

SYNOPSIS OF CANADIAN NORTH-  
WEST LAND REGULATIONS

Any person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over 15 years old, may homestead a quarter section of available Dominion land in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta. The applicant must appear in person at the Dominion Lands Agency, or sub-agency, for the District Entry by proxy may be made at any agency, on certain conditions, by father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of intending homesteader.

Duties—Six months residence upon and cultivation of the land in each of three years. A homesteader may live within nine miles of his homestead on a farm of at least 80 acres solely owned and occupied by him or by his father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister.

In certain districts, a homesteader in good standing may pre-empt a quarter section alongside his homestead. Price \$3 per acre. Duties—Must reside upon the homestead or pre-emption six months in each of six years from date of homestead entry (including the time required to earn homestead patent) and cultivate fifty acres extra.

A homesteader who has exhausted his homestead right and cannot obtain a pre-emption may enter for purchased homestead in certain districts. Price \$300 per acre. Duties—Must reside six months in each of three years, cultivate fifty acres and erect a house worth \$300.

W. W. CORT  
Deputy of the Minister of the Interior  
N.W.—Unauthorized publication of this  
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## FARM MANAGEMENT

## Seeding Alfalfa

Can alfalfa be grown on clay land with a four to six inch loam? How should the seeding commence and how should it be done?—D. McE. Essex Co., Ont.

Alfalfa can be grown successfully on clay land with four to six inches of loam on the surface provided the soil is free from dead water to a depth of three feet. The land should be clean and rich. Alfalfa will succeed best following a crop of roots or corn that was manured well and kept clean.

Sow 20 pounds of good alfalfa seed with a nurse crop of three pecks of barley to the acre. This should be sown after the ground is dry and warm. Harvest the barley for the grain crop and keep all stock off the young alfalfa so as to have a heavy covering of stubble and leaves on the ground to go into the winter with.—H. Glendinning.

## Alfalfa and Reciprocity

A correspondent from Nova Scotia (who, by the way, lives in the city) warns Farm and Dairy that if we get reciprocity our farmers will have to give up raising hogs, as we will not be able to compete with the southern states, where they grow alfalfa, which, he understands, is one of the best and cheapest of hog feeds.

Our correspondent is quite right. Alfalfa is one of the best and cheap-

est of hog feeds. His idea as to the effect that reciprocity will have on the price of hogs is altogether wrong. We in Canada can grow alfalfa quite as well as can the farmers of the United States, as has been proved by the experience of farmers in various parts of Ontario and other provinces of Canada.

## Manuring for Milk

Experiments conducted at the Midland Agricultural College in England show that commercial fertilizer—tash—can be profitably applied to as well as can the farmers of the pasture lands. In these experiments a pasture field was divided into two parts. One thousand pounds of lime per acre was applied to both plots. To one plot 40 lbs. superphosphate and 150 lbs. sulphate of potash were applied. This second plot sustained three cows during the summer, while the unfertilized plot kept but two. The three cows gave a total of 10,233 lbs. of milk and the two cows 6,688 lbs., or a difference in favor of the fertilized plot of 3,545 lbs., which works out to 86 gallons an acre.

Valuing the milk at 12c. a gallon, the increased milk yield would more than pay for the cost of fertilizers at the end of the second year. The fertilized plot will in all probability continue to give better results than the unfertilized for several years to come, thus increasing the returns from the application of fertilizer.

## Farm Notes about Ontario

Mr. T. G. Raynor of the Seed Division, Ottawa, who in recent weeks has been well over Ontario, called on the editors of Farm and Dairy on Saturday, April 8 and gave us the benefit of his observations in the following points in regard to crops and farm conditions.

The fall wheat is much injured, the hard freezing weather of a week ago having made the outcome of the wheat crop exceptionally doubtful. Farmers state that where the fall wheat had a good top, it will come through all right but where there is not much top there is little hope for it.

CONTRAST IN WEATHER CONDITIONS  
The marked contrast between weather conditions in the southwestern part of Ontario and the more northern and easterly sections was evidenced when Mr. Raynor told of the farmers three weeks ago in Essex county having been at their plowing. Even yet in other parts of the province there is plenty of snow and ice in the roads, fence corners and protected places.

The maple syrup yield has been extraordinarily light as yet. In western Ontario the principal early run was secured about the middle of March. The freeze-up of a couple of weeks ago closed operations and there has been but very little sap since. In many parts of eastern Ontario the farmers have not yet tapped.

## PLENTY OF FODDER

The live stock throughout the country looks well. It has come through the winter in good shape; there seems to be plenty of fodder in the country. Horses are very high in price and are in great demand and sell readily at fancy prices.

In regard to the seed trade much of what Mr. Raynor had to say is placed before Farm and Dairy readers elsewhere in this issue. Mr. Raynor reports a great deal of home-grown clover all over the province and in Eastern Ontario. Some farmers last year met with splendid success and obtained abnormal yields, even though they threshed the seed with the ordinary grain separator. Some eastern Ontario farmers claim to have gotten eight bushels of clover seed to the acre.

## RED CLOVER SEED TRADE

Local dealers are not stocking up heavily with red clover. They claim

that there is much seed in the hands of the farmers who are selling it to one another. This state of affairs would seem to be of advantage to farmers, but to those acquainted with actual conditions it is apparent that it will be the cause of much loss-grade seed being sown this year, which will not lessen the buckhorn, ragweed and other familiar weed evils.

Timothy is exceptionally high in price and farmers are buying but little of it. This is in all probability just as well since farmers will instead grow clover, which will be better for the land and indirectly better for their incomes.

## Sowing Alfalfa

Under heading of "Spring Seeding of Alfalfa," Wallace's Farmer of March 30 advises that alfalfa may be sown on winter wheat or winter rye, when the latter is two or three inches high, and then give the land a thorough harrowing. We wonder if Brother Wallace ever tried this way of seeding alfalfa. He did one spring of several years ago and lost the growth of \$60 worth of alfalfa seed, which he had the finest rye crop we ever raised.

We know of no safer way to sow alfalfa than to prepare a very thorough seed bed for it, as good as the best. The ground can be harrowed over once or twice a week for three to four weeks in the spring before sowing, which will conserve the moisture in the soil. Then sow 30 lbs. of good alfalfa seed to the acre and three pecks of barley.

If no alfalfa has ever been raised before on the land, sprinkle 500 lbs. to the acre of old alfalfa seed or seed taken from a sweet clover bed by the side of the road. This soil should be kept in the dark till time for sowing. It will inoculate the land with the right bacteria. A good additional advantage would be to spread two to three tons of ground limestone to the acre as the last thing after sowing. As a rule alfalfa will do better on land plowed in the fall rather than in the spring for the reason that the fall plowed land has had time to get well settled and so contains more moisture for the fresh seed.—"Hoard's Dairyman."

## Land for Alfalfa. Soil Analysis

I have five acres of light, cool land that I am thinking of sowing to alfalfa. Have taken off a crop of fall rye followed by buckwheat with a heavy coating of stable manure for the corn crop last season. Would land so treated give a good crop of alfalfa? Would it be of any advantage to have a sample of this land analyzed?—J. B. Durham Co., Ont.

Land such as described that is light in character and dry is good soil for alfalfa. The main requisite for alfalfa is that the roots are in a available form and the soil was fertile enough to grow a good crop of corn last year it will probably be fertile enough to seed down to alfalfa. If you have the manure a light application applied with the manure spreader would be valuable this spring in giving the crop a good start.

Soil analyses are of doubtful value in cases where the land has previously produced good crops. Were soil absolutely impoverished of any crop, an analysis of the fertilizing ingredients only would detect this. Many impoverished soils, however, have plenty of all the fertilizing ingredients only they are not in an available form and so far our chemists have not found a reliable method of distinguishing by chemical analysis between available and non-available plant food. The best method of determining soil fertility are most needed is by experimenting with small plots of fertilizers in various mixtures.

Early planted potatoes are freer from rot and mature better than those planted later.—J. W. Clark, Brant Co., Ont.

## The Galt Shingle

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