals, being easier to masticate, digest and assimilate;

in fact, more like green grass in flavor, tenderness and solubility." While as pasture it equals blue grass for winter pasturage, where such is possible, in seasons of drought it surpasses it, as it is a deeper and larger plant. If it is once well established it can be fed as closely as other grass, and is no harder on the land; indeed, it is much less exhausting on the soil than timothy.

In seeding, where it is sown alone, two and a-half to three bushels per acre is required to obviate the tendency to grow in clumps. If a permanent grass land is desired it is well to sow about 15 per cent. orchard grass at first, in order to allow the other grasses to develop. Meadow fescue, timothy and clover are the usual mixtures. Some advocate rolling in spring, which presses the tufts down level with the other grasses, and so brings about a more uniform pasture; and also if the meadow is old and rich, and orchard grass is plentiful, it is thought advisable to harrow and then roll.

Since in the above we have endeavored to put forth the merits and demerits fairly, we think, in summing up, that the merits of orchard grass commend it to a most careful trial, and that its demerits are not such as to preclude its chances of success.

Timely Notes for November.

GRAIN.

The price of grain, especially for wheat, is good, and it is foolish in most cases to hold wheat when bills are pressing and many little comforts are needed in the house. Be content with a good price, pay off your indebtedness, and start clear for next year. If your oats are good white ones, and clean from weeds, it will probably pay you to hold them till April or May.

If your wheat has been frosted, or bleached by rain, and commands only a low price, feed it crushed or boiled to a good milking cow, about ten or twelve pounds per day, and you should make a good profit on the butter. But whatever grain you do sell, clean it well. It does not pay to haul weeds and rubbish. The dockage for dirt exceeds the cost of cleaning.

STOCK.

Having your stock all well housed now, it behooves you to see that they keep up their condition, and that the youngsters gain weight and growth during the coming winter. Feed regularly with suitable food. It is better to feed out the turnips in the early part of the winter and keep back the mangels till later. Keep only good animals, for the time is soon coming when scrubs will be unsaleable. In conversation with a dealer the other day, I was struck with the importance he attached to well-bred stock, even going so far as to ascertain the names of those who kept or used pure-bred sires, as he maintained that a scrub, however well fattened, would not "kill" like a grade or pure-bred beast.

Another way of looking at the wintering of stock is, suppose your young stock weigh, say, 20,000 lbs. in all on 1st November, and after feeding them all winter they weigh only the same, or as is generally the case, a good deal less, what have you got for your labor and the feed consumed? Would it not have paid better in such a case to have sold both stock and feed in the fall, and have bought again in spring? If you do not make anything on stock, why have them?