

Wheat

By
A. M. Ten Eyck

This bids fair to be the banner year for wheat production in Western Canada. More production than usual is advocated. This book on wheat growing is a practical discussion of the raising, marketing, handling and uses of the wheat crop. It particularly deals with the great plains region, and hence gives definite information regarding the best methods to follow in hard spring wheat production in Western Canada. The book is invaluable for the prairie farmer. It deals in simple language with the whole practice of wheat growing. It contains a special chapter on wheat growing in Canada, a valuable appendix which includes an outline of the methods followed by Seager Wheeler in the production of his championship wheat, and also a short note on how to run a binder.

The book is practical in every way, and every farmer can learn some valuable lesson by closely reading its pages.

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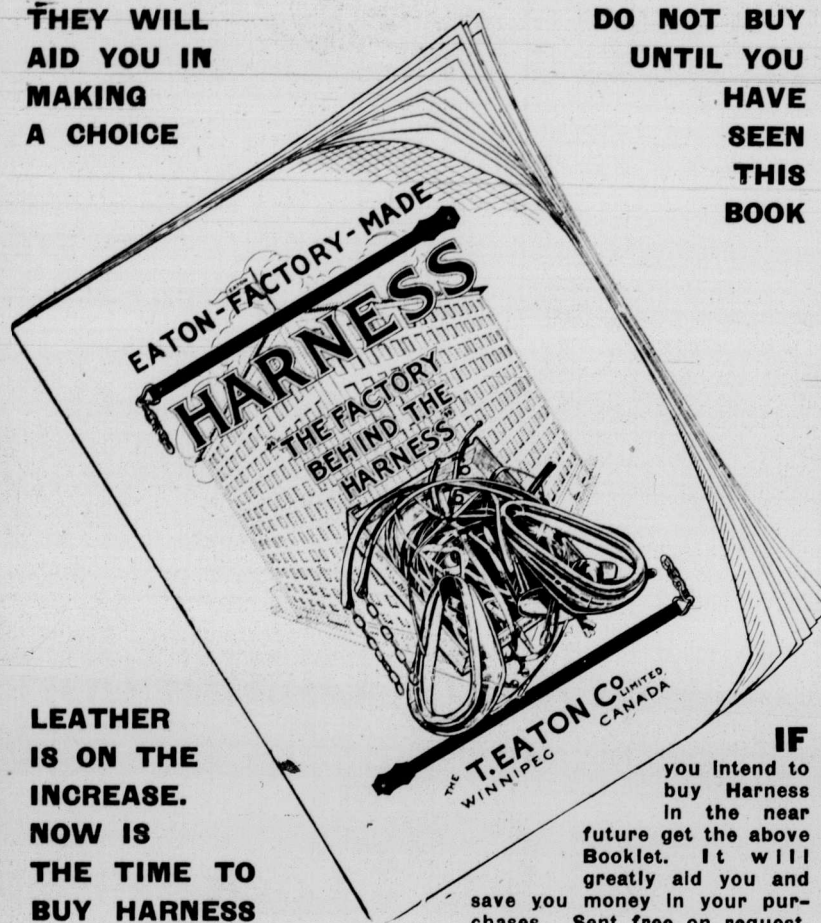
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The Soil and the Seed

Continued from Page 12

are very great that a light crop will be the result. Weeds are more persistent and vigorous and will hold their own when once established under all conditions, than any cultivated crop. If they obtain the mastery the crop will suffer. To overcome the problem it is very essential that fall plowed lands, even if worked down in the fall and ready to sow, should be harrowed early in the spring with three objects in view, namely, conservation of moisture, aeration of the soil and to encourage weed growth to be destroyed later. As fall plowing will mature a crop earlier than spring plowing, it may be left for a while, for by harrowing early in the spring it will hold the moisture and weeds will start and may be destroyed by the cultivation given by the seeding operation. Thus a cleaner and better crop will be the result.

The method to follow in seeding fall plowing is as described above. Just before the seeder goes on the land the plank drag is used to make a level seed bed. The seeder comes along immediately after. The packer follows the seeder, then it is harrowed. It is harrowed again, just as in the case of summer-fallow, as soon as the points of the grain are showing above the ground. Regarding the depth to seed, in this land probably two inches will be the right depth. This is determined by the amount of moisture in the seed bed.

Spring Plowing

For a great many years past the general impression has been that spring plowing for a crop should be plowed shallow. The why and wherefore I never could find out, but the general advice was to plow shallow in the spring. I have often asked myself the question why we should do so when following the same method. For the last few years I have followed a different course, except in special cases. Probably the reason for shallow plowing was because it was not possible to make the seed bed compact if plowed deeply in the spring. The coarse stubble plowed under at the bottom of the furrow slice was an obstacle to capillarity. This was before the advent of the land packer. I now plow deeper in the spring since using a small pulverizer attached to the plow, and the plank drag and land packer, and now have no reason to complain of the results, which are very satisfactory, especially in the spring of 1914. All land on the farm was plowed deeply. Most of the plowing was done with a small gas tractor, 8 inches deep. The small pulverizer followed the plow, the surface packer came immediately after, then the plank drag, seeder, packer and harrows.

Wheat sown on this land gave a return of thirty bushels, and Victory oats eighty bushels per acre. This is not an isolated case, as in previous years I have had excellent results in following this method. I can recommend deeper plowing in the spring for a crop, but do not advise every farmer to do so, as it may lead to poor results, but everyone should use their judgment in this respect and every farmer should know his soil. Where it is safe to plow deep I recommend it. The small packer or pulverizer used behind the plow is not used to pack the soil, as it is too light for that purpose. It is used to firm down the furrow slice, prevent evaporation and prepare the way for the surface packer and plank drag. The plank drag should be used after packing the furrow slice, and not on the rough plowing. Any such land after it has been seeded by this method may be harrowed again as the grain shows above ground. I prefer this method to harrowing after the plow, which usually pulls up the stubble in the furrow slice and interferes with seeding operations. The stubble also absorbs moisture from the rootbed. I prefer to have it packed well down at the bottom of the furrow slice. The plowing referred to above was done at a depth of seven to eight inches deep. There are farmers today who have never got below the depth that the land was first broken. They turn the same old furrow over and over each year, never going any deeper. Such I would advise to get down an inch or two deeper next spring. The

raw soil if it is brought up will act as a first rate mulch. Judgment must be used, but go a little deeper anyway.

The Summer-fallow

In preparing land for summer-fallow I find it best to plow shallow in the fall, about two inches deep, and pack the land. Harrow in the spring to start weed life. After seeding is over early in June, plow deeply. By this time the shallow plowing in the fall will encourage many weed seeds to grow which were plowed under at the depth of two inches. After plowing early in June the land will absorb all the moisture that falls, and by cultivation thruout the season will hold it in the soil for the next year's crop.

An instance that happened last summer will bear repeating here. The land that I intended to fallow was not plowed in the fall, but before the end of May it was plowed two inches deep and packed. This brought up many weeds, and as no rain fell during June to amount to anything, the second deep plowing was done at the end of June. At this time the land in this district was drying out rapidly, and in many cases where the single plowing was depended on in the summer it was found that the land was too dry and hard to plow. It was practically impossible to do good work or go deeply, because the land was like cement. The shallow plowing I did as mentioned was easily plowed, as the shallow plowing had acted as a mulch and the land was easy to plow below. Thus I was able to plow deeply and easily. Shallow plowing in the fall is better, but where time does not permit it may be done in the spring, immediately after seeding. This method is much better than the single plowing done in June, or, as in most cases, in July. Weeds do not grow at that time as we would wish, and after the black summer-fallow, the next season is the weediest possible. I find that weeds do not readily germinate in the summer, despite the fact that there is abundant heat and moisture, but they will come up in the crop the following spring.

Ed. Note.—The remainder of this article, dealing more particularly with the great importance of uniformity in the seed, will appear in our next issue. It is hoped that our readers will appreciate the value of this practical experience written by one of the most successful and prominent grain growers in Western Canada.

SHOULD CLOSE THIS GAME UP

Co-operative Union, of Windsor, Ontario, using the caption, "Canadian and American Supply Houses," puts out a scale of prices which should bring the authorities buzzing about the ears of the concern. The concern sends out form letters advertising that for a membership fee of two dollars the member is entitled to all the benefits of the union for one year. Offer number one entitles the reader to receive 25 yearly memberships for the sum of ten dollars, or forty cents each. He then sells each membership for two dollars, thus making \$1.60 on each. The buyer of the two-dollar membership, presumably a merchant, is supposed then to be able to buy his goods at cut-rate prices from Co-operative Union of Windsor. The first item in the list advertised by Co-operative Union of Windsor offers 100 pounds of Redpath's best granulated sugar at four cents per pound. This offer cannot be filled. The price of four cents per pound is under that paid by the jobber from the manufacturer. The same union also pretends to sell a two and a half pound box of Christie's biscuits at fifteen cents. This is also a wild dream, and cannot be done unless the union chooses to make a large loss. A box of this size of Christie's biscuits formerly cost the retailer 25 cents. At present the price to the retailer is 26½ cents. It is safe to assume that the Co-operative Union of Windsor is not going to ass me this large loss. It is up to the authorities to extinguish the lights and close the game up.—Toronto Saturday Night.

A futurist domestic evidently is discovered in this advertisement in the Boston Globe: A green colored girl would like position at general housework. Miss B. King, 99 Washington St.