

The mistake of cultivating corn deep when conditions do not require it or make it advisable causes considerable loss in the crop, but not carrying the cultivation on long enough during the season, causes fully as much damage.

When the plants are too large to allow the use of a two or three-horse cultivator, the one horse implement should be used. This keeps the surface mellow and free from weeds and the corn has as favorable a show as possible during the most critical period of its growth and that is at silking and tasseling time and during the growth of the ear. On the other hand, where the cultivations are not continued by the use of the one-horse cultivator, usually the ground is hard and covered with weeds just when the most favorable conditions are required and the corn suffers.

This thorough cultivation leaves the land in good shape, as far as its moisture content and absence of weeds are concerned, and makes very good preparation for a seed bed for wheat the following spring. Some just disk in the wheat on the corn stubble, others plow it and take the risk of the corn stalks keeping the land too open, an objection we rather think more fancied than real, especially if the land is not plowed very deep and harrowed soon afterwards.

#### Observations in the Country.

There is in central southwestern Manitoba what is called park country, and it is in such a district that stock raising, dairying and such branches of farming flourish. The land is rolling, and well wooded and watered, and the soil is as a rule rich and easily worked. Out of this section cream is shipped in large quantities to central creameries and the milk used to feed hogs and calves. Because of the bush lands cattle are easily raised, and winter feeding is quite largely practised. Hog raising follows as a natural complement, and prices for hogs range about seventy five cents per hundred less than Winnipeg quotations.

It is in districts like this that mixed farming prevails, summer fallows become smaller and frequently vanish. Coarse grains, fodder crops, and cultivated grasses are plentifully grown. Near Wawanessa, Mr. Bunting farms some eleven hundred acres without summer fallowing. His system is to grow roots, potatoes and corn amounting to fifty or sixty acres, and to break up a piece sixty or seventy acres of tame hay sod in place of the fallow. He also gives barley land good cultivation in the spring and this sets back any weeds that may be starting.

Not all men in the park country have abandoned summer fallowing or taken up stock raising, but it is in this section of the country that diversified methods make greatest headway. Corn is considered a regular crop, cows are kept for the money they make, the farm is not equipped without hogs, and between the districts where such farming is followed and those where grain growing is practically the only occupation the great difference is the freedom from weeds in the former instance.

This question of weeds is going to be something desperate and that before long. We are getting good growing weather, which is bringing them up in quantities never dreamed of and never suspected, but here and there mustard has come out in head, wild oats are noticeable everywhere, sow thistle is making its appearance in numerous quarters, and other varieties of more or less noxiousness are showing the colors of the invader.

A noticeable result of weed increase is the more thorough work the summer fallows are receiving. In a few cases the fallows were plowed lightly last fall, which gave the weed seeds an early start this spring and already the first growth has been turned under and destroyed and a new crop started. Others got on their fallows before seeding with discs, plows and cultivator and so got weed seeds started. But those who left the fallow alone until after seeding, while most of them are plowing carefully, are turning down to the bottom of the furrow weed seeds that may never germinate until the field is plowed again. In the fight with weeds the first object should be to get the seeds on the ground after harvest started to grow, if not in the fall then the first thing in the spring. Once started to grow they can easily be killed when they are young and tender and another crop started. Always keep the seeds near the surface. If buried deep they simply lie preserved below the line of decay until they are brought to the surface again where they can grow.

Everywhere there is an increasing intelligence displayed on the subject of weeds, cultivation, cropping, stock raising and marketing. The country is passing from the simple grain growing stage to that of more complex systems. We are reaching the stage where the exercise of intelligence and the application of brain power counts for greater success. It's a good thing for those districts that have reached that condition, it will be better when all have.

#### Competition in Wheat Growing.

Some of the agricultural societies are taking great interest in the wheat fields competition initiated by the Seed Division of the Department of Agriculture. The minimum plot limit is ten acres.

#### Cut-Worms in the Garden.

The following is given as a good formula with which to combat cut-worms:

Mix one bushel of bran, one pound of Paris green, one gallon of sorghum syrup using just enough water for a stiff dough. Drop a spoonful along the rows every foot where cut-worms abound. Such a prescription is poisonous and would be equally fatal to chickens or pigs, if placed on ground where they are liable to run. Where there is danger of stock eating poisoned bran, freshly cut clover may be used, by dipping it into water with Paris green added at the rate of a teaspoonful to a gallon. A wrapping of good stout paper about the plants will alone save the largest share of them; many people use old tomato cans for this purpose. The plants themselves may also be sprayed with Paris green. It is said that ground thoroughly plowed in late fall is seldom infested with cut-worms, although the experiences as related this spring do not agree on this point.

#### Wants Some Information re Clover Seed Harvesting, etc.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

The prospects for growing clover as a rotation crop in Manitoba are very encouraging, with the experience of the light covering of snow of last winter there is I think not so great danger of freezing out, with a little care in providing protection, in leaving a good high stubble if sown with a grain crop and a light covering of evenly

spread manure, six or eight loads per acre; but to make a complete success, stock should be kept from it in fall and spring, especially horses, as when once they find it they will return to it every opportunity and eat it right into the ground. Our patch seeded last year is looking healthy and vigorous and just coming into bloom. This spring's seed has made a good start, a trial patch of alfalfa is also looking well.

I should be glad to hear through the ADVOCATE the method of saving the seed from clover, the proper stage for cutting, harvesting, threshing, etc.

RICHARD STOREY.

#### An Eastern Miller on the Wheat Grades.

J. D. Flavelle, of Lindsay, at Ottawa, told the agricultural committee that he thought the grain growers of the west had made out a good case for the dropping of the word "plump" in the specifications of No. 1 hard wheat in the inspection act. Wheat without the plump appearance might produce slightly less flour than the plump wheat would, but would give flour of a greater strength. The millers were satisfied to have the word dropped. The millers thought the grading of extra No. 1 hard might well be discontinued. The grain inspection act had fixed the standard and had given Canadian wheat the reputation throughout the world of being the best flour wheat raised. Because little No. 1 hard had been produced during the last two or three years was no reason for lowering the grades and hurting the reputation of Canadian wheat. He thought instead more attention should be given to seed and planting to produce No. 1 hard. Of more importance still was the necessity of making the law compelling the western elevators to buy wheat as No. 1 hard when it was offered them instead of pleading they had no room for it, and making the farmers accept No. 1 northern prices or take their No. 1 hard wheat back home. He thought this was done wilfully by the elevator people, who desired to get the high grade wheat below the market price for the purpose of mixing and grading up other wheat. The smaller Ontario millers wanted this practice corrected. It prevented them getting No. 1 hard wheat. They wanted the best wheat they could get. They ground almost all the hardest western wheat they could obtain. There was little mixing by them. Ontario winter wheat was only bought for export. Ogilvie and the Lake of the Woods could make their own grades in the elevators they owned in the west. The smaller millers wanted to be able to get as high grade wheat from the general elevator system as the big mills could from their private elevators.

[As all wheat coming through Winnipeg is officially graded it would seem that Mr. Flavelle's statements back up those of President McQuaig, who affirms that mixing is being done.]

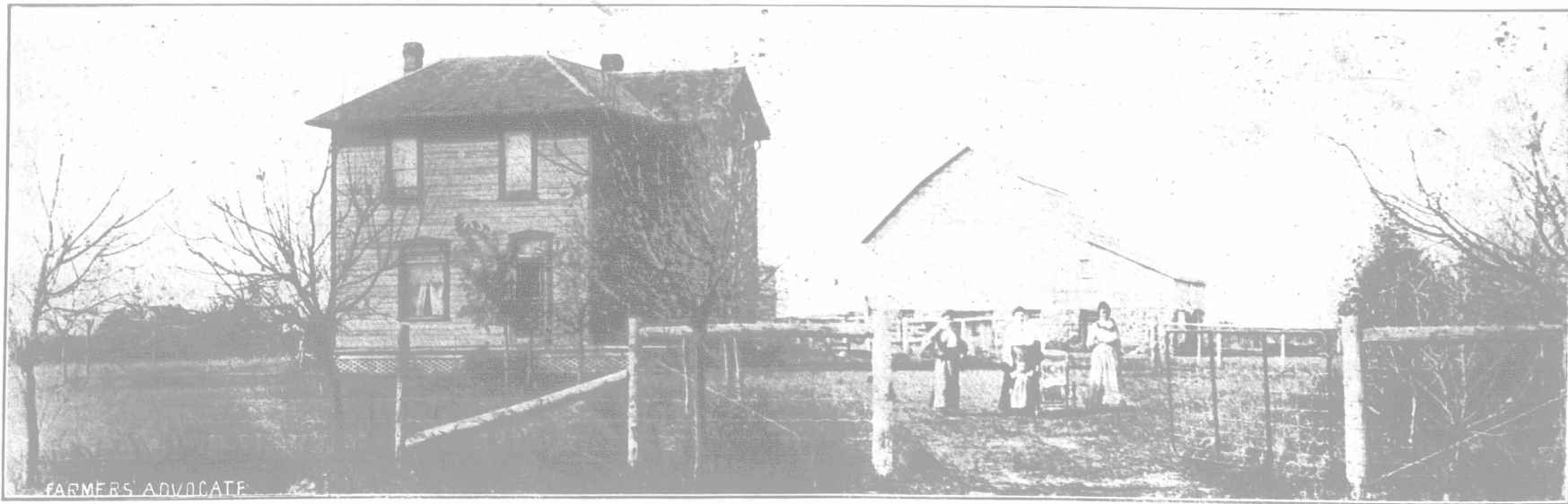
#### MR. FLAVELLE'S WARNING.

Mr. Flavelle said his mill has ground 20,000 bushels, two-fifths of all the new Alberta winter wheat inspected last year. It was fine wheat, heavy and strong, full, thin skinned and abundant in gluten. He had paid for it a cent a bushel above the market price of No. 1 northern. It was a hard wheat. He warned the Alberta people that they had to continue to plant the "Turkey red" winter wheat in order to produce hard winter wheat. If they planted soft wheat that is what they would reap. The land would not change the variety.

Lincoln mutton does not make so much per lb. as Shrop. mutton, nor does Lincoln wool make the same as Shrop. wool.

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Jerseys are not cattle on account of which the average farmer can work up any enthusiasm. The profit when the butcher's day comes is nil.



BUILDINGS ON MR. ED. WIGHT'S FARM, NAPINKA, MAN.