

DED 1866

Rail'y

EST.

ER,  
TITLE.

n through

REAL,

ATTLE.

s o  
apan.

nearest C. P.

ERSON,

ent,

EG, MAN.

OMPANY

ULTS,

, WINNIPEG

-\$270,000.

Administrator,  
tee of Lunatic,

Company for the  
nitoba,  
ardian ad-litem

ed.

Administra-  
e continued in

nt at \$5 a year.

, MANAGER.

Rail'y

OURS

KES

ats in

VINCES

STATES.

ps, with every  
omfort of pas-

Lines.

ation of berths  
dian Northern

AW,

WINNIPEG.

HIP

ets

ntry, or sending  
railway or ticket  
prepaid tickets

every Saturday;  
ork, every Wed-

INGS,

R. Offices,

WINNIPEG.

# THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

\* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE.\*

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

Vol. XXXVII.

WINNIPEG, MAN., AND LONDON, ONT., JUNE 20, 1902.

No. 552

## Grass.

Many of our readers may think that the "Advocate" has harped long enough on the grass question, but we believe that if there is one topic more than another that requires reiteration in this agricultural country that subject is grass. Of course, if clover would grow here as it grows east, we hear many farmers say that they would then take more interest in seeding down their land, considering, and rightly, that clover, by its power of taking nutriment from the atmosphere and storing it in its roots, is far more valuable as a fertilizer than any grass. While this is true, it is no use waiting till clover does prove a successful crop, as doubtless it will in time, because we have grasses that will thrive in every section of the West, and these grasses will do for our soil a work that cannot very well be done now in any other way—that is, in supplying humus.

On the heavy black soils one of the growing difficulties is to get machinery to clean in it. Unless with very favorable weather, it is next to impossible to make a good summer-fallow, the condition of the soil being such that neither plows, cultivators nor harrows will work in it. What this soil lacks is not fertility, but humus. The grass roots and vegetable matter that formed so large a part of the virgin soil have been worn out, and can be restored most readily and economically by seeding the land down to grass. The soil refilled with grass roots will not only work better, but will be warmer, less liable to puddle in a wet time and to dry out and bake in time of drought, the grass roots, or humus, keeping the soil more open, letting in the air, and also taking up and retaining moisture in very much the same manner as is done by a sponge.

On light, dry soils, the grass roots not only assist in retaining moisture, but they tend to prevent soil drifting, as well as in their decaying state supplying plant food.

In grasses we now have three varieties that may be considered standards. Timothy, always a valuable grass wherever it will thrive, is now proving a very satisfactory crop in many localities where, when tried in the earlier years, it did not succeed. Being easily sown a'long with grain and making a good quality of hay easily handled and cured, and a fair pasture, wherever it suits, it is a favorite.

Native rye grass (*Agropyrum tenerum*) is also becoming very favorably known, and the seed is becoming each year cheaper and more readily obtained, it seems to suit almost all locations and conditions, makes a good quality of hay when cut green, and is easily cured. As a pasture grass it corresponds very closely with timothy.

Brome grass (*Bromus inermis*) is of a more leafy succulent nature than the other two. It is capable of enormous yields under favorable conditions, making hay of good quality, but is more difficult to cure. As a pasture grass it is unexcelled, and once established, will stand very close and severe cropping. The seed of this grass has been rather expensive and it is difficult to sow. These points, and the fear that in some localities it would prove difficult to eradicate, has deterred many from sowing it more extensively.

To insure a good catch with these grasses, it is doubtless best, as recommended by the Experimental Farms, to seed down without a nurse crop, but to the average farmer this is too expensive a process. Unless fall pasture is an important object, then early seeding with Brome, or nurse crop, may be successfully practiced throughout the Red River Valley, as well as in

many other locations, any of these grasses will, under ordinary circumstances, give a good catch sown with a crop, preferably barley, but sown along with the wheat crop generally proves satisfactory. The depth of seeding grasses will, of course, depend largely upon the season and soil conditions.

A noticeable feature of the grass seed trade this spring, the seedmen tell us, is that farmers are ordering in larger quantities than formerly. We understand that so great has been the demand for Brome seed that the supply of local seed was exhausted early in June. Timothy seed having advanced in price has doubtless contributed somewhat toward the extra demand for Brome and native rye, but, apart from this, the farmers of the West are realizing that a grass rotation must be adopted in order to maintain the soil in a fertile and workable condition.

## Farm Siftings.

Trees planted out this spring will now require a little attention. Bedford's advice is to water them with a hoe; that is, cultivate about them to prevent a crust from forming which would hasten the evaporation of soil moisture, and also keep down weeds and grass. Trees that are newly set out have no chance against grass and weeds.

Get permanent fences about the buildings, use good posts, set solid and some substantial woven wire fencing. Make the fence hog and bull proof and then you will have some satisfaction with it. A few acres fenced for hog pasture, seeded down to Brome grass, is a good investment.

Why not have a horse pasture near the buildings, seeded with Brome, native rye or timothy? Your horses will appreciate being turned out after working all day on the fields far better than standing on the dry stable floors, eating hay and oats. There will be less swamp fever and fewer sick horses, when the work horses are kept on cultivated hay and pastures.

The implement men have all the business they can handle this year; in fact, there is demand for more goods in some lines than they can manufacture. However, that does not say that you must have a new binder or a new top buggy, if the old one will do the work. Don't let prosperous times carry you off your feet. At the same time, don't monkey with an old racked machine if you can afford a new one and it is going to pay you in saving of time and labor to have it.

Every indication points to a big harvest in the West and a scarcity of farm laborers. If possible, secure your harvest hands now. You can easily find work for them, and the chances are you will not have to pay any more wages for five months than you will later on for three.

Wet days can be utilized to good purpose by disinfecting and whitewashing the stables, pigpens, and poultry houses, etc. Sulphur is a cheap and effective disinfectant. Burn the sulphur in an iron vessel and keep doors and windows closed for some hours. A good coat of lime whitewash disinfects, purifies and makes the building lighter and more healthy.

While sitting on your gang plow blackening the summer-fallow these warm afternoons, try if you can't devise some way of lightening the good-wife's burdens. Be punctual at meal-time. If you can't get a girl to help her, maybe you could get a chore boy who would be very useful. Dress up without being told to on Sunday morning and take the wife to meeting. Even if you get no spiritual benefit, the change would do you both good. Remember the wife has the monotonous end of it, with the same round of duties every day. You have far more variety and are out with the teams and living closer to nature. Let charity begin at home.

## Can Fall Wheat be Grown in the Spring Wheat Area?

While Manitoba No. 1 hard is gaining a world-wide reputation as the best milling wheat in the world, and Manitoba and Eastern Assiniboa are rapidly becoming the center of the great spring-wheat area of the world, the attention of a good many leading farmers is being given to the possibility of growing fall wheat. This is not by any means because spring-wheat growing is any less successful than formerly, even on land that has been under cultivation for the last twenty years, but simply on account of the growing scarcity of farm labor and in the hope that fall wheat might, if reasonably successful, assist in reducing the labor of the farm, or, rather, distributing the labor more evenly throughout the season.

In order to cultivate large areas, summer-fallowing is necessary to give an opportunity for careful cultivation of the soil in order to conserve moisture and check weed growth, as well as to enable the farmer to have the land ready for early seeding. The work on the fallow has to be done between seedtime and harvest, and it frequently happens that the weed growth on the fallow in the latter part of the season and the rush of harvest work come together, and the farmer has to be neglected, so that the last stage of the fallowed land is worse than the first; in other words, a whole season's work has been worse than wasted. Now, if fall wheat could be sown on the fallow by August 1st, it would help to keep down weeds, and if it should come through the winter and spring safely, it could be harvested and out of the way before the spring crops were ready. In the event of the fall wheat, killing out, a crop of oats or barley could be sown on the land, and thus little more than the fall-wheat seed would be lost.

The success that has been achieved during the past few years in growing fall wheat in Southern Alberta is being watched with interest. Last fall one firm of millers in Edmonton imported a carload of fall-wheat seed, and the C. P. R. also introduced considerable seed into Northern Alberta. Although some of this seed was not sown as early as experience in the West seems to indicate that it should be, much of it, from the reports we have been able to gather, has wintered safely. If Northern Alberta can grow fall wheat, there seems no reason why it cannot be grown over a very large portion of the spring-wheat area. The Experimental Farms at Indian Head and Brandon have not been able to succeed with fall wheat, but, in view of present experience, we think they should continue experimenting along this line. Experience seems to show that fall wheat should be sown early in August and deeply enough to insure a strong root before winter sets in.

## A Splendid Representation of the West.

The "Farmer's Advocate" came out on the 20th inst. as an immigration number. It contains many interesting reminiscences of the past, important facts of the present, and bright predictions for the future of this country. It also contains some excellent ranch and farm scenes, past and present, and among its fine portraits are S. A. Bedford, Manager Brandon Experimental Farm, and Angus MacKay, Manager Indian Head Experimental Farm. This immigration number of the "Advocate" is a splendid advertisement of the West.—Western Canadian, Manitoba.

The "Farmer's Advocate" has just issued a splendid immigration number. It contains a large amount of interesting information on Western Canada, intended to give prospective settlers a fair idea of its extent and possibilities. Graham Leader.