

to prove the point. On the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa, the factor of immaturity was emphasized in a particularly forcible way last summer. In 1916, Professor W. T. Macoun, Dominion Horticulturist, conducted an experiment with potatoes on three different types of soil—sand, clay and muck. The potatoes planted on the muck happened to be near the boundary of the farm and Professor Macoun discovered, early in the fall, that workmen were stealing these potatoes. To preserve uniformity in his experiment he had three lots dug in August. This immature seed planted in 1917 gave astonishing results, yielding very much more than mature seed of the same variety and planted on the same soil.

At a conference of potato experts and practical growers held in Toronto in October, 1917, this question was thoroughly discussed, and it was generally agreed by all present that immaturity of seed very greatly increased yields. At that meeting, Walter Cook, of Cataraqui, explained his methods. He ploughed his sod in July, after a crop of hay had been removed and planted enough potatoes to provide his seed stock for the coming year. By the time frost had cut down the tops, the immature seed had developed sufficiently to be used next spring. By these methods he claims to have increased his yields in the neighborhood of 100 bushels per acre.

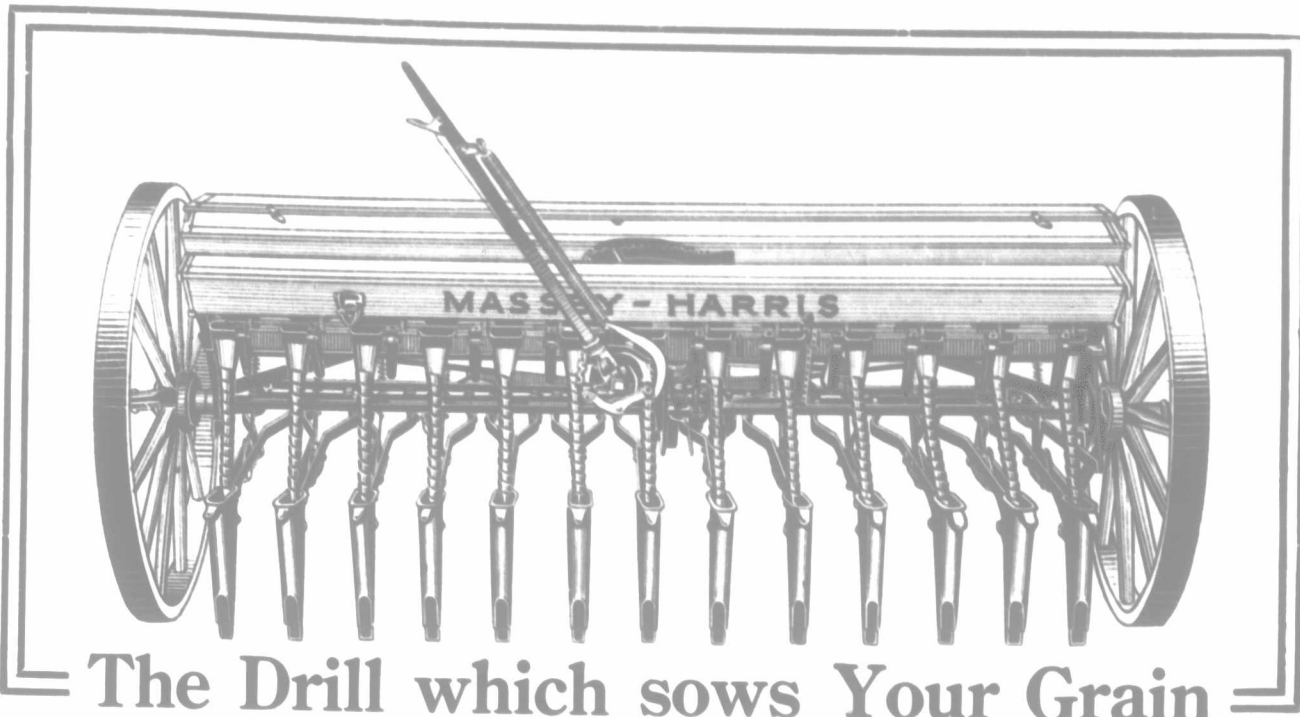
In Northern Ontario, owing to climatic conditions, the seed, while growing to large size very seldom matures. This factor of immaturity is thought to be one very important reason why northern seed, when planted in Old Ontario, gives such outstanding results.

In a series of experiments conducted for five years, Dr. C. A. Zavitz, of the Ontario Agricultural College, has proven the relative merits of seed potatoes grown in Northern Ontario, New Brunswick and Old Ontario. The seed from these different sources was planted side by side on exactly the same kind of soil. The yield last year was 350 bushels, 318 bushels and 200 bushels, respectively, and these results may be taken as representative of the five years' operation.

Practical growers have secured satisfactory results. The Manager of the Sarnia Vegetable Growers' Association, in his annual report in 1917, advises all the members to plant seed potatoes grown in Northern Ontario. He explains in this report, that such seed planted by members of his Association in the past has increased their yields at least 20 per cent. G. A. Williams, Peterboro, Ont., has secured an increase of 137 bushels per acre by planting northern grown seed above the yield obtained from home-grown seed. G. Bridger & Sons, Sarnia; W. Joak, Peterboro, Ontario; Guthrie Bros., Sarnia, and Henry Broughton, Sarnia, have all written to the effect that by the planting of northern-grown seed potatoes they have increased their yields from 20 to 25 per cent. This practical experience, in conjunction with the scientific experiments already explained, show conclusively that northern-grown seed potatoes give far better results in Old Ontario. In consideration of these facts, an investigation was undertaken in the late summer of 1917 regarding the advantages of encouraging the potato industry in Northern Ontario. Dr. Zavitz, W. A. McCubbin, the Chief Dominion Pathologist in Ontario, and the Assistant Commissioner visited every district in Northern Ontario where they grow potatoes. Their method was to visit the best potato growers, examine the crops generally and make minute inspection of several hundreds of hills in each field. From this inspection they calculated the percentage of disease, etc. They visited 87 growers in the north.

But after they finished the northern trip they decided they had not all the information they wanted. They had knowledge of the condition in New Ontario regarding the potato industry, but they did not know accurately the conditions in Old Ontario, particularly regarding conditions of physiological diseases. So immediately after, they visited three districts in Old Ontario which specialized in potato growing—Carleton Place Township in the County of Middlesex, Erie Township in the County of Wellington, and Gloucester Township in the County of Carleton.

In New Ontario they found but 6 per cent of serious disease, and practically no physiological disease at all. In each of the three districts in Old Ontario they found very great amounts of all kinds of potato diseases and an alarming amount of



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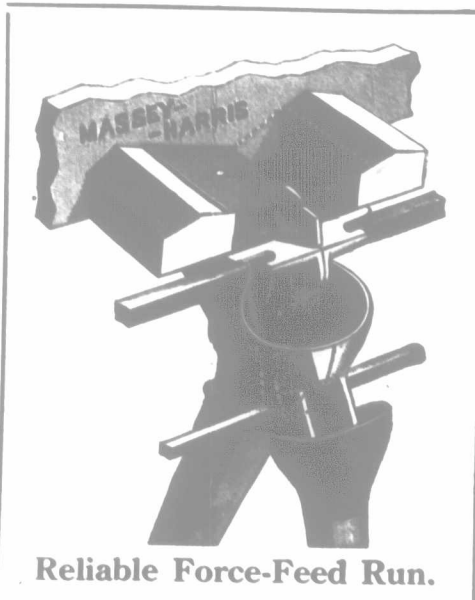
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