

Farm Problems

Any reader of The Guide who wishes an answer to any problem on the farm can have them answered in this column. These questions are valuable to all farmers, and should assist them to a more profitable return for their labors. All questions are answered without charge. Answers by the Correspondence School of Scientific Farming.

PLOW DIFFICULTY

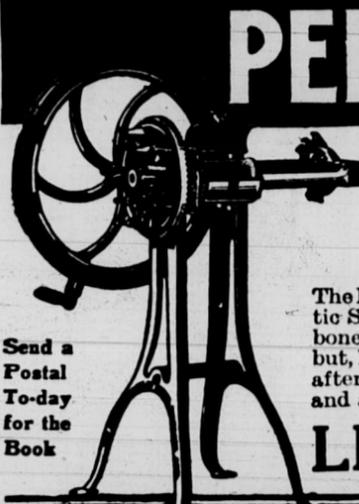
A.K.B., Churchbridge, Sask.—I have a gang plow, bought last year, which does not scour on the front plow. What can be done to remedy this defect? Would it be possible to buy a new mould board and would such a mould board fit?

Answer.—If one of your plows in the gang scours and the other does not, it probably means the plow not scouring is not properly adjusted. It is barely possible, of course, that the mould board of one is not finished quite so hard as the other and in that case it would not scour as readily. A new mould board bought from the same company would fit. When ordering, give the number of the plow and make, and state your trouble with the last.

CANADA THISTLE

T.F.C., Treherne, Man.—I have been watching with interest the query column in your paper and think that it is doing a good work. I should like very much to ask your advice regarding the handling of a thistle which is called by some in this neighborhood Canada thistle. It is unmistakably a thistle with very prickly leaves and the flowers are sometimes of a purple or lilac color, as well as white. The color of the plant is dark green and the surface of the stems and leaves when examined closely are covered with down. Is this Canada thistle, and if so would you point out the best method of exterminating it?

Answer.—From your description the thistle is undoubtedly Canada thistle, and it is recognized as being one of the worst pests in the Canadian West today. It is extremely hard to eradicate as it spreads both by seed and root. It is a perennial and consequently harder to fight. A deep well-worked summer fallow is the only means by which this weed can be eradicated. At the present time two very good plans are suggested by different experts which give exceptionally good results. A black summer fallow all the season, with the plowing done as soon the weeds make their appearance in the spring, followed with the harrows and later with the cultivators when the ground becomes harder is adopted on the Portage plains and very good results are being obtained. It is essential that no leaves at all should be allowed above the ground after the plowing is once done. The other plan is to allow the flowers to come into bloom, mow, rake and burn them, and then



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plow down the green growth as soon as it appears. The broad-bladed cultivator must be used frequently throughout the summer to cut down any new stems as they come up, and a deep fall plowing will help by exposing the roots to the action of the frost. As in the first case, after the first plowing is done a black summer fallow must be maintained. Small patches are easily killed by leaving them alone till just in flower and then spudding the plants about two inches under the surface of the soil. The patch should then be plowed and as any young plant appears it should be at once destroyed. When plowing is not practicable, after being spudded the place should be buried deep in straw or manure, which will have the effect of smothering the plants. Tar paper has even been used to cover the ground, with good results.

FEEDING SHEAF OATS

Subscriber, Mannville, Alta.—Kindly let me know through your paper: 1st, if green sheaf oats are safe for feeding work horses, brood mares and colts. The oats were just beginning to turn when cut but the straw was very green and the oats are frosted badly. What kind of food would this make for milch cows?

2nd. Also how long wheat should stand in the stack that was thoroughly dry before stacking?

Answer.—Oat sheaves make exceptionally good feed for all classes of live stock. It would not be advisable to immediately feed any animal a large quantity at the start, but the amount of food given to the stock should be gradually increased so that in time the complete change would be made. The important point in changing of feeds is to get the animal accustomed to the crop thoroughly. Avoid violent or sudden changes. Sheaf oats also make good feed for milch cows; decidedly better than the ordinary wild hay secured on the prairies. It may be advisable to feed a grain ration as well, but the amount should be regulated in comparison to the yield the cow is giving. A good way is for the feeder to test the cow himself. Weigh the milk carefully every morning for a week, then increase the grain ration; in another week weigh the milk again. If the increase in milk is worth more than the increased cost of the ration, then it might be advisable to increase it. Many mistakes are made with milch cows in not feeding them enough protein and milk-producing foods.

2.—Wheat can stand for almost any period in the stacks such as you suggested without danger, providing moisture is kept out and the stack has been properly built. When wheat has been properly stacked for a few weeks the sample is brightened and the grade improved. For convenience sake it would be advisable to thresh before snow arrives to any extent as it is then almost a matter of impossibility to prevent the grain from becoming wet when threshing. Cases are known, however, where many stacks have been left till late in the fall before threshing and no danger has resulted. It would be advisable, however, to thresh as soon as possible after the second week in November.

Question Drawer

This department of The Guide is open to all readers, and it is hoped that they will take advantage of it. All questions relating to the problems of the farmer of Western Canada will be answered in this department. Write questions on one side of the paper only, and send only one question on one sheet of paper. Join in making this department of the greatest value.

MUST HAVE NAMES

Questions sent in without the name of the sender attached will not be answered. The name will not be used if not desired, but it must be sent in as a guarantee of good faith.

CLEANING BARLEY

J. C. Miller, Neudorf, Sask.—In your issue of September 20 you state that malted barley is cleaned out of feed barley. Would you please explain how this is done. It would be of immense value to growers of barley to know how to separate malted barley from feed barley.

Ans.—The barley must of course be heavy enough and of good enough quality to be high grade or malting barley, but if it contains wild oats or other grains, or a sufficient quantity of light kernels, to make it grade as feed the higher grade may be secured by cleaning out the poorer stuff. This can be done with any ordinary good fanning mill, and is strongly recommended. If you send a sample to The Grain Growers' Grain Co., they will tell you just what to do with your barley in order to market it to the best advantage.

ARREARS OF TAXES

W. R., Sask.—I bought a quarter section of unoccupied school land on the 26th of June, 1910. I got no notice of any taxes against me for 1910. This year they sent me the assessment for 1911, also arrears for 1910. Can the municipality collect these taxes or any portion of them for 1910 as I did not own the land till after the assessments



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were made and the road labor done for that year? The taxes in question are for municipal and supplementary revenue purposes.

Ans.—Yes.

A PROTESTED CHECK

D. R. W., Alta.—I ask your advice as to how I should proceed to obtain \$107 due me for oats delivered last fall, under the following circumstances. I delivered about 300 bus. of oats to a subcontractor to a construction company. He gave me a check for the amount on the Union Bank, Alix, dated Nov. 4, which I cashed in the Merchants Bank, Stettler, Nov. 11. The check was protested at Alix Nov. 19 and I was forced to sign a note agreeing to refund the amount to the Merchants Bank. By the time I was notified of what had taken place it was late in December and my bird had flown. Since then my efforts have been untiring in trying to find his whereabouts in order to bring a civil action against him. The construction company could easily give me information about him but will not. If you could give me a little advice I should be very much obliged.

Ans.—Your only remedy is action against debtor to be brought when you are able to locate him. You cannot compel construction company to give you the information.

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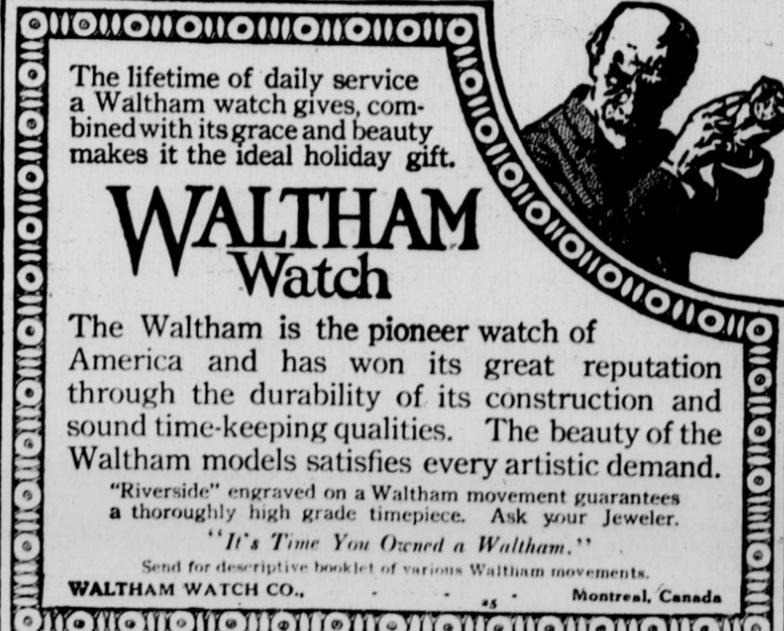
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