The Starting of a Farm and Programme for First Three Years

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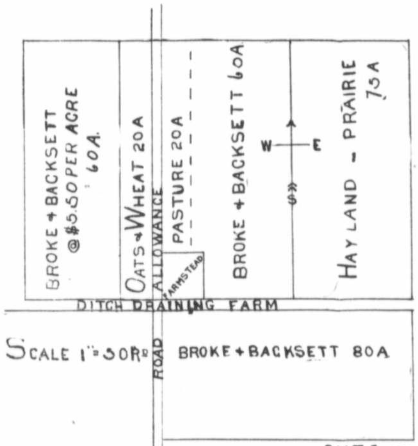
It is beyond the average would-be farmer to start an 'Ideal Farm' in three years due to the capital involved for such an undertaking. As capital is the main feature in starting a farm for the beginner, the 'Ideal Farm' can only be followed so far as the capital will reach. On the other hand a plan of buildings, fields, etc., can be given which, if followed, will lead not only to a convenient, comfortable, well-paying farm, but one that is economical in its first cost. This plan does not necessarily need to be finished in one or three years, as it can extend over an indefinite number of years. The plans will consist of the general lay of the land, the position and operation of each field, farmstead plan, and the expenditure and income each year.

The beginner's possessions or capital consist of three thousand eight hundred dollars, eight horses, six head of cattle, three swine, poultry, hay, oats, tools machinery to handle a farm of half a section, and household effects. The farm to be purchased comprises three hundred and twenty acres of rich, heavy Red River loam, that is situated twenty-five miles west of Winnipeg on the Canadian Northern and two miles from a station. The cost of this farm is twenty-five dollars an acre, amounting to eight thousand dollars. The cash payment is two thousand dollars. The remainder to be paid in yearly payments of one thousand or over with the interest (6%). The farm is purchased March twentieth, nineteen ten. The second payment falls due to be paid the twentieth of November, nineteen eleven.

Twenty acres of this farm is ready to put into crop. Oats and wheat are sown on this twenty acres for seed the following year. Fifty acres of stubble land is rented from a neighbor at one dollar and fifty cents an acre, which is plowed, harrowed and sown to oats for feed the following year. While the spring work, consisting of plowing, etc., is being done with six of the horses by hired help, the other two horses are used to transport lumber to build a house and barn. These buildings are erected by the owner and one man, costing with lumber, help and other material needed, fifteen hundred dollars. A granary, with a capacity for a thousand bushels of grain, is the only building on the farm at the time of purchasing. A gasoline engine is hired to break and backsett sixty acres at five dollars and fifty cents an acre. The farmer breaks, backsetts and discs one hundred and sixty acres besides discing the sixty acres hired broke and backsett. It is the aim to break all the farm in the first two years, thus enabling one to farm on a regulated and paying basis. Owning a half section of land fit to be cultivated and farming a quarter section of it may be compared to a person owning eight horses and working only four of them. The general outline plan of the first year's work, together with money involved, will be given in cut. 1. One of the items is written "Unlooked for expenses." By this is meant that unforseen difficulties are not within every enterprise and more so in farming than any other work or call of life. These difficulties unlooked for have to be coped with to the best ability of the farmer and an allowance is made which will likely meet these difficulties. Enough hay is obtained for the stock to feed in the winter and the following summer from the unbroken land. During the summer and fall season driving fence posts, hauling stones, fuel and numerous other jobs might well be mentioned, but this work can not be worked out theoretically as some would be led to think. Work of this kind has to be done at times when the farmer sees fit to do it.

It is the intention to follow some line of rotation, not only for the immediate profit of the farm work, but those which relate to maintaining or increasing the fertility of the soil. Aside from the usual arguments in favor of producing something of a variety of crops on a farm, such as that this practice reduces the risks of the farmer, since it is not probable that all will not be poor in yield or low in price, it also distributes the work throughout the year. The crops to be used in rotation will have to be selected with reference to the ease with which they can be grown, labor involved, market value and too many other factors. By about the beginning of the third or fourth year this plan of rotation can be put into practice and the benefits derived from such a course will at once be fully recognized. This plan is followed in the farmstead plan after the plan has been worked out by alternating the garden with the soiling crops, putting in patches of clover, and in many other ways that cannot be thought out but have to be solved by surrounding circumstances.

In regards to the farmstead plan it is not the intention to have this plan finished by the end of the third year. It is a plan whereby when any improvements are to be made on the farm there



1ST YEAR OUT LINE CUT I. 1910

		$ CR	$ DR
MAR 20	MONEY TO HAND	5800	
	PAYMENT ON FARM		2000
	LUMBER ($1500)		640
	RENTED LAND FOR OATS		75
	BREAKING + BACKSETTING 60A ($330)		
	HOUSEHOLD NEEDS		200
	THRESHING		80
	TAXES		60
	HIRED HELP		210
	FUEL		35
	UNLOOKED FOR EXPENSES		200
MAR 20,'11	BALANCE		300
	TOTAL	5800	5800

2ND YEAR OUTLINE CUT II 1911

		CR $	DR $
MAR 20,'11	MONEY TO HAND	300	
	WIRE + FENCE POSTS		40
	TOOLS		30
	UNLOOKED FOR EXPENES		200
	BY WHEAT (4480 BU) @ 80¢ PER + SEED	4032	
	THRESHING WHEAT + 1800 BU. OATS @ 10¢ + 8¢ PER		692
	MACHINERY		200
	HIRED HELP		260
	SEED (TIMOTHY + CLOVER)		35
	FUEL		43
	LUMBER WITH INT.		860
	PAYMENT ON FARM ($1030) WITH INT		1600
	TAXES		60
	BY OATS @ 40¢ PER BU.	160	
	BREAKING + BACKSETTING WITH INT.		350
MAR 20,'12	BALANCE		120
	TOTAL	4492	4492