

after heavy rains, and not pack like stubble. Again, peas on sod leave the land in far better trim for the next crop than any other that can be sown. The sod seems to rot better, and they are easy on the land; in fact they are the only crop which answers well on sod in this part of the country.

With regard to spring wheat; some years ago it was greatly out of favor, but it is being sown again on most of our farms. With land at all suitable, and with kinds that will withstand rust it will take the place of barley to a certain extent. It is grown after peas (from sod), on rape land, and on land from which turnips had been taken the fall before. One of the best crops I have seen was after peas, which had grown on sod. The mode of preparation was as follows:—After harvest, when the pigs had cleaned the stubble, the field was covered with about ten loads per acre of well-rotted barn-yard manure, ploughed twice in the way mentioned for oats, then in spring, as soon as the land was dry enough to work—it is important to get spring wheat in early—the gang-plough was put through it, and a good seed-bed worked up. Something less than two bush. per acre was drilled in and well harrowed and rolled. The yield was over thirty bushels per acre of the Colorado variety.

Good crops are grown after rape, the land being ploughed in the fall, after the rape is eaten off with either cattle or sheep. But, everything considered, the turnip land is best for spring wheat, unless it is wet and cannot be got on early in spring. The land is usually ploughed in the fall, after the turnips are off, and either cultivated or lightly gang-ploughed in the spring, and drilled in. Some very successful wheat-growers will not plough the turnip land in the fall, but prefer to just cultivate in the spring, and claim to get better crops, especially on light soil. If the land is not ploughed deep I do not think it is any the worse for it, and it will check any thistles that may have been missed in cleaning the land.

The barley crop in this neighborhood will soon be like the buffalo—a thing of the past, if present prices continue. Stock feeders do not like the grain, the straw amounts to very little, it is a nasty crop to handle, and it needs the best and cleanest land. The best crop I have seen was from turnip land cultivated in the spring once, and well harrowed to make a fine, mellow seed-bed; then sow broadcast with seeder, having cultivator teeth attached, harrowed well, and rolled at once. I would attach much importance to the manner of sowing the barley. I have seen it sown deep on spring ploughed land, which had a lumpy, uneven surface; when the young sprouts came up, it was very uneven, and on looking under the surface a great deal of it was found to have come part of the way up and turned down again, and never came to the light at all.

To make barley growing a success it must have the best land, with the plant food near the surface, and not too thickly sown, just nicely covered by a very fine mould, and rolled at once.

BY W. J. HAYCROFT, AGINCOURT, ONT.

The growing of spring grain requires more skill and thought now than in former years (when we had no rust, midge, wire worm and worn out land to deal with), both in the preparation of the soil and the kind of food to feed our stock to produce manure that will give the best results when applied to the land. Spring wheat in this vicinity last year was a good crop, as regards quantity and quality, averaging about 25 bushels per acre.

Root ground has invariably given the best results. I sowed mine on turnip and corn ground manured in the spring with barn-yard manure well rotted, and given two ploughings, besides cultivating and harrowing before sowing the turnips and corn, with the necessary cultivating and hoeing to clean the land thoroughly. In the fall some of it I ploughed with the single plow, and some I did not; where it was ploughed I think the field was better, especially the corn ground. In the spring I cultivated first, then rolled it to make a fine seed-bed, and then sowed the grain broadcast, harrowed and rolled down as soon as done. In a dry season like last proved to be, I would prefer drilling the seed in.

I think it would be better if farmers would try more experiments, not keep on in the same old ruts year after year; but sow part of a field broadcast and part drilled, so that if one fails the other may not. Pea stubble also gave good results ploughed twice in the fall and given the same spring treatment as the root land. Last season, just as the grain was coming through the ground, I sowed five sacks of salt and 600 lbs. of plaster on five acres, and I consider I was well repaid for my trouble and expense.

Above all, be sure to sow good, clean seed—the best to be found, even if you have to pay much more per bushel for it.

Barley requires a fine, mellow seed-bed. One cannot be too careful to see that the ground is in proper trim before sowing. Pea stubble and clover sod have given the best results with me. The pea stubble ploughed twice in the fall—the first time might be with a twin and the next with the single plow, with a good harrowing between the ploughings; and, if one has time, a thorough cultivating will be beneficial. In preparing sod for barley I skim with the single plow, harrow thoroughly and let lay till rotted, then twin it over and give another good harrowing; I then have the sod well worked on top; if the sod is dead roll down and leave till ready to ridge up the last thing in the fall; if it is not all dead leave a few days, and if the weather is warm and dry give another harrowing; leave a few days more and then roll down. In the spring some twin over lightly and some cultivate. I think it makes very little difference, as long as a good mellow seed-bed is the result.

I am a strong advocate of sowing salt and plaster on barley. It stands up better, and the straw and grain will not color so easily if it gets rain. Barley that has been salted will outweigh that that got none every time. Don't sow poor, dirty seed because it is cheap. If your farm is dirty get fresh seed every year. If you are careful in the selection of seed and the cultivation of your land you will soon have a clean farm. If the land be top-dressed in the spring it will add many bushels to the yield, and be a great help in securing a good catch of seeds if you want to seed down.

OATS.

There is a large area of oats sown in this vicinity on account of having a good market for the straw in Toronto. It is the custom with a good many to sow oats on the best land they have got to obtain all the straw possible. I sowed 12 acres last season—two acres on sod ploughed in the fall and 10 acres on barley stubble ploughed twice in the fall. I manured half of it, which was far ahead of what was not manured. Some sow salt in the spring on this crop also with good success.

PEAS.

The best land for peas is sod ploughed in the spring, and invariably give the best results. Scarborough is noted for its fine ploughmen. The land is ploughed similar to that at the matches, or as nearly as the ploughman is able to make it. The peas are sown thin, either by hand or drill, harrowed twice or three times the same way it is ploughed; the harrows are then turned upside down and the ploughing is crossed, which levels the combs of the furrows off and leaves a nice smooth bottom. The peas are all well covered and come up in drills as nice as if they had been sowed with a drill.

Thomas J. Fair, of Frankford, Ont., writing on the cultivation of spring crops, says:—“Farmers should bear in mind that spring wheat takes a long season to ripen, and must be sown early to give the best results. The best crop of spring wheat I ever raised was sown as soon as the frost was out of the ground, to the depth of one or two inches. After sowing, two weeks of cold, damp weather followed in which no sowing was done, but when I again commenced seeding the wheat was showing green all over the field, and was harvested on the 28th of July, giving a yield of grain and straw fully equal to winter wheat in a good season.

I have found oats to pay well when sown on rich land, well cultivated. I have obtained large yields by top-dressing with farm-yard manure.

From my experience and observation, I believe the best crops of oats are obtained from sods ploughed early in the fall and thoroughly cultivated in the spring. Such should be sown as early as possible and the grain harvested as soon as the heads turn yellow.

“In growing peas, I have obtained the best results from sod; but with me they have succeeded well on stubble which had been twice ploughed in the fall; sown at the rate of three bushels to the acre of small peas or four of large, and covered with a gang plow about three inches deep and rolled soon after sowing. Shortly afterwards I sowed 150 pounds of land plaster per acre.”

A Few Notes From P. E. Island.

BY WM. CLARK, NORTH WILTSHIRE, P. E. I.

Here, as elsewhere throughout eastern Canada, there has been a remarkably mild winter so far. Six below zero has been our coldest snap to date, and that was but for a few hours only, while the thermometer has registered below zero only three or four times yet this winter. Ploughing was possible, and was performed in many fields up to January 25th, when we got our first snow for sleighing. To have only a thin skim of ice on our rivers and bays at this date, and to have vessels and steamers entering and clearing at our ports in January is something almost unheard of in our Island's history. Uninterrupted communication with the mainland this winter is showing us what a great boon the projected tunnel to connect our province with the mainland would be. If this mild weather, which is so favorable to the stock feeder, continues stock of all kinds will leave the stables this coming spring in better condition than for the last four or five years, as feed of all kinds is abundant, while the prices for the finished product in nearly all cases is very satisfactory to the feeder. We note with pleasure that Prof. Robertson intends starting an experiment dairy station here in our province at an early date. I think the establishing of a station here will give a great impetus to our dairy interests. The practicability of successfully carrying on winter dairying will, no doubt, be fully tested. To get the product to market will be a pretty serious obstacle to overcome we think, shut of as we are from the world, we might say for nearly four months every winter. With this obstacle overcome there cannot be the least doubt but winter dairying can be successfully carried on. The Western Agricultural Convention which met in semi-annual session at New Glasgow on Friday, January 22nd, was a very interesting and successful meeting. Mr. John C. Clark, President of the Convention, presided. Great interest was manifested, and there were some important discussions. The most important topic discussed was, “The Desirability of Changing our Government Stock Farm into an Experimental Farm.” As a stock farm it has perhaps served its day, and a majority of the farmers present were in favor of the change. Some interesting papers were read, the ones which evoked most discussion being Dairying, read by John C. Moore, of Cranpand; Ensilage and the Silo, read by Mr. Harcourt, Professor of Agriculture in Prince of Wales College; Winter Dairying, also read by Prof. Harcourt. Such meetings cannot fail to be a great benefit to our farming interests, as notwithstanding the wretched travelling at the time there was a large attendance of representative farmers from all surrounding districts. At the evening session there were fully 200 present. The next meeting of the convention will be held at Cranpand sometime in July.