

Manitoba Seed Growers' Convention

Co-operative Organization for Handling Seed may be formed.

The Manitoba branch of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association met in Winnipeg on Tuesday, February 19. A committee was appointed to investigate the feasibility of organizing a Co-operative Association for the purpose of cleaning and marketing good seed. Several addresses on the question of good seed were given, and the discussion evoked indicated that the farmers of the province are alive to the necessity of sowing only seed of good quality if they are to meet the demand for greater production that is being pressed upon them. Donald McVicar of Portage la Prairie was elected president. Among the speakers were some of the Manitoba farmers who won laurels last fall at the Soil Products Exposition in Peoria. L. H. Newman, secretary of the C.S.G.A. was present and addressed the convention.

The prospect of seed oats production in north-western Manitoba was discussed by M. P. Mountain, of Solagirth, Man., the winner of the world's championship for oats at Peoria. Mr. Mountain enumerated the advantages of the north-western of Manitoba for producing oats. These included the deep black loam, with clay subsoil, a high altitude, giving cool nights ensuring good filling and bluffs of timber scattered over the district to ensure moisture. His average yield of oats for 25 years had been 80 bushels to the acre, until last year when it dropped to 40, owing to the dry weather. He had never had occasion to treat his oats for smut. Mr. Mountain strongly advocated the use of the drag harrow in producing a suitable seed bed and as a means of keeping down the weeds. Last year he marketed six cars of seed oats.

J. C. Noble of Brandon, one of the C.S.G.A. seed inspectors, strongly advocated the production of registered seed right on the farm where it would be used. The best place to clean and inspect registered seed was also on the farm, and failing this is a seed centre where proper cleaning machinery could be installed. He believed that an inspector should be present, if possible, when the seed was being cleaned.

Mr. McVicar, the newly elected president, stated his belief that the present regulations in regard to registered seed were in some instances better suited to small farms than to the large farms such as many of those in the West. There should, he said, be some means of certifying registered grain in bins so as to permit large growers of registered seed to fill orders when the weather and labor conditions were most favorable. He recited his own experience with an order for 200 bushels to be put in small sacks, which it would be difficult for him to set out for the inspector to certify at one visit. He strongly advocated the cleaning of market grain on the farm so as to reserve the screenings for feeding purposes.

Co-operative Organization Advocated

Secretary Newman of the C.S.G.A. spoke on Why all Good Seed Growers should be Members of the C.S.G.A. The advantages of membership he stated were greater recognition for the work done; more publicity for sale of seed and the opportunity to profit by the failures and successes of the members. He referred to the establishment of a co-operative organization for the handling of good seed in Quebec, and which had proved a great success. Seed of all kinds was shipped from all over the province, and much of it was bought at the central plant, where a complete set of cleaning machinery had been installed. A man could, if he wished, have his seed cleaned and returned to him or sold as his particular seed.

As the result of the discussion following Mr. Newman's address a committee was appointed to investigate the feasibility of such an organization for Manitoba.

Spring rye as a cleaning crop and also as a grain crop was strongly advocated for certain districts by Thomas Rumbal of Miami. For some sections of the province he believed that rye possessed possibilities greater than those of any other cereal. When sown

the middle of June, leaving time to summerfallow the land that season. It would stand more hardship than other cereal and would ripen two weeks ahead of barley. He advised one and three-



Wheat from North-Western Division at Manitoba Soil Products Exhibition

would grow in the spring when the weather was too cold for almost any other crop to make progress. It would make ample growth to make a good crop of hay, which could be cut about

quarter bushels of seed per acre for hay, and one and one-half bushels for a grain crop.

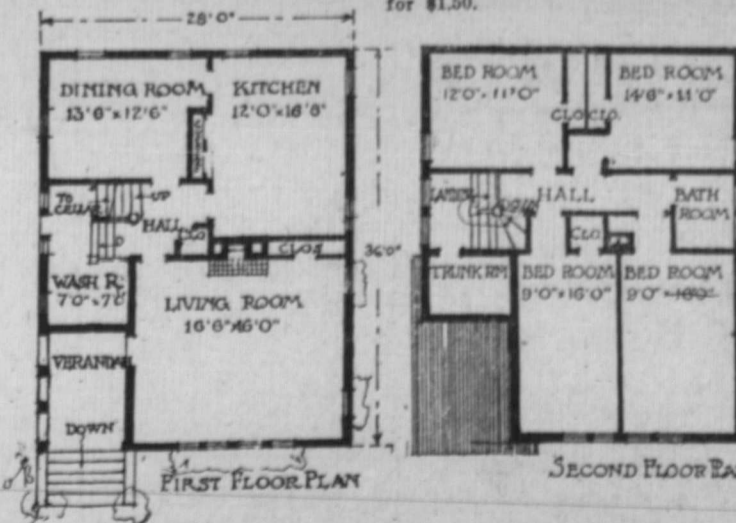
Professor Bedford recommended winter rye strongly for seeding of summer-



A PRACTICAL FARM HOUSE

The architect, in designing Guide House No. 9, desired to avoid any waste space in halls. There are people, of course, who have a passion for large halls, but, in the country, where so many months are winter, a large hall cannot very well be used as a sitting room, and must really be regarded as unnecessary. In this house there is no waste space; coming in at the side door every room is accessible from the small hall. Off this is the entrance to the cellar, where roots can be stored and ashes carried out without disturbing the rest of the house. Note the small hall and the large bedrooms upstairs and consider how well they are proportioned. The outside measurements

are 28 ft. x 36 ft. The cellar walls are of concrete, but stone could be used if available. This would mean an 18 inch wall instead of a 10 inch. The walls of the house are lined with shiplap, which is covered with building paper nailed down with strappings, on which the lath is nailed. Externally the walls are sheathed with shiplap, a double layer of building paper and "novelty" siding. The roof may be shingle, metal or asbestos. Stucco may be used in place of siding, and wall board may be substituted for plaster in the interior. Complete working drawings as well as a bill of material for Guide House Plan No. 9 can be obtained from Farm Buildings Department, Grain Growers' Guide, Winnipeg, for \$1.50.



fallow where there was sow thistle. When sown before the middle of August it served the purpose of preventing the sow thistle from getting headway, while the harvest was going on.

Elite Seed Production

The supply of Elite stock seed was discussed by W. T. C. Wiener, the cerealist at the college. After describing the various classes of seed from the C.S.G.A. standpoint Mr. Wiener stated that as many people did not attempt to produce registered seed on account of the time and trouble necessary for the work, the college was considering the production of Elite seed on part of their farm. This would be distributed at a fair price and the move would depend on the attitude of the seed growers themselves. Mr. Newman said that he would favor the growing of Elite seed for foundation stock but preferred to have the C.S.G.A. members do their own plot selection. The value of the experience was of estimable value to the members. W. C. McKillop suggested that the college might come in competition with growers of registered seed who would not produce to the same advantage. He advocated seed centres and community growing.

Miss E. Cora Hind spoke on some experiences of inspecting crops in the West and made a strong plea for wheat being seeded on well cultivated land even at the expense of acreage. Professor Bedford explained the bad effects of sowing flax on spring stubble and spoke on the need of clean seed. C. F. Chipman, of The Guide, outlined The Guide's plan of seed distribution and gave a current account of the methods by which Seager Wheeler had produced Red Bobs wheat. He also discussed briefly the success of The Guide Seed Fair.

Samuel Larcombe of Birtle gave an interesting account of how he grew the wheat that won the world's championship at Peoria last year. He had gone into the business of growing champion wheat because some of his friends had declared that while he could beat them at vegetable growing, they could beat him growing wheat. He thought therefore that he would show them what he could do. He spoke briefly in favor of Red Fife.

The Guest From Ontario

The evening session was held in conjunction with the agricultural societies convention. J. Lockie Wilson, superintendent of agricultural societies for Ontario outlined the rapid development of the standing grain competitions in that province. The work had been started 10 years ago and \$1,000 had been granted by the department for prizes. In 1917, \$25,500 was distributed in prizes and 7,000 fields were judged. The competition had emphasized the superiority of Marquis wheat for Ontario growing. In order to encourage the production of wheat this year the first prize for the standing field of spring wheat in each agricultural society had been raised from \$50 to \$75. The province had been divided into three districts. Northern Ontario, and Eastern and Western Ontario. In each of these districts diplomas were granted. In order to have the uniformity of judging, short courses were held each year at Ottawa and Guelph in which plots were judged, the majority of those present ruling as to the standards of excellence. This has resulted in fixing the standards and in uniform judging. The products of the prize fields were shown at the leading fairs, prize-winning exhibits being auctioned from each year to prevent their being shown over again. The contest has had a wonderful effect in teaching farmers how to prepare exhibits so as to display them to the best advantage.

J. H. Evans, deputy minister of agriculture in discussing the relation of the Manitoba farmer to the war, took strong grounds on the matter of taking experienced farm help from the soil. This he contended, should not be done. In Europe they were taking men from the trenches and putting them to work in the fields where they could not produce one-tenth as much as the men could under conditions that prevailed in Western Canada. There was a great demand for cereals and in the production of cereals the Western farmer was more competent than any other in the world.

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