

ab

his plot I went
that I thought
ting them in a
hand later on.
l with my own
nk is the clear
when you are
nobody's weeds
our own. That
The pigweed
strict this year,
best pieces of
ome places out-
ch I think was
year.

WM. PICK.

FARMERS

ot of wheat had
ely expected to
frozen off badly
s high in June
and also had a
very dry sum-
mer.

As regards the
cultivation it was
grown on break-
ing, well disced,
floated and har-
rowed in the fall,
harrowed again
twice in spring
before seeding
and once after.
It was threshed
with a threshing
machine and
cleaned in the
usual way with
the fanning mill.

Owing to a
very busy time
did not hand-pick
have done. The
er it was all cut,
it was easy to
ld was 38 bushels
l the 100 pounds
you on one and a
nsider gave good
of distribution of
will be a great
d I will be glad
e some more seed
l.

F. MARSHALL.

SON ADVANCED

e paper during the
nter the first an-
plots of registered
t once. Under the
naged to get the
e Guide, an before
e possessor of 20
d Marquis wheat.

putting in the wheat seed no extra labor
was spent. From the date of seeding un-
til about June 12 the growth was
splendid. After the heavy frost through-
out Manitoba followed by dry weather
the plot looked like a complete failure,
but later a few local showers fell
and things looked as if we would have
at least half a crop. By cutting time
we had a fair stand. No head selecting
was done this year. The grain was cut
with the binder at time of maturity,
stocked without capping, threshed in
the usual way, and cleaned through an
ordinary fanning mill.

The sheaf selected was taken from an
ordinary sheaf and not selected from
the plot while standing. Owing to
shortage of farm help no extra work
was given to either sample or sheaf.
From the 20 pounds we threshed 300
pounds besides the sheaf that was used.
In shipping the sample a nice clean bag
should be used also half-inch lumber for
crating the sheaf.

ED. W. McCONNELL.

Hamiota, Man.

A PRIZE ALFALFA ESSAY

The Duhamel Union of the U.F.W.A.
has held garden competitions for the
past three years for children. Vegeta-
bles and flowers were grown. Dean
Howes of the College of Agriculture,
University of Alberta, has been the
judge at these competitions. Last year
a special was added for a plot of alf-
alfa. The first year that alfalfa was
judged for general growth, cultivation
and freedom from weeds. This year it
will be judged for seed. One of the
conditions of the competition was that
the contestants had each to write an
essay on alfalfa. No prize was given,
but this essay was to be published in
The Guide as a mark of honor. The
following, which is the prize-winning
essay, was written by Lillian Hambly,
a 14-year-old girl in grade 8 in the
public school. The essays were all well
written and it was difficult to decide
between them.

Alfalfa

By the word alfalfa we mean a good
fodder or pasture plant. It was form-
erly found in central Asia, as the Per-
sians tell us in their records of it. From
Persia it was taken to Greece about
the time of the battle of Thermopylae,
and probably used for the army. The
Romans took it to Italy, where it
flourished. It was then sown in North
Africa and from there went to Spain.
Finally it got as far northward as France
and Britain.

The Spaniards brought it with them
to Peru and Mexico and from there it
spread northwards to California. On
the eastern coast it was introduced
either by the French or English and now
it is found all over North America.

There are different kinds of alfalfa,
such as the Arabian, Hop Lucerne and
Sand Lucerne.

* The one I am about to describe is the
Sand Lucerne, which I grew in my
garden. The stem is upright and
branching and grows to two feet or
over in height. The leaves are in tre-
foil form and very thick. The flower
is very much the same as a clover and
is purple. The seed pods are spiral in
form and usually very full of seeds that
look very much like poppy seeds. The
roots are quite long, thus opening up
the soil to great depths.

Alfalfa is used for hay for cattle
and sheep, and along with other fodder
is good for horses. If used for hay it
should be piled up till the moisture es-
capes as the sun dries it. Sometimes
it is ground up and used like bran. As a
pasture it is used for hogs. It is very
rich in nitrogen and hence good for the
soil. It can be cut from one to three
times a year.

To grow alfalfa successfully it must
first be inoculated. This may be done
by putting milk on the stove to heat
and when it has cooled putting some
of the culture of alfalfa bacteria in it.
Then mix the seeds up in this and
plant them as soon as they are dry,
about two inches deep and in rows
about 30 inches apart. The alfalfa be-
gins to show above the ground in about
two weeks.

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