

Clover versus Corn for Ensilage.

Superintendent Sharpe, of the Dominion Experimental Farm, Agassiz, B. C., in his annual report to the Director, testifies as follows:

"In this climate, where clover grows so remarkably, and early June weather is, as a rule, very wet, clover is a much safer crop if put into the silo than if cured for hay. The results of the test were given in my report for last year. This year the test was repeated on a heavier piece of land, that has been under cultivation since shortly after the farm was opened, and was in better condition, and, as a consequence, the dry autumn has not had such an effect as it did on the clover last year, there being not only a good second crop, but a fairly heavy third crop, which was cut for feeding during the last half of September. The results are as follows:

"The first crop, cut on June 5, 6 and 7, and weighed as taken from the field, with no rain or dew on it. The second crop was cut July 20 and 21, and the third crop was cut from Sept. 16, and fed as needed. This land is a sandy loam, underlaid with gravel, and clover sod has been turned under repeatedly in the last twelve years, making the top six inches fairly rich in humus, and thus well adapted to carry a crop successfully over a moderate drouth. The first cutting yielded 14 tons 1,160 pounds; the second cutting yielded 11 tons 1,950 pounds; the third cutting yielded 6 tons 480 pounds; total yield, 32 tons 1,590 pounds.

"This makes a better yield than our heaviest corn crop, and at a very much cheaper rate per ton, as there is much less cost handling clover from the beginning until it is safely in the silo. No cultivation is necessary during the spring or summer, and no special machinery is required to put the clover into the silo, as is the case with corn."

More Pains Being Taken to Grow Clean Seed.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

While I was attending, as a delegate, the series of field meetings held last month in Ontario, several things were noticed, among which were the following: A new weed, commonly called silver weed (*Potentilla anserina*), was brought to our notice as being very injurious to crops on low land. The plant, which has a bright yellow flower, runners after the fashion of the strawberry, leaves and vines somewhat fleshy, has become a great pest in some localities. To eradicate, the land must be drained, and cultivation will do the rest. Another plant is becoming a bad weed so far as the growing of red clover and alsike seed is concerned, viz., Black Medick, or Trefoil. Means will need to be taken to keep farms clean where the seeds are grown. The perennial sow thistle is extending over the Province, to the annoyance of many farmers. Two new methods have been successfully tried for its eradication: First, where a person may have a few small patches in his fields, he may, by using partially rotten straw, smother them; second, where a field is very bad, summer-fallow, then year following seed down with alfalfa, which will smother them by its heavy growth and frequent cuttings. The highways, railroads and permanent pasture land are the means by which many of the bad weeds are retained, and are becoming a menace to our Province.

Another danger noticed: Some localities deem certain weeds not very harmful, very little time is spent in eradication, seeds of these weeds are sold in grass seeds, to the injury of other localities where these particular kinds of weeds flourish.

The prospects for a good crop of seed of alsike and timothy are excellent. Complaints were made in some localities that the red clover had been killed. The midge is still causing trouble in most of the counties. Farmers who have sufficient help are paying more attention to weeding their fields in which they are growing seeds. Several inquiries were made as to the best fanning mill, which shows farmers are interested.

In several localities the farmers understood they were exempt from the control of the Seed Acts so far as penalties were concerned, but, after explanations and reasons given, most appeared satisfied. It was asked that alfalfa seed be included with the three mentioned seeds, so far as bad weed seeds are concerned. Many farmers are blaming seedsmen for selling very impure seeds, while they paid the highest price for it.

It will take two or three years to get the Act working well and the standard raised.

The interest in the meetings, with one or two exceptions, was wonderful. A speaker would, at times, be on his feet for two hours answering questions. At three of the meetings about 70 people were present. The prospects for a bountiful harvest are encouraging, with the exception of meadows in some localities. Farmers are quite hopeful and contented, were it not for the labor problem.

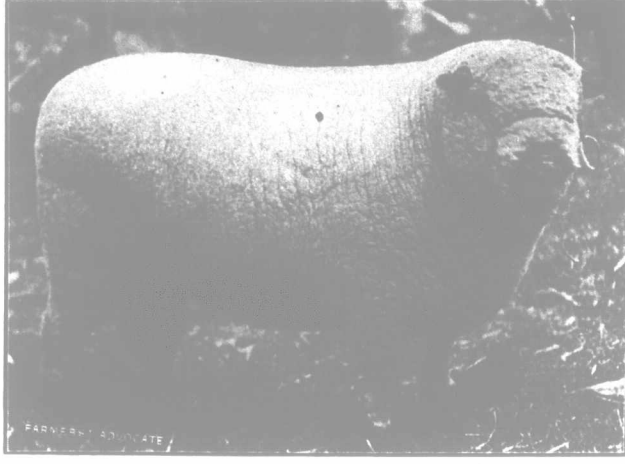
York Co., Ont.

D. JAMES.

Heavier Material for the Wide-cut Machines.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Seeing some remarks in your paper regarding wide-cut machinery, etc., I would like to make a few remarks about same. The day has come when Ontario and Quebec have to adopt Western methods to a certain extent. Hence, the one man must drive the two-furrow plow, the five-horse harrow, the cultivator which hoes two rows of corn at a time, or at least both sides of one row; the seven-foot binder with four horses, and the wide mower. Twenty years ago I used a seven-



Two-Shear Shropshire Ram.

Winner of first prize and Mansell Memorial Cup, at Shropshire and West Midland Show, 1906. Shown by Sir R. P. Cooper, Shenston.

foot binder in Missouri, cutting over 100 acres of wheat which yielded 35 bushels per acre; it worked well with four horses. We cut about 700 acres of hay with one six-foot and one five-foot mower. You could not tell any difference, to speak of, in the draft of either; so little that, chiefly on my recommendation, Mr. R. Gibson ordered a six-foot mower from a Canadian maker, with the result that he got a six-foot bar on a four-foot machine. Now, I still believe in a six-foot mower, and do not see why a seven-foot one cannot be made to run as easy as a six-foot; but I can assure you that I do not know of an American six-foot machine which has not one fault, and which the manufacturer will keep on putting on each machine, namely, trying to make a machine light where it should be heavy. The iron on which the sections are fastened has been made

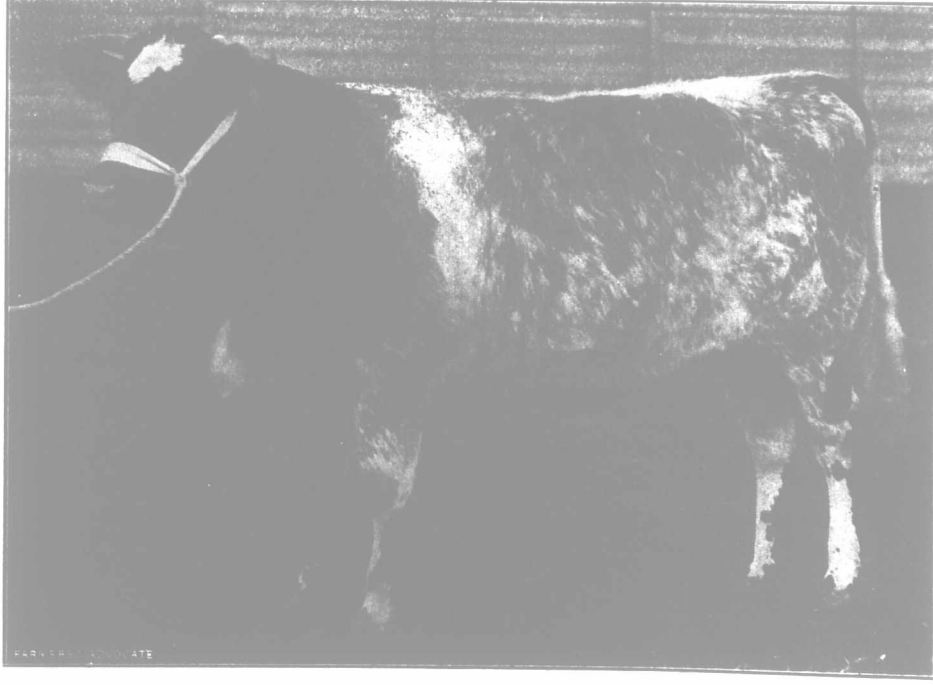


Photo by

Golden Garland

G. H. Prossers.

Yearling Shorthorn heifer, first and champion, Royal Show, 1906. Bred and exhibited by J. Deane Willis, Bapton Manor.

lighter, instead of heavier, with the result that the knife breaks so easily about a foot from pitman rod. Hence, the first maker of the heavy iron for the sections, or the heavy knife, will get the six-foot trade. Just ask a blacksmith in a district where six-foot mowers are found how many knives he mends in a season.

Marion Co., Ill.

FRANCIS JOHNSTON.

Rubber-tired buggy wheels make expensive road-rollers, especially for a macadam surface.

The Summer Field Meetings.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

That the farmers of Ontario are becoming fully alive to the importance of the weed question, and the improvement of crops by hand selecting seed and the use of breeding plots, was strongly in evidence during the recent June meetings held for the discussion of these problems. The most successful meetings were noted at points where the best institute meetings are held. With the various weed specimens of the locality as object lessons, important observations were easily enforced. The suggestions to produce clover seed on the cleanest fields, as after a hoe crop or summer-fallow, and to weed the clover seed crops at the proper time to prevent noxious weeds from ripening their seeds, were well received.

SPREAD OF WEEDS.

There is no doubt that some weeds are spreading rather alarmingly, and other weeds new to some localities are getting a foothold. The perennial sow thistle is an example of the first class, and pennycress, stinkweed or Frenchweed is an example of the last class.

It is admitted on every side that only the most thorough methods of cultivation, as with broad-sheared cultivators, will hold the former in check. The latter, of which a number of samples were brought to the meetings for identification, is a pernicious winter annual. It is doubtless being spread by the sale of screenings from the West for chicken feed. Its first appearance on the farm should be vigorously guarded against. The seed, which is near the size and weight of red clover seed, would be as hard to separate from it as is the ribgrass or buckhorn impurity. Other weeds which are spreading in some localities are the bindweed, bladder campion, the broad-leaved docks, fleabane, prickly lettuce, chickory, ox-eye daisy, and blue weed.

PROSPECTS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF SMALL SEEDS.

Owing to the hard frosts of the winter, the grass and clover fields, unprotected by the usual amount of snow, coupled with the slow growth of the early spring, do not give such good promise as they did a year ago, for either hay or seed. Timothy meadows, as a rule, are thin. It is exceptional to see a clear red-clover field. This year the timothy is showing much more than usual in the clover, consequently clover haying will be late. Clover was not giving promise of any too much bloom in the first crop. The clover-seed midge may prove bad in the second crop, as the late cutting will be conducive to producing a second brood. Some fields which were pastured gave better promise. Many of the alsike fields were rather short and patchy, consequently they were quite weedy.

In the largest alsike-producing center the catchfly was very strongly in evidence. Last year in a few fields the catchfly was pulled, and pure seed was the result. That seed was all sold locally for seeding purposes. The weeding of the crop in the field will certainly pay this year, and I believe will be more largely pursued than ever before. Timothy in the alsike fields is too much neglected, and is a weed there, as the price of otherwise good seed is greatly lessened.

THE SEED CONTROL ACT.

While the provisions of the Act are not fully understood by the farmers, they are aware that such a law exists for their protection in buying good seed, and appreciate it much. They know, too, that they had a chance to buy more really good seed this year than ever before. A good Standard, which the seedsmen used this year along with a lead seal. Many thought that buying seed so protected meant gilt-edged seed. It only meant that when the best grades or brands No. 1 to the limit of what could be sold for seed- ing purposes, which is not more than five noxious