University of Saskatchewan COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

CIRCULAR No. 1

TILLAGE METHODS

FOR

Central and Western Saskatchewan

No matter what our business is, if we follow it with open minds, we are continually learning something new in connection with it—something that will enable us to prosecute it more successfully. The greatest business in Saskatchewan is that of farming—the extraction of vegetable products from the soil, in the form of grains, grasses, roots and vegetables, and placing these upon the market in the best form, either in the raw material, as wheat, etc., or in a more finished product, such as beef, pork, mutton, milk, butter, etc.

Farmers as a class are noted for their keen powers of observation. Their work is so varied, the raising of crops so dependent upon favorable soil and weather conditions, the production of animals upon a knowledge of the principles of breeding, feeding and management, and the success of the business of farming so concerned with the constant employment of efficient labor and a knowledge of markets, that farmers, of necessity, though perhaps unconsciously, become careful observers of natural phenomena about them.

We know of no farming country that affords greater opportunities for the development of the habit of observation than Saskatchewan. The soil, climate, vegetation and water supply are so variable that only the keenest and best trained can move from one district to another and be sure that he is doing his work in such a way as to achieve the best results.

The soil, on the whole, is very fertile, but is very different in its physical properties. There are the heavy clay soils of the Regina and Kindersley districts, and these differ much in their workability; the black, rich soils of the Indian Head and other districts; the chocolate loam of the Dundurn, Saskatoon, Tessier and Kinley; the rich vegetable loams of the Carrot River district; and there are light and sandy loams, all differing widely in their ability to hold moisture,