

develop the stock end of the business. They are situated in the Belleville Holstein district that is already known over the entire continent for its great Holstein herds, and there would be a ready market for stock of the right kind. And the Stewart boys are of the kind that know a good thing when they see it.—F. E. E.

### Our Experience with Hay Caps

Edmund Laidlaw & Sons, Elgin Co., Ont.

We have used hay caps for curing hay for some years and have found them very satisfactory. If the coils are well put up it takes a regular gale to take many of the caps off.

We follow the system of hay making common in Ontario of curing the hay before coiling with the greater portion of our crop. The actual time in which we perform various operations depends a lot on the weather. In good weather we can cut hay in the afternoon after three o'clock and coil the next afternoon. When the hay gets ripe at the last of the season it can be coiled the same day that it is cut.

We find the caps especially desirable in curing alfalfa, as alfalfa, to make the best of hay, must stand in the coils longer than ordinary clovers.

Our caps are cut from galvanized iron sheets, 32 gauge three feet square. They have a peak of seven inches.

### We Must Feed Alfalfa

John Whittaker, Elgin Co., Ont.

One of the big reasons why so many of us do not succeed with alfalfa is because we do not feed it. I can remember years ago when Crimison clover first became known that many of us believed that we had found something that would grow anywhere. All that we had to do was to put in the seed and the clover would immediately proceed to stock the land with nitrogen. We thought of it as a cure for all soils depleted of their fertility.

It did not take us long, however, to find out that Crimison clover was much like other plants: the first requirement was a fertile soil. Crimison clover is not now popular with us, but it seems that we will not learn by experience. Many of our farmers are still looking for some plant that will give them something for nothing. Quite a few farmers in this immediate neighborhood seem to think that alfalfa will meet this need.

#### FOOD FROM AIR AND SUBSOIL

Alfalfa with its nitrogen absorbing nodules and its great tap roots that penetrate the soil many feet is admirably fitted to gather the nitrogen from the air and potash and phosphoric acid from the subsoil and from these two sources to enrich the surface soil on which we grow our crops. I have found, however, on my own farm that alfalfa requires a better prepared seed bed and a richer soil than most crops if we would get maximum returns. Given a well prepared seed bed and a fair supply of fertility and alfalfa will continually enrich the soil and yield us abundant crops. But the plants must be fed when they are young.

My idea of the best way to prepare for alfalfa is to take a field that has had corn or roots on it the previous year and was heavily manured for those crops. I would plow that land in the fall, run it up into ridges, smooth it down with a spring tooth harrow in the spring and harrow thoroughly every 10 days up to the middle of July, and then seed without a nurse crop.

What have we gotten by this system of cultivation? We have a soil in ideal physical condition, one almost free from weeds and weed seeds, and, above all, one well supplied with moisture and available plant food.



A Much Advocated But Little Practised Method of Curing Hay

Curing hay in neat coils protected from the weather by caps of various kinds has been successfully tried, and from time to time has been advocated by writers to the agricultural press. It is not often, however, that we see caps in actual use in Canada. The hay field here shown with metal caps in use is on the Elgin county, Ont., farm of E. Laidlaw and Sons.

From several years' experience with the crop, I can tell those farmers who are looking to alfalfa as a means of overcoming their bad farming methods that they will not find it. Only good farmers who feed their crops will make a success of alfalfa.

### To Clean the Clover Seed Crop

J. G. Raynor, Seed Division, Ottawa

In the production of alfalfa seed the weeds are especially watched are Ragweed, Ribgrass, Bladder Campion, Trefoil and Sweet Clover. Usually it is only the perennial weeds which contaminate the seed if the killed out and thin places of the field are taken care of with a scythe.

In alfalfa, the Docks are sometimes common. They should be pulled when in blossom after the ground has been softened with a rain, or they may be picked out when cutting the seed and burned. Theampions, especially Night Flowering Catchfly or Sticky Cocksle, when in blossom shoot up above the alfalfa, and if not too thick may be either pulled or the tops cut off with a sickle. It is necessary to hand pull Wild Mustard from alfalfa and spud out any Ox-Eye Daisy. Trefoil is hard to deal with in alfalfa.

In red clover most of the Wild Mustard disappears with the first cutting. The rest must be hand pulled. Docks should be cut or pulled if they appear after the crop is removed for hay and any other perennials must be dealt with in a similar way. Ribgrass and Campion seeds are altogether too common in red clover seed, as are also those of Ragweed and Foxtail. Sweet clover is becoming quite prevalent and may be most easily removed from the first crop by pulling or spudding after a rain.

Tillage of the soil is the basis of good farming. Do not be afraid to plow two or three times. Some of us think that we have done wonders when we skim the land over once.—D. Derbyshire, Leeds Co., Ont.

### Hay the Most Valuable Crop

James Scott, Holdimann Co., Ont.

"The wealth of Canada lies in her fields." How often we hear that expression, but it isn't true. On the market page of a recent issue of a Toronto daily paper I found a list of the principal farm crops of Canada, with estimates of their value. And right at the top was hay. Just plain Plebian hay! The value of the crop was up in the hundreds of millions. I could get just where I wonder how much we could add to that value if every bit of the hay harvested in Canada was cured as well as it should be.

I can give some suggestions that, if followed out by every one, would add millions to the value of our principal crop. When I see a slow moving, slow thinking man, I can only make a pretty fair guess at the kind of hay he will cure. He will want to leave it out for days to bleach in the sun. He will think that a difference of three or four hours in tedding or coiling cannot make much difference to the quality of the product. But I find that it takes a pretty lively person to make good hay.

#### EARLY CUT HAY THE BEST

The first big mistake that I see being committed on every hand is letting the grass stand too long. I would rather start cutting either timothy or clover too early than too late. Early cut hay has a sweetness and a palatability that is never found on hay that has been allowed to become more or less woody.

I endeavor to cure the hay and get it into the barn just as fast as possible. For instance, if I cut the hay in the morning after the dew is off I would ted it just a couple of hours after. I would ted it again in the afternoon and the night it would be run into windrows. The morning I would ted the windrows a couple of times and then into the barn it would go.

#### DON'T LET THE LEAVES GO

My object in tedding so frequently is to prevent the leaves being burned by the sun. Sweet, palatable hay can only be made when the natural sap of the grass dries out in the natural way by evaporation through the leaves. Scorching destroys the leaf structure and makes natural drying impossible. Tedding is cheap and easy done. It's the horses that do the work. If the cutting were finished quite late in the morning and the sun were hot I would not stop till after dinner to ted. Both man and horse can afford to go without dinner once in a while to get the hay cured properly.

I feed almost all of the hay that I grow on my farm. I sell a few tons each year. But whether for sale or for my own use, I am equally particular in curing it. Cattle like well cured hay even better than grain. And when it comes to selling, a satisfied customer is the best advertisement to bring future sales.

We have used hydro electric power as our farm for lighting the house and barns and filling the silo. It proves entirely satisfactory.—I. Prouse, Oxford Co., Ont.

In Wright county, Iowa, the boys and girls above the fourth grade in 94 grade schools were asked what they intended to do. One hundred and fifty-seven of the 64 boys replied that they would have nothing to do with farming. One hundred and sixty-three of the 174 girls likewise voted against the farm. Three years later, during which time instruction had been given in agriculture and home economics, the same question was asked of the pupils in the same schools. This time 102 of the 174 boys answered that they intended to become farmers, and 161 of the 159 girls were planning on remaining on the farm.—W. C. Palmer.

### Explosives

Science is a every day. In fact, now in practice would have been the impractical learning facts earlier days. necessity for more and reaching to the soil more a larger profit. is one of these years ago.

Those who were in earlier times were decidedly more for blowing stone were decidedly "powder," which adapted for agricultural influence and that was the able for any kind spered with stone. Almost impossible rose and to yield least. And it d time; at least it was the field by the explosive.

ANOTHER "Stumping P" to the farmer w comes, especially



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