

windrows and leave for a day before setting up in small cocks. After setting up in cocks it is advisable to cover with hay caps and to cure under these. The curing under hay caps is slow, but it is a guarantee of good hay at a minimum expenditure of labour. Alfalfa hay should not be raked into windrow, cocked or stacked while moist from either dew or rain.

#### PRODUCTION OF SEED.

Seed of excellent quality has been produced, and excellent yields obtained, at the Experimental Station for Vancouver Island. The humid atmosphere and relatively low temperatures during September and October do not favour seed production from the second growth of the season, and only light yields of inferior seed can be expected from such in the island districts. The first growth will, if left, produce abundantly an excellent quality of seed. Row seeding at distances of eighteen and twenty-four inches gives a more uniform ripening than the wider distances of thirty and thirty-six inches. The seed crop has been as heavy under the wider rows, but there is tendency toward an all too abundant second growth, and harvesting difficulties develop through the presence of new growth and tangled recumbent plants. With the narrower rows the plants stand up better and the harvest is made much easier. Ripe and open seed pods, and frequently bloom, may be on the same seed plant. The alfalfa crop does not ripen uniformly, and therefore must be harvested when indications are for the saving of the largest quantity of seed. When two-thirds of the seed pods have turned brown, it is advised to harvest the crop. This stage of ripeness is generally reached about August 15 on Vancouver Island. The harvesting is best done with a mower that is fitted with a bunching attachment. A binder or reaper can be used if the crop is standing erect. After cutting, the seed crop is put up in small cocks and covered with hay caps. Threshing is best done with a clover huller during dry weather. If no clover huller is at hand, the threshing can be done with an ordinary grain thresher, providing some adjustments are made and the material put through the machine several times.

#### ENEMIES.

All weeds that compete with the alfalfa plant for moisture and plant food are undesirable. By using well prepared, clean, weed-free soil for alfalfa growing and practising rational tillage, the weed enemy will not be serious unless dodder is introduced at the time of seeding. Dodder is a parasitic plant, capable of quickly destroying alfalfa or red clover. If small patches appear of this twining, leafless, threadlike parasite, cut and burn at once.

Leaf spot is a fungus which attacks the leaves, causing them to turn yellow and fall. If present, cut the crop and remove at once to other land for curing. The hay will be useful for feed, but it is desirable that the infection be removed from the area so that the next crop will not be affected.

#### CONCLUSION.

The demand for alfalfa hay and meal and the high prices paid for such are an indication of the value of this crop to island farmers and poultry keepers. The ability to grow alfalfa successfully has been fully demonstrated by the Experimental Station. Failures of the past have been caused by improper methods of seeding and neglect of the factors which make alfalfa a success, viz., a naturally well-drained soil, lime, inoculation, row seeding and tillage. An alfalfa field will last, if properly established and managed, for a period as long as a man is actively useful on a farm. Why plough and pick up stones every year? Get it to something permanent, a crop that will withstand the dry summers and give a good return. Try a few rows and gain a first-hand acquaintance with one of the best fodder plants that is not as extensively grown as its usefulness warrants on Vancouver and adjacent islands of the Pacific.