

cultivation. Part of it will follow a hoed crop (corn and roots), and will have practically the same cultivation, with the exception that the cultivator will be used only once. We sow two bushels of oats per acre. With the wheat and oats we will sow ten (10) pounds of red clover seed per acre, or twenty (20) pounds of alfalfa per acre.

Spring wheat has been a failure for a number of years until the last year or two. Wild goose gives very good results, and as the price has been equal to or a few cents above fall wheat, considerable will be sown this spring. The Siberian oat seems to be the favorite, as also the Golden Vine and the Prussian Blue pea. The "bug" is prevalent, but not so popular. In corn, the Leaming and Early Compton take the lead; in potatoes, the Red Elephant, Brown's Prolific, and Carmen's No. 2. The Mammoth Long Red mangel has been popular, but with some farmers is giving place to the Danish Improved Sugar Beet. The frost killed our Japanese millet last year, but we intend giving it another trial this year.

F. C. ELFORD.

Huron Co., Ont.

Farm Practices and Varieties of Crops, Etc., in Quebec.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—As to various modes in farming in Sherbrooke Co., Que., I would say in renewing meadows I seed down to oats, using clover as much as possible, fertilized with hardwood ashes, by which I apply potash and phosphoric acid, and the clover secures the nitrogen. Corn and bran can be more cheaply bought in this section than produced.

As to mixed farming, men differ so much that, as in business, one is fitted for mixed farming, while another would do better with a few standard specialties; but beware of novelties. Where any one product, such as mushrooms, strawberries, asparagus, grapes, etc., begins to show a profit, there will be 20 rush in where one might have made a fair living. Specialties should be some such choice as barley, clovers, and potatoes; dairying and pork; bees, fruit, and hay; poultry and market gardening, etc., etc; beef-raising, dairying, hog-raising, together with poultry, sheep, and some fruit, is not too much mixed for the family having time and taste to make the most of all the separate items, having each and all of the very best. The most promising special branch that I know of is butter, either private dairying, where the conditions are all favorable, or patronizing a butter factory, and keeping in connection with buttermaking as many calves, pigs and poultry as the skimmed milk will profitably allow of.

Oats form my main grain crop, as I wish to get the hay meadows renewed as soon as possible. Sod is plowed early in the autumn and spring-toothed. Disk and Acme harrows, besides the common steel-toothed iron harrow, are used to mellow the ground and kill weed seeds. We sow four bushels of oats to the acre, finished with a heavy land roller.

The favorite grains, etc., here seem to be the American Banner oats; barley, 2-rowed Chevalier; peas, Golden Vine and Prince Albert; spring wheat, White Russian, White Fife and Red Fife in the order named; corn, for cob, Early Canada Yellow, and Large Yellow Flint; for silo, Thoroughbred White Flint and Evergreen Red Cob, in alternate rows with Compton's Early. Potatoes—Early Rose still holds its own, and Hebrons have given place to it. Carrots—White Intermediate have taken the place of White Belgian. I prefer Yellow Danvers for either table or stock. Turnips (swedes)—Lang's Purple-top and Champion. Mangels—Yellow Globe. While I like trying new varieties from time to time, I find that practically there is not one in ten years that is an improvement on those known as standard sorts.

W. A. HALE.

Sherbrooke Co., Quebec.

A Fine Seed-bed Indispensable.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—We usually have the ground plowed in the fall for the spring grain crops, and in the spring work up with the cultivator, Acme and disk harrows. We find it pays to take time to prepare a very fine seed-bed. While the amount of vegetable matter in the soil largely determines the degree of moisture the soil will retain, thorough cultivation and a very fine seed-bed will go a long way toward obtaining the desired end. If there is one grain crop more than another that it pays to put special work on it is the pea crop.

We do not depend altogether on barnyard manure to keep up the supply of humus in the soil, but supplement largely with clover.

Very little spring wheat is grown in this district. The best oats are White Siberian, American Banner, Egyptian, and Joannette. Very few carrots and mangels grown; but in turnips, Royal Norfolk Purple-top, Hall's Westbury, Carter's Imperial, and Sutton's Champion are largely grown. With regard to potatoes, "Many people have many minds." Not many are grown on a large scale, but mostly for home use. Nearly all the standard varieties are grown. The Elephant, Empire State, Hebron, Rural New Yorker No. 2, are most largely grown.

Waterloo Co. (South), Ont. JOHN TAYLOR, JR.

Aim to Get the Grain in Early.

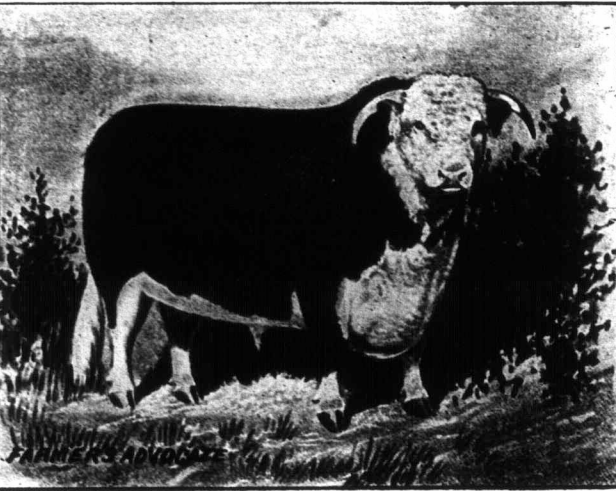
To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I aim to get my land fall-plowed, if possible, for spring grain, and then work with cultivators and harrows until we have a good seed-bed. Fall-plowed ground seems to retain moisture better than land plowed in spring; besides, we can get a crop sown earlier, which is of the greatest importance, as early-sown spring grain gives almost always the best crop. We always roll our spring grain after it comes up about an inch high. We never roll before it comes up, unless it is a very dry season, with poor prospects of rain soon.

We endeavor to keep up the supply of humus in the soil by making and saving all the manure possible, by feeding all the coarse grain grown on the farm, as well as hay and a large crop of corn, and also by growing clover and other green crops to plow down.

The varieties of oats that give the best general satisfaction are the Black Tartarian and White Siberian and Banner. Peas were a general failure here last year. The Prussian Blue and Golden Vine and Mummy are the favorites. What little barley is grown is the six-rowed. Some farmers are going to try the beardless this spring. All the earlier-ripening varieties of corn do well in this district. The favorite varieties for husking are Compton's Early for yellow and Smut Nose for white. Both kinds are almost sure to give a good crop of hard corn with fair cultivation. For ensilage the Improved Leaming and Butler and White Cap are the best, as they will all mature here in an ordinary season.

For potatoes it is difficult to say which variety is best, but many farmers are still growing the White Elephant and Beauty of Hebron with good results. The Rural New Yorker is also doing well here. For an early kind I am going to plant a variety called Rose f Erin, which has done remarkably well for one of my neighbors. For turnips, Westbury seems to be a universal favorite. They are nice-shaped and a good keeper and a good



HEREFORD BULL, SIR BREDWELL.

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cropper. For mangels, the Giant Yellow Intermediate is a splendid variety, as the quality is much superior to the Long Red varieties, and it is nearly as heavy a cropper. One of our best growers has given up the Long Red in favor of the Yellow Intermediate. The variety of carrots usually grown is the Short White. They are more easily harvested than the long kinds, but are no better in any other particular.

R. S. STEVENSON.

Brant Co., Ont.

Clover Everything That Admits of Clovering.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—We have always made it a rule to sell little or no hay, preferring to turn it into beef, milk, mutton, or other finished products, thereby increasing its market value and the fertility of our farm at the same time; and as timothy hay would be of little value for our purpose, and is considered hard on the soil, we sow but little of it, and that little to fill in should the clover be heaved out.

But clover we consider our mainstay. We simply clover everything that admits of clovering—fall wheat, barley, oats, etc. That which we do not keep for hay furnishes excellent fall pasture or material for green manuring. Our clover mixture for fall wheat is 6 lbs. red clover, 1½ lbs. Alsike, and 2 lbs. timothy. The latter is put on in the fall at the time of seeding wheat, and the balance of the mixture is applied early in the spring with a hand seeder.

Although red clover forms the bulk of the mixture, we find the Alsike a great aid in producing a strong stand, as it does not heave, thickens up the bottom, thereby increasing the yield, and makes a hay of fine quality, much relished by all farm stock.

The spring grain mixture of clover is 6 lbs. red, 1½ lbs. Alsike, and 4 lbs. lucerne clover, the only difference being the substitution of lucerne for timothy, for the reason that the former furnishes, on our land, excellent pasture the first season. This is applied with the clover seed attachment on our grain drill, dropping the seed behind the tubes. If

the land be dry enough we immediately roll it, which covers the seed the required depth and completes the job. If we consider it too wet and liable to bake we harrow at once and roll the grain when four or five inches high, but at one period or the other we use the roller, as we find it aids in preserving the moisture so necessary to the rapid growth of both grain and clover.

Our manner of sowing lucerne clover is similar to the above, always using barley as the nurse crop, which our experience, and that of our neighbors, has proved to give the best results. We seed at the rate of 12 lbs. per acre, throwing in a dash of red and Alsike clover to thicken up the first crop. The strong, rapid growth of the lucerne will gradually crowd the other clovers out, and for this same reason it is one of the cheapest and most effective thistle exterminators yet discovered. We are positive that there is not a field in which a good catch of it can be secured that cannot be cleared of thistles in two years by cutting the lucerne for hay as often as it grows large enough. Be sure and sow nothing but pure seed! Neglect in this particular has resulted in two of our neighbors having their farms infested with two of the most obnoxious weeds ever introduced into this section. We make it a point to grow our own seed when possible, or else buy from someone with a clean farm.

The Elephant potato, which was once the favorite, seems losing vitality, and is giving way to more recently introduced varieties, as the R. New Yorker No. 2 and Empire State. The Early Ohio still holds its own against all newcomers.

On account of the bugs, very few peas are grown, and perhaps less spring wheat than peas. Large quantities of oats are grown, the leading varieties being Black Tartarian, Joannette, and White Siberian. This being a heavy corn-producing district, a large number of different varieties are grown. Some prefer the small eight-rowed yellow, others the various flints, but the majority grow white or yellow dents. Personally we prefer the large white dent, which yields us an average of 125 bushels of corn (ears) and any amount of good fodder per acre. There are scarcely any roots grown here, only a few Imp. Short White carrots and Danish sugar beets.

W. A. MCGEACHY.

Kent County, Ont.

Lessons from the Central Experimental Farm.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I beg to give the following experience with grasses, clovers, etc., at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. Timothy has given the best results when pasturing has not been considered. Orchard grass will give a good yield, is very early, and will make a better after-grass than timothy, especially on low land. I would not advise sowing either timothy or orchard grass alone. For light and poor soils sow timothy 12 lbs., common red clover 8 lbs. per acre, or orchard grass 14 lbs., with alsike clover 6 lbs. per acre. On heavy soil or soil in good condition 2 lbs. less of each may be used, and will yield good results. For wet land red-top is a very valuable grass, making a good thick sward, and providing a moderate crop of fine hay relished by all stock. It does well mixed with timothy and clover, using 8 lbs. timothy to 3 lbs. red-top and 4 lbs. alsike clover. The Awless Bromes grass, which has given such satisfaction in the West, has not as yet been grown to any large extent in the Eastern Provinces. It is, however, a grass of great promise.

You may sow grass seed successfully with wheat, rye, barley, and oats, best in the order named. Choose the varieties of grain that will not lodge and smother the small seed. We have never failed to get a catch of grass or clover. There are three points to bear in mind: (1st) Sow enough seed, (2nd) in the right way, (3rd) and at the right time.

Clovers.—The common red, 10 lbs. per acre, appears as yet to be the best all-round clover. It is best for hay, good for mixtures, for pasture, and very valuable as a fertilizer. Alsike, 6 lbs. per acre, comes next, and is sometimes more suitable on very heavy or moist land. I would strongly advise sowing clover with every acre of wheat, rye, barley, and oats that is sown on the farm for a few years. If it is not required for meadow or pasture, it is very valuable as a fertilizer to be plowed under either in the first autumn after sowing or in the following spring. The results as a fertilizer will surprise you.

The advantages of sowing clover with all grain crops are: In the first year weeds are crowded out, and also a considerable amount of fine pasture is available in the autumn if required. The strongest argument, however, in favor of sowing clover is the great increase in the yield of grain crops grown on land where clover has been plowed in.

When growing clover for hog pasture, sow the following mixture: Common red 4 lbs., alsike 2 lbs., white Dutch 1 lb., alfalfa 8 lbs. per acre. Sow this mixture alone, and as early in the spring as you can work the soil to advantage, thus securing the early growth and moisture.

If sowing the small seeds alone by hand, and the soil is dry, have one team on the harrow a few yards ahead of you and a second team on the roller as close as he can get behind you. If only one team be at your command, sow an acre or so, then change and roll. If sowing with the attachment on the grain drill, which is an excellent way, have the seed drop behind the hoes, where the small seeds will come in contact with the moist earth at a depth of