

cases the mother of a large family may not be able to take all her children with her to a new country. Some of the children may need her personal care. She may be physically unfit to cope with the hardships of homesteading. But she may have one or two grown-up daughters who could, if the law would allow, go together and make a good beginning for a home for their mother and younger brothers and sisters. In other cases, perhaps, a grown-up young woman has several young brothers and sisters depending entirely on her after the death of both parents. Possibly there may be a girl, say twenty years of age, who has a couple of brothers of twelve or fourteen years. If this young woman could make entry for a quarter section, she could, with the help of the young brothers, soon have a home for all.

I do not suppose that many young women would care to start homesteading in precisely the same way that the majority of young men commence. Many girls do not understand farm work! Did I hear someone say that? Oh! Do all young men understand farm work? If so, why do we hear of a man tying a compass on his plow-beam to make his furrow straight; or why do we see one man attempting to hold a row of studs upright while his partner climbs to the top to nail a plate on? I really do not think girls would make more outrageous mistakes than some of the boys make.

Just let the Government give us a chance to show what we do know about farming. We might be able to give the boys some pointers, out-doors as well as inside the shack. Surely the greenhorns among the

very best advantage from the first part of August till late autumn, and will many times pay for the trouble and experience of raising.

The best method the writer has ever found of feeding green corn is to keep it cut about two days ahead of time, so as to allow it to wilt nicely before feeding. Stock seem to eat it more readily in this state, and besides, it has no bad after effects. For fattening steers I have never found anything to equal it when in this state. In feeding, I just scattered it over the fence into the pasture. The stock eat it off the ground.

I have grown a number of different varieties and prefer the North Dakota White Flint, as it has always matured sufficiently to make good silage even in the short season of 1907.

In summing the whole thing up briefly, I see no advantage in growing corn except a little for fall feeding under the conditions above mentioned, that is as a summer feed for cows on pasture, or for feeding steers on grass in fall. Of course grain is king in this district and looked upon as practically the only source of prosperity. In other districts where stock raising is the chief industry and grain growing carried on only as a side line, corn might be very profitably grown.

Sask.

W. R. HOWAY.

spray the solution in the proportion as indicated above (24 ounces avoirdupois formaldehyde to 55 Imperial gallons of water) over the seed with a common garden sprinkling can or preferably with a small force pump which will throw a fine misty spray. While the grain is being sprayed it should be shoveled over and over until the seed is thoroughly moistened. After the grain has been sprayed it is a good plan to cover the mass of seed with a few sacks or blankets in order to prevent too rapid evaporation of the formaldehyde. After a few hours the sacks may be removed and the grain allowed to dry before seeding. Flax seed is usually treated in this manner for the prevention of wilt.

As far as the cost of treatment is concerned the same is exceedingly small considering the great saving derived through the application of formaldehyde. 24 ounces, 40 per cent. formaldehyde mixed with 55 Imperial gallons of water will treat 60 to 80 bushels of seed grain, and, considering the fact that 24 ounces formaldehyde cost to the farmer about 75c, it stands to reason that the expense for the prevention of smut is trifling, when the great saving derived therefrom is taken into account.

It is an undisputed fact that losses due to smut disease can be practically prevented provided the formaldehyde treatment is carefully followed according to above directions. Since the treating of seed grain with formaldehyde has passed the experimental stage, every farmer should become acquainted with its application as the benefits derived therefrom do not only show an increase in the yield of grain per



A SCENE IN A MIXED FARMING DISTRICT IN CENTRAL ALBERTA

girls could learn as soon as the new boys. We would not like anyone to say we were quite so slow.

I would like to see homesteads thrown open to young women as well as to widowed mothers of families.

I would also like to hear what other people think on this subject. No doubt there are divers opinions if only we could see them in print.

Sask.

BRENDA E. NEVILLE.

#### Feeds Green Corn on Pasture

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In reply to your query re corn culture and its possibilities for the West, I might say that I have grown corn for a number of years, both in Ontario, and now for ten years in the West, and understand something of its nature and culture.

Corn thrives best on a sandy loam, preferably old land, as it is warmer, and the seed will therefore germinate more quickly. It should be sown with an ordinary grain drill arranging the hoes so as to sow in drills about forty-two inches apart, and from two to three inches deep. Sow at the rate of one-half bushel per acre from the 15th to the 25th of May according to season. The land should be well prepared as if for potatoes or barley. If preparation has been thorough and the weather is favorable for growth, the corn should be up in a week or ten days. The field should be harrowed soon after seeding and the harrowing continued about once every week or ten days till the young plants are five or six inches in height. The cultivator should then be started going, and the crop cultivated at least every ten days till the corn is too high to permit further operations. This will mean in all, cultivating three or four times. The corn will now be in a position to look after itself till the time for harvesting. If the pastures are short and dry, the crop may be used to its

#### Formaldehyde as a Smut Preventive

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In your issue of September 9th, we read with interest the editorial appearing on page 209, entitled, "The Damage by Smut," and we take the liberty of mentioning that your statement that the use of formaldehyde has been conducive of reducing the evils created by smut is not only a supposition, but an actual fact. Up to last year the farmers of Western Canada had but a vague knowledge of the advantages of formaldehyde against smut. Now however, an active campaign on the part of the manufacturers producing formaldehyde and the earnest and active support they received from the different agricultural stations have greatly helped towards the realization on the part of the farmers that smut can be successfully combated, provided the farmers hold strictly to the instructions based on practical and scientific experiments regarding the use of formaldehyde. It would therefore not be amiss if your readers are given an opportunity of reading a few lines as to how and when formaldehyde should be applied.

The oat, wheat, barley or other seed to be treated is to be handled as follows: 24 ounces avoirdupois of 40 per cent. formaldehyde is thoroughly mixed in a tank or barrel containing 55 Imperial gallons of water. Into this solution a gunny sack, or other container, filled with seed is dipped. It is important that the grain is completely submerged. The grain is then emptied on a floor or canvas to dry and should be turned over at intervals to hasten drying. The grain will give no trouble in running through a seeder. Mention should be made that it is well to treat seed grain half a day to one day before sowing in order to give it sufficient time to dry.

Another method of using formaldehyde consists in spreading the seed grain on the granary floor and

acre, but also in an improvement in the quality of the grain. Furthermore, said treatment facilitates the sprouting and gives the grain a healthier appearance, thus securing for the farmer a better price for his product.

It is not an exaggerated statement to say that several millions of dollars are saved annually where oat, wheat and barley smut is treated with formaldehyde, and no doubt it is a question of only a short time when this saving will be increased through a general application of the methods herein recommended.

Some complaints have been made by farmers that although they had strictly followed instructions regarding the application of formaldehyde, they failed to obtain satisfactory results. The cause of such failures is no doubt due to the fact that the formaldehyde used was not as represented and therefore, every dealer or consumer of formaldehyde should not fail to secure an article of required strength, that is, testing 40 per cent.

The Dominion Experimental Farm at Ottawa and the Provincial Agricultural Experimental Station will test samples of formaldehyde free of charge to the farmers. It is, however, to be hoped that, due to the strict measures taken by the authorities during the coming season, only formaldehyde of required strength will be distributed among farmers. The manufacturers in their own interest will distribute goods which are satisfactory in every respect and it is to be confidently hoped that farmers will experience no trouble with the formaldehyde they purchase.

The splendid results obtained through the use of formaldehyde against smut have raised the interest of the farmers at large and also the agricultural authorities so that its use has come to stay and will gradually drive out of the field other methods heretofore used with but scant results.

CHEMIST.