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AND N.-W. T.

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A System of Rotation Must Come.

Wheat as the staple crop of Manitoba is about the only crop that receives attention from those who make it their business to sing the country's praises. But the very fact that wheat is so easily and successfully grown will react against the growers thereof in worn-out, dirty farms, if attention is not given to the fundamental principles that underlie permanently successful agriculture. There have been other countries with soils as rich and generous as ours that have failed from complete exhaustion when methods of farming similar to those in vogue here to-day have been long continued, and history will repeat itself. Another question that the wheat farmer must take into most serious consideration is that of labor. Year by year this question becomes one of greater difficulty, and with the present rate of increase in our settlers, most of whom will follow the example of others in gauging their farming capacity not by the number of acres they can harvest safely, but by the number they can cultivate and sow, the difficulty will be come more serious.

Sooner or later a systematic crop rotation must be introduced in which grass will take a prominent place. Then, with grass to provide food for hay that can be readily harvested, and pasture of the best quality simply for the fencing, live stock will be introduced into our system of farming. Live stock will convert producers now wasted into soil fertilizers, will call for a more equitable distribution of labor throughout the year and will provide an unfailing source of revenue.

As a more modern system of agriculture becomes general, the bare fallow will give place to a permanent crop that will at the same time produce the most valuable food for what may be called "winter food." Then a crop that can be sown in this country, that will at the same time produce corn. That crop can be sown in the spring for years been grown in the same way throughout not only the Mac... In this issue will be... taken in a thirty acre... on September 10th. When... added to our list of crops... profitable to feed to a bush...

in transit to the world's great beef market, similar to the system now followed in the States?

In the growing of corn, the cultivation of which can all be done by horse power, the soil is well cleaned of weeds and left, without plowing, firm and solid for a wheat bed.

Farm Siftings.

The range outlook for winter feed is good. A growthy June and dry fall has combined in producing more than an average supply of well-cured grass.

September being cool and dry, range cattle made flesh fast; weather right for large appetites, grass fittingly cured for big gains.

Some sections will have considerable feed grain this year, for which prices will not likely be high. Convert this into pork and beef. Fed judiciously, such grain will bring returns equal to No. 1 hard.

The present scarcity of labor has forced many farmers to help the thrasher. This is to be regretted, as fall work left undone means later spring sowing and consequently greater risks for next crop.

Late fall plowing, where the land is very dry, leaves the soil loose and open. A soil-packer following the plow would to a great extent overcome this difficulty. Even a disk run with a little angle would tend to cut down soil and fill air spaces, thus solidifying the soil. Try a strip and watch results.

There are not so many weeds in the crop this year as usual, yet that is no reason why you should allow the stock access to the heaps of weed seeds left by the threshers. Seeds eaten by stock are scattered over the fields again, as most of them pass through the animals undigested. For this reason alone it pays to fence.

It may not theoretically be up-to-date farming to burn the straw stacks, but under present conditions, if no use can be made of the straw, the quicker it is burned after it is threshed the cleaner job can be made. A straw pile left to be burned next spring gets scattered and blown about the field and filled with snow during the winter, and makes an unsightly mess all next season.

Of course every prudent farmer will make sure of saving sufficient straw to ensure plenty of feed and bedding for his stock till grass comes in 1903.

As usual, many a threshing outfit has gone up in smoke during the season: High winds, defective spark arresters, culpable carelessness in not drowning out engine cinders at every setting, and carelessness in other ways. It's not too late yet for those not threshed out to institute precautions.

Make sure of your fire guards.

The Demand for Horses.

The summer that has just ended has been the best for the dealer in the long history of the market for good horses. Those in closest touch with affairs report that the demand for coach and carriage horses has been unprecedented, and that with the coming of fall there is a decided increase in the number of buyers. Coming horses are not asked for to any extent, as the call is from buyers who have money and want the best the market affords. Of course, some of the fall activity can be traced to the call for horses that will do for the show-ring. But the real activity had no such mainspring. It came from the regular and increasing purchases of horses due to the fact that the era of prosperity is continuing with unabated energy. Men who are doing well in business, and who are not in the grades, as they would in dull times, are on hand to have the best that the market affords. The consequence dealers and breeders are doing a great horse industry, and on a basis as any interest that...

Rural Mail Delivery.

The free rural mail-delivery system has now spread to nearly every part of the United States. Though only six years since the first experiment was tried, there are now reported nearly 10,000 routes in operation, bringing probably 1,000,000 families in more direct contact with the business or town world. The time that is wasted and the discomforts to which farmers are subjected in many districts, going miles over bad roads and through inclement weather to secure their daily or tri-weekly mail, can hardly be realized by the city man who has his mail deposited at his front door twice a day if he does not care to walk a few blocks to the post office on a well-lighted sidewalk. Thus far in Canada little, if anything, has been done in that direction by the postal authorities, but it is a boon that would certainly be appreciated. In many localities there is a daily service by stage or train to post offices that are short distances apart, but in many others the situation is lamentably different. A prompt and regular free delivery would encourage correspondence and promote the business interests of farmers. The country telephone and rural mail delivery put the farmer and stockman on a very fair basis, compared with the townsman, as far as business communications are concerned. Seeing that it has been so generally and successfully established for the benefit of the U. S. farmers, the time is surely ripe in these progressive days in Canada for the introduction of the system here. The carriers should collect as well as deliver mail. What say our readers?

Medicine Hat and District.

During this season more cattle and horses have been shipped from this district than any previous year. Last year 799 horses were shipped, which was the largest output in the horse trade up to date. This year, so far, 2,882 have been loaded out. Two years ago was the largest in the cattle trade, when 6,617 were shipped. Up to the present, 6,912 have left this season.

Mr. Bray, live-stock inspector of this district, speaks favorably of the outlook of this important branch of agriculture, and many ranchers, seeing the natural advantages which this locality affords for ranching, have made good beginnings and are well satisfied with returns. Many of the ranchmen of this section started light, increasing as the dividends permitted. Now they own good-sized herds, and the only complaints heard from any of them is that the land regulations did not permit them to buy sufficient land to carry on their occupation. Numbers of these men in speaking to a representative of the "Advocate," said they had money to purchase what land they required and the inclination to put up better buildings, but could not buy sufficient land to warrant putting up permanent improvements. Land cannot be bought outside of the railway belt. Homesteading privileges are open to all, but 160 acres is not sufficient to run even a small ranch. It is true all land required for present use can be cheaply leased, but that gives no certainty that the leased portion can be kept long enough to pay for good buildings, as all leased land is open for homesteading, and others might thickly crowd around, leaving no chance for a ranchman to make his business a paying one, thus poor buildings are the rule. Much of the district south of Medicine Hat, and especially beyond the railway lands, is very gravelly, not adapted for wheat growing even during favorable seasons, and as a rule this locality has not sufficient rainfall to justify the attempt of holding this land for grain, and as ranching seems most suitable for this section, it seems hard that the present regulations are not fitted to the needs of the rancher. Any areas not adapted for grain should be open for homesteading in larger holdings than 160 acres. The same acreage that would under ordinary conditions support the wheat producer would not begin to pasture sufficient cattle the year round to support the beef producer. The ranchman should be placed on equal footing, and the only way to do this is to increase homesteading areas on the rougher lands. In the district south of Medicine Hat most of the ranchmen get their coal from the hills near by, and at the sawmill near Eagle Butte good coal can be purchased at present for \$12.00 per ton, so that fuel and building material is cheap and convenient. A great advantage certainly.

NATURAL GAS.

At or near Medicine Hat has four gas wells, averaging 600 feet in depth. The strongest one has a pressure of 270 pounds to the square inch, the other three each 225 pounds per square inch. It gives some idea of the great advantage this