

Growing Fall Wheat

Some Hints About this Staple Crop—Soil Culture for Wheat

Owing to its enhanced value as a crop, fall wheat growing will receive more attention than formerly in Ontario. At or near \$1.00 per bushel it is a profitable crop for the farmer to grow, though it would not be wise to greatly increase the area sown to wheat. The more live stock husbandry the Ontario farmer can work into his farming operations the better for his land and his pocket book also. Still, a farmer can make live stock an important feature of his work and yet grow a fair acreage of wheat. In fact, if he is engaged largely in live stock husbandry his land will grow a good crop of wheat. Ontario's fall wheat crop totals about 20,000,000 bushels annually, no small addition to the country's wealth. It is safe to say, however, that without

manure is used to plow under the second crop of clover. Timothy sod has also been treated in this way for fall wheat, but the results have not, as a rule, been as good as with clover. A third method, and it is, perhaps, the most economical of all, is to sow

AFTER CORN OR ROOTS

The cultivation required on the land in order to produce a good crop of roots or corn puts the soil in excellent condition for a wheat crop, and particularly so if the land has been manured in the previous spring. One drawback to this is that sowing may be delayed, owing to the difficulty of getting the corn or root crop off the field in time.

Then there is the summer fallow. This is the old-time method of pre-

paring land for fall wheat, as with other crops; it is better not to undertake more than can be handled to best advantage.

The practice, perhaps, more generally followed in preparing fall wheat land is to plow up clover. A prominent wheat grower of Oxford county describes this method as follows:

AFTER CLOVER

"It is a common practice to plow up a clover or sod field after a half crop, or after pasturing for some time. Work well by harrowing and cultivating to keep grass under. Some manure before plowing, but I have seen better results by manuring after, and working manure in before wheat is sown. A bare summer fallow is almost a thing of the past in this section. Pea ground is often sown to wheat, and one of my neighbors had a good piece of wheat on a piece of pea ground, just cultivated without plowing, and top



A Canadian Wheat Field Scene.

adding to the acreage the yield could be increased by several million bushels annually by better preparation of the land for the growing crop. If our farmers are going to grow wheat and they will probably do so to a larger extent than ever, now that the price has advanced, care should be exercised in putting the land in the best possible condition for the crop.

PREPARING THE LAND

Several methods may be followed in preparing the land for fall wheat and the farmer will have to be guided largely by his own conditions as to which one he will select. A favorite plan, when peas were grown more largely than they are today, was to plow the land in the fall, sow peas in the spring and after the peas are harvested, plow and cultivate well and sow with wheat early in September. Another plan that has been followed with success, when other conditions have been favorable has been to plow under clover sod with or without manure, and where no

paring land for fall wheat and invariably gave good results. The chief objection to it is that the land is without a crop for a season, a loss which, in these days of intensive agriculture, the farmer cannot afford to incur. A root or corn crop, it is claimed, will clean the land as well and put it in as good condition for fall wheat as the summer fallow. However, not a few farmers still stick to

THE SUMMER FALLOW

and invariably have good success with wheat on it. There is no better way of cleaning a dirty field, provided the summer fallow part of it is done properly. If it is not carefully looked after the summer fallow will assist weed growth instead of checking it. These are the methods recommended by leading wheat growers as being the best to follow. Of course wheat has been successfully grown by other methods, but any other plan is apt to interfere with the rotation and there is no certainty of the results being satisfactory.

dressed with manure after wheat was sown."

BEST VARIETIES

As to varieties, little perhaps can be said, and growers will have to be governed by their local conditions. We cannot do better, however, in this connection than quote from Bulletin 140, giving the results of tests of fall wheats made at the Ontario Agricultural College in 1904. It says:

"Within the past fifteen years, about two hundred varieties of winter wheat have been grown at the College. The most of these have been grown for at least five years in succession. The highest yielding varieties for the past five years, including 1904, have produced the following average number of pounds of grain per measured bushel, and of bushels of grain per acre: Dawson's Golden Chaff, 59.0 lbs., 59.8 bus.; Imperial Amber, 61.2 lbs., 58 bus.; Prize Taker, 59.8 lbs., 57.6 bus.; Silver Dollar, 59.7 lbs., 57 bus.; Pinta Post, 61.4 lbs., 55.4 bus.; Rudy, 61.1 lbs., 55.4 bus.; Forty-50.4 59.1 lbs., 55.4