Farm Management

Europe's Labor—Our Machinery

By Henry G. Bell, B.S.A.

THE growing of wheat produces much more highly important food for each hour of man-labor put upon it, than do either potatoes or corn. When wheat yields 30 bushels to the acre, reliable figures show that one hour of man-labor produces one and two-third bushels of wheat. At prevailing yields, one hour of man-labor on potatoes produces about a bushel of that crop, while on corn, one hour of man-labor produces about one and one-quarter bushels. It is obviously a matter of labor economy to grow wheat.

By giving proper attention to all the factors which enter into successful wheat growing, much larger yields can be produced. This has been established, times without number, by efficient wheat growers of Europe. The average man is disposed to say that Europe had until lately an abundance of cheap labor, which fact in itself accounts for the 30 bushels of wheat per acre which Great Britain harvests, as compared with the 18 to 20 bushels per acre which are gathered in Canada. Cheap labor has its counterpart in our highly efficient farm machinery. By adding a horse to the team and by using wider plows, wider harrows, disks, binders, etc., it is possible to reduce the man-labor required in raising wheat from 50 to 75 per cent. This is America's answer to European abundant and cheap labor.

Fertilizer Futurities

THE crop fertilized never consumes all the plant food given. The soil always and invariably holds part back for future crops, as every observing farmer knows who has seen the spots of larger growth in the small grains or grasses which have followed a hill-fertilized crop of corn.

Fertility tests conducted at the Ohio Experiment Station illustrate this point. For instance, in the five-year rotation on the home farm at Wooster one plot is fertilized only on the wheat crop, and the wheat has given a 20-year average increase for the treatment of 13.72 bushels per acre. The clover following the wheat has been increased by 588 pounds, the timothy following the clover by 210 pounds, the corn following the timothy by 7.44 bushels, and the oats following the corn by 3.64 bushels. In other words, 60 per cent of the value of the total increase has been found in the crop receiving the fertilizer, and 40 per cent in the four crops which ate at the second, third, fourth and fifth tables.

A Farmer Tries Seed Production

EVER since August, 1914, when the world went to war and America was deprived of its sources of seed supply, seed production as a native industry has been continually advocated. Mr. Moore, a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College, who lives at Norwich, in Oxford county, has taken this propaganda so seriously that this year he is producing seed in wholesale quantities. He has ten acres in radish, three-quarters of an acre in Giant White mangels, one acre of Detroit Red beets, one acre Golden Bantam corn, two acres garden peas, seven acres wax beans, besides a lot of onions, carrots and parsnips.

"This is the fifth year since I first started in seed production," said Mr. Moore to an editor of Farm and Dairy, who stopped for a chat with him in his radish field. "The first year I had only crop enough to get some stock and see what it looked like. Since then the acreage has increased each year and now I really feel that I am started in the business."

Mr. Moore is endeavoring to make his Canadian grown seed a little better than the best imported seed. He grows all of his own stock and carefully selects the best. For instance, in the production of mangel seed, he selects the very best specimens from his mangel field and from these large selected roots he grows the seed with which to produce his stecklings. In table corn he follows the ear selection method of corn improvement. So far, Mr. Moore's chief difficulty has been to establish a satisfactory outlet for his garden seeds, but this year he will produce enough seeds to give more attention to the marketing end of the enterprise.

Liming for Clover

IN bulletin No. 213 of the Indiana Experiment Station, the following summary is made concerning the value of lime for growing clover:

Clover will not thrive on acid soils.

Liming is the only practical means of correcting soil acidity.

Three-fourths of the soils of Indiana are acid and in need of liming.

About one-fourth of our soils is so very acid that clover fails almost every time it is sown.

About one-half of our soils is of slight to medium acidity and clover will fail whenever the weather conditions are at all unfavorable.

Only about one-fourth of the soils of Indiana is well enough supplied with lime to enable clover to develop properly.

A liberal application of pulverized limestone or some other form of lime is needed to insure a clover crop on any acid soil.

Wherever clover fails to thrive, the soil should be tested for acidity.

If the soil is acid enough to need liming at all, at least two tons per acre of ground limestone or its equivalent in other forms of lime should be applied.

Ground limestone may be applied at any time, but the best plan is to apply it on plowed ground and disk it into the surface soil.

Lime will often produce immediate increases in grain and other crops, but the greatest benefit derived from it comes through increasing clover and other legumes in the rotation.

Following a good clover crop, it is possible to grow good grain or other crops.

The greater the proportion of legumes that can be turned under, either directly or in the form of manure, the easier it will be to maintain the fertility of the soil.

Lime is not a fertilizer. Manure or fertilizer, or both, should be used in addition to lime.

On seven experiment fields in different parts of the state, ground limestone has produced crop increases worth from $10.50 to $67.70 per acre per rotation of corn, wheat, and clover. The average net profit has been $6.78 per acre per year, and $2.68 per dollar invested.

Farmerettes Make Friends

"WHAT do you think of the farmerettes in agriculture," was the very direct question asked by Dr. Riddell of the Trades and Labor Branch of Ontario's District Representatives of Agriculture when in conference at Guelph recently.

"I have nothing but words of praise for the farmerettes in Lincoln County," stated Dave Elliott, of St. Catharines. There are 250 in the county, chiefly housed in camps, which is, I consider the best method. They are mostly employed on fruit farms where they work on the piece work basis, except in thin picking, where they work for straight wages. A few are employed in mixed farming, some of whom were trained at Guelph, and I tell you they appreciate the training they got here.

"These girls are very quick to grasp what the work demands", supplemented Mr. Elliott. "They don't have to be shown ten or twelve times and some farmers have told me that they are superior to the S.O.S. boys."

"We have placed fifteen farmerettes on mixed farms in Norfolk county," stated District Representative Neff. "Three of these have returned to their own homes, but it was because of sickness there and not because they were sick of the job. The farmers are very much pleased with them and will be glad of more help of the same kind another year."

Dr. G. C. Creelman came out strongly for the farmerettes. "I have come right up from the penitents' bench, and declare myself a complete convert to the idea of women in farming," stated Dr. Creelman. "I thought at first that the farmerette in agriculture would be a laughing stock. I hesitated about establishing a training course for them at this institution. Twenty-nine of them came to Guelph. They did all of the heavy work in the stable and field and were willing to take early and late hours. Even the foremen around the farm, who at first did not want to have anything to do with them were soon admiring their endurance and the good work done. I am now so convinced of the position that women will occupy in agriculture that I am now accepting women for the regular course in agriculture in this province on the same basis as the boys."

"The only help that I had on my