

MARCH 16, 1911

to five pounds seed per acre. In sowing sugar beets and mangels, from eight to twelve pounds, according to the weather and soil conditions. The drier the weather, or the lighter the soil, the more seed. In sowing clover for hay, we use never less than 10 pounds of red clover, 2 of alsike, and from 6 to 12 pounds of timothy, according to whether it is for one or two years' grass or hay. To the average farmer, judging by criticisms I have seen of my remarks in the press, and that I have met with when speaking, these seedings seem ridiculously heavy. Our experience, however, goes to show that they are the quantities which give the greatest net profits, and it is the net profit we should be looking for in all cultural operations, just as in feeding operations. The badly-fed cow probably does not cost much for feed, but she gives mighty small returns in the way of milk. The poorly-seeded field costs less to seed down, but very certainly gives much smaller returns at the harvest.

J. H. GRISDALE,  
Dominion Agriculturist.

### The Closet on the Farm.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

While the question of the closet or outhouse is one on which delicacy prevents a great deal being said, it is, nevertheless, a vital one, and a careful observer cannot but note the extent of carelessness and negligence in regard to this most important item in the equipment of any well-ordered farmstead.

In many instances the farmer has a comfortable house, and his stables and sheds are ideal in every respect; also, his fences, etc., are in perfect order, while the closet is an eye-sore on the premises, as well as a menace to the health of any who may be compelled to use it. The stables which contain the stock, and even the sheds which house the farm implements, are warm and carefully boarded, in order to protect their contents from the weather; while the closet, which must be used every day by the members of the family, is too frequently a ramshackle affair which is little better than no shelter at all.

Generally, it is also in a most exposed position, often minus a door or several boards from the framework; a lop-sided contrivance, with a roof hanging by one corner; while through the cracks, snow, rain, wind and sleet, alike, are whirled mercilessly upon anyone who may be within. If the farmer would stop for a moment and think, the danger of such conditions could not but be apparent. Where adults only are concerned, it is bad enough, but where children, kept within a warm house, are exposed, if for only a few minutes, in such a place, they run grave chances of contracting severe cold, if, indeed, suffering no more dire consequences.

This is bad enough, but there is a worse phase still. In many cases the outhouse is entirely minus, and the only resort is the stable or shed. Now, where the male members of the family only are concerned, this may be of small consequence, but the feelings of the female inmates of the house in being subjected to this, no less than brutal exposure, can better be imagined than described.

And, indeed, does the farmer ever stop to consider that outsiders may rate his standard as a man by his attention or neglect of just such small details? Moreover, this is a condition in which the cost necessary to remedy matters cannot be used as an excuse for neglect. A completely-furnished lavatory may now be placed in the home at a very moderate cost; but even this expense is not necessary, as a few boards and a few sheets of building paper which can be purchased for 50 cents a roll, coupled with a little use of a saw and hammer, will place a lavatory on any farm, where anyone within will be perfectly sheltered; and even if a small investment is made to erect a better sort of building, it will bear good interest in lessened risk of doctor's bills.

We cannot but believe that the conditions, which are only too common in this section, are simply the result of thoughtlessness and the general aversion to speaking upon the subject, and I hope that these few hints may bear fruit among "The Farmer's Advocate" readers, to the great profit of a multitude of children and others.

"ONLOOKER."

### A Positive Help.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Enclosed find \$1.50 for subscription. Am sorry I didn't send it sooner. I think that "The Farmer's Advocate" is doing more for the farmer than all the agricultural colleges in Canada. I saw mention in one of your numbers last spring of some farmers in Middlesex County sowing an annual clover to help out a poor catch. How did it succeed?

Peter Co., Ont.

[Note.—Nothing useful came of the experiment, as was recorded in these columns.—Editor.]

### Likes P. E. Island Seed Oats.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I think, if wheat is properly cleaned, and the small grain screened out, the farmer can sow his own grain longer than is the rule, as I have seen home-grown seed give better yields than imported on the same field; and if the home-grown seed is cleaned, which in all cases it should be, there is no danger of introducing new weed seeds. In my opinion, if a change is required, we get the best results from Prince Edward Island seed.

White Russian seems to be the best yielder on all kinds of soil, but some who have dry, sandy soil have good success with Red Fife, and, as it gives better-quality flour, some will grow it at the sacrifice of a few bushels, as we take our wheat to mill and receive our own flour.

My only trial of new varieties was with Preston, but as I did not get flour of good quality, I stopped blaming the miller, and grew Fife.

A good roller mill in our vicinity is a great incentive to grow better wheat, as one is repaid for cleaning by receiving better flour.

In writing of seed wheat, I may say that treating for smut plays a very important part, as nothing is so disagreeable as black, foul-smelling flour. In the West, we use the pickler, but here, where only a few acres are sown to wheat, a cask filled with vitriol and water is a very good substitute. Although formaldehyde is said to be the best, I never saw much smut after vitriol (bluestone).

White Banner oats are the all-round oats for this country, although some grow black oats, as they claim they are best for horses, but the Banner gives the best yields. Some of my neighbors grow a few of the larger-kernelled oats for exhibition purposes, but all say they would not pass over Banner for their main crop. Seed oats are almost all secured on Prince Edward Island, as they seem to give good satisfaction.

Prince Edward Island clover seed is the best we can get, and comes higher in price than Ontario seed.

Right here a question arises for Westmoreland farmers: If they on Prince Edward Island can grow better seed than Ontario, why can not we, with the same climate and almost the same soil? Let each farmer sow a piece of land to clover, without any timothy; then, next year, let the children pull the weeds, and try to get our own clover seed in the future.

Will someone please enlighten us as to the cost of clover mill, as "V. A." in article on alsike, says they are better than separator.

Growing timothy is another question. When the old men used to get their hay seed with cradle and scythe, they no doubt thought, if they could ride around on their binder and bind up their seed, with so little trouble, there would be a lot exported. But now, since the old cradle has gone, our farmers are buying almost all their timothy seed.

While we can grow almost all kinds of grain, our roots and potatoes must be our chief boast. Nowhere have I seen as good potatoes as are grown along the shores of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, both in quality and in quantity. We have large crops, almost entirely free from scab. The McIntyre is the favorite for southern export. The beauty of this potato is that it stays solid and good in summer, when other potatoes get soft and strong. The Silver Dollar is the best yielder, though the deep eyes make it less desirable for a table potato. The old Early Rose is still my favorite early potato, though I have tried the Early Ohio, Early Sunrise, Green Mountain, and Stray Beauty. A neighbor has grown one kind of potato (a large, deep-eyed red) for upwards of thirty years, and it has never run out. Only the best potatoes were chosen for seed every year, and he always has an enormous crop. Potatoes do not seem to run out in our soil. As experience has taught me that there is no feed any better than boiled potatoes and barley chop for fattening turkeys and hogs, the potato holds a high place in my estimation; and when it sells for 50 cents a bushel, as now, the farmer may well take notice about his crop. We found Carman No. 1 a very poor-quality potato, as it was so wet. A new variety was developed a few years ago from seed, and is gaining popularity very fast. Some of your Ontario farmers could do worse than try this new potato. It is known as Tommie T., from the man who started it.

In the selection of garden seed, it has always been my rule to send to some seedsman, but now I believe it is best to grow all the seed it is possible for myself; so, in the fall, I choose the best-shaped turnips, beets, etc., and put in cellar, without trimming; then I have lots of seeds that I know come from good mother plants.

We in Westmoreland know very little about seed corn, as we do not grow much. It is chiefly grown by farmers who have large dairy herds, and fed to cows when pastures are short. It is seldom ripened here, as our springs are too late, summer too damp and cool, and it takes more labor than the average farmer has time to give his crop. Though some think their corn patch

an absolute necessity, the wet seasons of late, when pasture is good and corn is poor, is making the corn less every year.

To sum up the situation, I believe New Brunswick farmers should grow more seed of their own, and by putting the money they spend in buying imported seed into labor of cleaning, growing and gathering, I believe we would have better seed, fewer weeds, and, therefore, better crops.

If seeds must be bought, buy Government-inspected seeds, even at a few cents' extra cost. Westmoreland Co., N. B.

R. G. O.

[Note.—The clover hullers used in Ontario are moderately expensive machines, and are run with the steam engines used for threshing grain, as they require considerable power. An idea of prices may be gathered from these quotations by a London (Ont.) firm of manufacturers: Huller with ordinary carriers 12 to 16 feet long, \$500; with stacker, \$750; with self-feeder, \$200 extra. This company makes only one size of machine, 50-inch.—Editor.]

### Ordering Seed Through the Farmers' Institute.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Corn has proved such a failure here on the Island that not more than 10 per cent. of the farmers grow it, and half of those only on a very small scale. But some think, and perhaps rightly, that the chief reason of the failure here in corn is that it is planted too deeply. Just what effect a change of seed has on the yield it is difficult to say, yet I find it generally pays well to change seed frequently, although I contend, if a farmer is particular with his own seed to keep it pure and well cleaned, separating all small and imperfect grains from that which he intends to sow for seed, I cannot see any necessity for a change of seed. The idea now advanced about a change of seed is that, if a farmer is obliged to get a change of seed, it is best to get that seed from a farmer as near his own land as possible. To prove this, from experience, I may say that grain brought here from Ontario and sown will produce a very inferior crop the first year, but will improve as the grain becomes acclimated.

I cannot see much advantage in introducing too many new varieties. We have now as good as can be had, and, by proper cleaning and hand selection of the best of the varieties now grown, the quality can be kept up to a high standard. Personally, I have done little or no hand-selecting of grain, but a person only has to visit our annual seed fair to see distinct improvement from hand selection. Like begets like in the animal kingdom; so, also, in the vegetable.

To my mind, tillage plays a most important part in regard to the yield of a crop. It is said that tillage is manure. Moisture is also manure, or, rather, a conveyor of food or fertilizer in the soil. With a root or corn crop on good rich soil, without sufficient tillage, we will have an unsatisfactory crop. On the other hand, the same crop, on quite inferior soil, with proper tillage, yields a full crop, particularly in a dry season. The land on which potatoes, turnips and corn are grown needs the surface soil stirred frequently, until the plants are large enough to prevent the hot sun from forming a crust on the surface soil. With grain crops, the conditions for tillage are quite different. It is highly important to have a deep, well-cultivated seed-bed before seeding, and, in seeding, we should have an aim, either to produce a fair crop of grain and secure a good catch of clover for a good crop of hay the next year, or to seed heavier to grain, thus producing a better yield, at the expense of the clover crop the following year, it being smothered by the thick grain, and the plants that do get a start being too weak and puny to stand the long summer drouth. I find the disk harrow an excellent implement on the farm to work up a good seed-bed, but I find the tendency is to use only two horses on it; this machine needs three horses, with a 160-pound man on it; pull back the lever well, and it will do its work right. For those who plow their fields in lands, I find this harrow excellent for levelling backs of lands and dead furrows. For levelling, I prefer the in-throw style.

As very little seed corn is used here, and as we are exporters, rather than importers, of seed grain, principally oats, the question of securing supplies of seed grain does not trouble us; but, with regard to timothy and clover seeds, our farmers find the best way of securing seed is through our local Institutes clubbing together and ordering from some reliable seed firm. I might say just here that, before farmers took this matter in hand, we were imposed upon, and the Maritime Provinces were simply a dumping ground where the seedsman disposed of all their trash and weed seeds, and it will now require years of persistent toil to rid our farms of the bad weeds that have got by far too firm a foothold here. And to remedy this evil we have now got a law, the Seed Control Act, and all seed now offered for sale by our merchants and dealers has first to be inspected by the Government official; and now the farmer knows just what per cent. of weed