



Four teams of oxen taking the Heaslip Farmer's Band to the Englehart Agricultural Show.



Showing a Settler's Stock. Only a Few Years Ago this Place was All Bush.

in Old Ontario have a wrong impression. The fire was made up of innumerable small fires which, in some cases, united to make large fires.

While our weather was dry our soil, being very strong held the moisture and produced a very good crop. It was commonly said before the fire that this was the most promising year which we had ever had. Our hay was good. Our clover seed was the best we ever had. Our O. A. C. No. 3 oats, which were sown on May 5th and harvested on August 5th, yielded sixty bushels to the acre, and this year our spring wheat did very well. Our root crops were commonly said to be exceptionally good. Our potatoes yielded about two hundred and fifty bushels to the acre, and our turnips yielded a little over one thousand bushels to the acre. The turnips were very large and of exceptional quality. Farmers from Old Ontario who saw the crop could scarcely believe their own eyes.

I have every confidence in the agricultural possibilities of the north. After having lived there long enough to take off three harvests I feel that we have a truly wonderful farming country, and that crops will some time be found growing as far north as James Bay. At James Bay, near Moose Factory, Indians are producing corn each year, and what is more they are producing their own seed. We had some of this brought down to Toronto Exhibition. Potatoes and turnips did well up there this year, and wild strawberries were found in abundance everywhere. This seems scarcely possible, but upon talking with a man who recently came from there I was quite assured of the fact. It will be interesting, too, to know that those people away up there at James Bay—people who are living almost 500 miles north of North Bay and more than 200 miles from a railroad or road of any kind—people who are looked upon as being indifferent to our so-called civilization should show any patriotism towards the British Empire. I saw a number of Indians at Cochrane who had just arrived there from Moose Factory. There were, I am told, fifty-six in all and the most of them were dressed in the King's Uniform. All of these had already enlisted, but they were a little short of suits at James Bay and so they were not all in uniform.

Yes, I have every confidence in the farming possibilities of the north, but it will take men with muscle and brain to develop the country. I think Ontario has sent thousands of good men to the West who might have gone up into Timiskaming. I think we should aim to keep more of our men in Ontario and thus enrich our own province. We have advantages up there which they do not enjoy in the West. We have plenty of wood and lumber with good water in abundance everywhere, and a soil that will grow a greater variety of crops, including all kinds of clover and alfalfa.

R. H. CLEMENS,
Superintendent Monteith Farm, New Ontario.

New Screens for the Fanning Mill.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I wish to commend to the careful attention of your readers your valuable article on "Cleaning and Grading Grains and Seeds for the Spring Seeding," published in your issue of Jan. 11, and to make some further observations in connection with this matter.

Our investigations from year to year show us that the quality of the seed used on the average farm is very low. The vast majority of the lots we examine could be considerably improved, even with an old style fanning mill, if two or three sieves of the right kind were available. In every district in Eastern Canada there are a great many fanning mills that were bought fifteen or twenty years ago. These mills are still in good repair, but most of the screens that ordinarily came with them are lost or worn out.

Of the firms who built these mills many are out of business; others are now building a mill of an altogether new model, and haven't on hand a supply of frames to fit the old ones. Few farmers will go to the trouble of getting new sieves for their mills if they must send to the manufacturer measurements and a description or a sample of their old frames. If they could buy at a local hardware or general store enough wire to cover some of their old frames we are convinced there would be much fewer weed seeds sown in grain and grass seed.

Unfortunately there are no standard terms by which the different sizes of sieves are known. Even the wires used in making sieves are not all precisely the same size for sieves of the same mesh. The most common way of indicating the size of mesh is by giving the number of wires to the inch each way, thus, a 2 x 9 sieve is one made of 2 wires to the inch one way and 9 the other. This method is used in what follows. For cleaning grain the 8 x 8, 9 x 9, 2 x 9, 2 x 10 and 2 x 11 woven-wire sieves are all useful. The 2 x 9 and 2 x 10 are used for making the seed grade of wheat and barley. Small kernels, fine weed seeds and chaff will pass through while the plump wheat or barley is held. The 2 x 10 and 2 x 11 are useful oat screens. The 8 x 8 and 9 x 9 square mesh sieves are required where such impurities as wild buckwheat are to be removed.

The seeds of most of the weeds that grow in clover and timothy seed and ripen at the same time are difficult or impossible to remove by screens in an ordinary fanning mill. Few mills are equipped with screens for cleaning small seeds; indeed, most of them are not designed for this work. There are, however, a great many samples received in our seed laboratory that could be greatly improved by the ordinary fanning mill if the proper sieves were carefully used. For removing cinquefoil, plantain, chickweed and worm-seed mustard from timothy the 28 x 28 is about right for most samples. Red clover containing plantains, mayweed, ribgrass, lamb's quarters and some other small seeds may often be cleaned up quite satisfactorily by means of the 4 x 24 woven-wire screen. This is used as a lower sieve, the

smaller weed seeds and small, shrunken clover seed coming through it while the good clover passes over. Timothy seed containing docks, false flax, ribgrass or sheepsorrel, and clover seed polluted with night-flowering catchfly, ragweed, foxtail and black medick, cannot be cleaned satisfactorily by an ordinary fanning mill and must be disposed of to wholesale seedsmen who have special cleaning machinery, or, used in an uncleaned condition.

If farmers could induce local implement or hardware dealers or general merchants to stock four or five of the above-mentioned lines of sieving, I feel confident that it would result in improving considerably the quality of the cleaning work done on many farms.

Seed Branch, Ottawa.

J. R. DYMOND.

Objects to Life Insurance.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I have just read your editorial in Jan. 18th issue on "The Life Insurance Question and the Farmer"—an exhortation to insure, which reads quite convincingly until along towards the end one nasty, small word slips in to make a discord. You say, "For a small, annual outlay every sound man can have banked for him at the maturity of his policy, or at his death, \$1,000 or \$2,000 or more." Every sound man;—and so life insurance after all, has not yet managed to shuffle off all the vicious, little shortcomings of its somewhat unsavoury youth! And we who are sound must still consent to purchase for ourselves and our dependents, a protection which has to be safeguarded by the denial to others less fortunate than ourselves, of like privileges. Whatever is the matter with us that we cannot get above and beyond such primitive expedients? Shall we still be parties to the perpetuation of social machinery which operates to enhance the economic advantage over our brother man which we already enjoy? Surely not. It is no extenuation of our position that we deign to employ some small part of that advantage in the relief of those who fall by the way, or are sore pressed in the unequal struggle. It is not enough that we say to them, "We have provided government annuities for the like of you, begone; as for me and my house, we will have insurance." If government annuities are good enough that I can recommend them to others, they are good enough for me; and as a matter of fact, I think they will bear investigation by anyone, who deems it his duty to make systematic provision for the future, and either cannot or will not carry ordinary insurance. It is a system of provision for old age which we all, through our government, have a part in maintaining, and in which we all can participate on terms of equality. It does not "Only bless me and my wife, my son John and John's wife;" and it is incomparably more democratic, economically sound and just, than any system of insurance which has to exclude those most probably in need of the assistance which it has to give, in order that it may save itself, and some very respectable emoluments. Waterloo Co., Ont.

HERBERT GROH.



A Field of Oats in the Englehart and New Liskeard District.



A Beginner Finds a Well-made Log House Very Comfortable.