GOSSIP.

CLAYFIELD COTSWOLDS.

J. C. Ross, of Jarvis, Ont., is recognized as one of Canada's leading Cotswold sheep importers, and his renowned Clayfield flock as one of America's best. The great success of representatives of this grand flock at Canada's leading exhibitions, as well as at the Chicago International, for many years, has proven their superiority, and established their character of excellence. The flock is now about 125 strong, all either imported or from imported sires and dams, the shearlings being got by the Toronto champion, Imp. Activity, and this spring's lambs by the Royal first-prize winners of 1908. Parties wanting something above the average in Cotswolds should communicate with Mr. Ross, as he has a large number for sale of both sexes. He is also offering a limited number of Hampshires, bred from imported stock. Mr. Ross is also engaged in the breeding of Clydesdales, having on his farm just now seven head, registered. There are few better breeding Clydesdale mares in Canada than those on this farm, and all but one are sold of their progeny that can be spared. He is a bay stallion, rising 3, Prince of Clayfield 6626, by Imp. Alexander's Heir, dam by Imp. Sir Richard. He has four registered dams, and is bred on prize-winning lines from away back. He is of grand quality, smooth and even, well put-up all round, and will be priced right.

GOSSIP.

RESIDUE FROM ACETYLENE PLANT.

In the Natal Agricultural Journal, A. Pardy, dealing with the residue from acetylene plants, says that an analysis of the lime residue from the generation of acetylene gas is reported, and its value as a fertilizer briefly discussed. The material was found to contain 60.1 per cent. of calcium carbonate, 29.5 per cent. of calcium hydroxid, and 7.8 per cent. of moisture, besides small amounts of magnesia, silica, iron, alumina, etc. The material is considered a valuable lime fertilizer, but should be thoroughly saturated with water and aerated before crops are planted on land to which it is applied. This is best done by spreading on bare land in winter a considerable time before planting the crop.

Disk-harrowing Alfalfa.

For destroying weeds and renewing alfalfa growth, the disk harrow is used extensively. United States Department of Agriculture Farmers' Bulletin 342 says:

"The disking of alfalfa is a common practice, and seems to be an especially effective means of destroying weeds and breaking up the silt blanket deposited in cases where muddy water is used for irrigation. The ordinary disk harrow is widely used for this purpose, but R. H. Forbes, in a bulletin of the Arizona Station, states that a special machine "for the cultivation of alfalfa has been devised on the principle of the disk harrow, but with rows of strong spikes, or digging teeth, in place of the continuous edges of disks. These machines are stated to be in successful operation in Australia and South Africa, and one form * * * was introduced into Arizona in 1907. * *

"One man with an 8-foot machine and four horses will get over eight to ten acres of alfalfa in a day. This work may be done in winter, when teams are more at leisure; but it is probable that in summer also, after cutting and before irrigating, an occasional disking, to break up the sediment blanket, may be well worth while, especially on the upper ends of alfalfa fields."

In South Africa, the necessity of disk cultivation is recognized to the extent of having contests in which prizes are given for the machine most closely meeting the requirements.

A. M. Ten Eyck, of the Kansas Station, considers the cultivation of alfalfa desirable, and recommends disking in the early spring. He found "that less injury was done the alfalfa and the best work accomplished by setting the disks rather straight and weighting the harrow so as to make it cut two or three inches deep"; then cross-disking the field and harrowing it with the common straight-tooth harrow. He states that "the common disk harrow is more generally used than any other implement to cultivate alfalfa, and when properly adjusted, does good work. The spike-tooth disk, known as the 'alfalfa harrow,' was used on the alfalfa fields at the experiment station farm during the seasons of 1907 and 1908. This harrow does good work when properly adjusted, and is perhaps a better implement for this purpose than the common disk harrow."

The ends attained by disking alfalfa are thus concisely stated by Professor Forbes:

At a trifling cost, varying according to individual circumstances, the disk harrow splits and spreads the crowns of alfalfa plants, causing them to develop additional tops; it destroys the egg deposits and larvæ of certain injurious insects; it destroys weeds; it breaks up the silt blanket resulting from the use of muddy irrigating water, allowing better penetration of water and air to the roots of the crop; it loosens up certain dense soils; and to some extent it incorporates beneficial sediments and fallen alfalfa leaves with the soil.

As one of the most serious obstacles to the successful culture of alfalfa, particularly in the Eastern United States, is the crowding out of the plants in the earlier stages of growth by weeds, the introduction of implements and methods which will destroy or control the weeds is of great importance. The use of the disk harrow as described above seems to offer an efficient and practical means of securing this result.