THE CANADIAN THRESHERMAN AND FARMER

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# That Drop, Drop, Drop!

HIS illustration shows the famous double disk marker with one disk removed so that the front seed delivery can be seen. The seed is dropped with precision and regularity in front of the disk bearing and goes directly to the bottom before any dirt can fall into the furrow.



It is this steady, drop, drop, drop at the right time to the right depth that gives a uniform stand, because it gives the seed such a good chance to stool out from a strong root system that will collect plenty of moisture and plant food.

A McCormick drilled field can be identified at once by the evenness of the stand and absence of bare spots and bunches.

Seed costs too much money to be wasted by broadcast seeding or by using a wasteful drill. McCormick drills waste no seed.

See the local agent, or write the nearest branch house about a McCormick drill to plant your crops this year. You can get exactly the style and size best suited to the needs of your farm.

### International Harvester Company of Canada, Limited

BRANCH HOUSES:

WEST-Brandon, Man., Calgary, Alta., Edmonton, Alta., Estevan, Sask., Lethbridge, Alta., N. Battleford, Sask., Regina, Sask., Saskatoon, Sask., Winnipeg, Man., Yorkton, Sask.

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N VIEW of the devastation caused in Western Canada from soil drifting in 1918, no doubt every farmer who stands the risk of losing his property in this way has put on his thinking cap with the purpose of taking what steps are humanly possible to prevent this calamity in his own case. The following from the Farmers' Bulletin No. 421 (U.S. Department of Agriculture), will no doubt be found of great value to some of our readers :

#### Means of Preventing Damage

The means by which the damage may be prevented or decreased must be, in principle, two: (1) Increasing the cohesion of the soil, and (2) decreasing its exposure to the wind. The cohesion may be increased practically: (1) by increasing the water content of the soil, (2) by increasing the amount of humus which it contains, and (3) by modifying its texture, as, for instance, by adding clay or by leaving it in small clods instead of in a finely pulverized condition. The exposure may be decreased (1) by providing a cover of growing vegetation, (2) by leaving the stubble of the last crop still standing on the land, (3) by providing an artificial cover of straw, brush lines, etc., and (4) by planting windbreaks to protect the fields. In

## Control of Blowing Soil

addition to the above methods, the roughening of the surface by proper cultivation really protects the finer soil particles from blowing, as they soon become located in the depressions, where the exposure to the winds is much less.

The degree of usefulness of these various general methods of control in any particular case depends upon local conditions of soil character, climate, the lay of the land, etc. All of them are in use under various circumstances and in varied combinations. Indeed, most of practical expedients employed to prevent blowing act in two or three of these ways, frequently leading to both increase of cohesion and increase of exposure. Some of the practical expedients may be outlined as follows:

#### Suitable Cropping System

Where it is possible to do so the easiest way to prevent wind damage is to plan the use of the land so that it will always be covered with some form of protective vegetation during the season when dangerous winds are to be expected. Whether this can be economically done depends altogether on the climate, the relation to markets, the season in which the windy periods occur, and other factors of the same sort. All of these are so entirely local that a general discussion is impossible. A few general expedients along this line can, however, usually be employed. For instance, if fall plowing is not necessary, the stubble of the last crop should be left on the soil until as late as possible in the spring, or oats or barley may be sowed in the late summer or early fall. The plants will be killed by the frost and will form a protective mat on the soil surface. This will prevent blowing during the winter and early spring.

In other cases it may be possible to combine with a slowgrowing crop, subject to wind damage a more rapid-growing nurse crop, which forms a cover very soon after seeding and protects the other crop during its early life. Thus a thin seeding of rye or barley may be used in which to introduce alfalfa.

One cause of blowing which is connected with the cropping system is the use of the summerfallow. This leaves the land fully exposed, and if dangerous winds are to be expected in the summer it is usually better, if enough

water is available, to replace the summerfallow by corn or a leguminous crop (preferably intertilled), which is plowed under in the fall. If there is not enough water for this, it may in extreme cases be necessary to let the stubble stand all summer instead of plowing it under in the spring. Any needed harrowing should be done so as to damage the stubble covering as little as possible. Another method is to seed rows of coarse-growing crops at intervals across the fallow field at right angles to the direction of the prevailing winds. Sandy lands are most likely to blow, and these fortunately absorb water readily without spring cultivation.

Suitable Methods of Cultivation In preparing a seed bed and in handling a summerfallow, if it be necessary, there are certain methods of cultivation which are frequently useful in decreasing soil blowing. These are specially important in the intermountain regions of the West, where control by the use of crops is usually impossible because of the seasonal distribution of rainfall. The first of these is the compacting of the surface soil by rolling or otherwise. This acts not only in the direct production of a firmer and more resistant surface, but also by bettering the capillary properties Continued on page 18A



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