

a homestead in class (c) as in class (a), and requires the same amount of taxes, while there is no comparison in value.

The classification of lands suggested would not only admit of a code of regulations suitable to each class, but would act as a most efficient guide to new settlers.

A move of this kind would not only be for the present interest of the cattle trade, but for the ultimate interest of wheat-growing and mixed farming. P. B. Calgary, Alta.

Should Plowing be Done in the Fall?

LEADING FARMERS' OPINIONS.

A representative of the "Advocate," travelling in the interests of the paper during the month of September, has been obtaining the opinions of leading farmers on this important and much-debated question.

Mr. Hutchinson, President of the Morden Agricultural Society for the last twelve years, and a farmer in the Morden district for twenty-six years, expressed it as his conviction, arrived at from practical demonstration, that fall plowing gives the best results in every case. He recommends plowing early in the fall, as much as possible in August and September, and finishing by the middle of October. The reasons for this Mr. Hutchinson says are clear. When plowing is done early the weeds and wild oats get up to such a stage of growth that the frost overtakes them in a highly vital condition, and kills them outright. Apart from that important circumstance, Mr. Hutchinson says he has always got a result of from six to ten bushels per acre by fall plowing over that of spring plowing.

Mr. Charles Heckles, who had farmed in the district for the last twenty-three years, and who for a number of years ran the Morden grist-mill, which he still owns, says his experience in the matter has been varied. He sometimes found fall plowing best, and on other occasions spring plowing gave the better results. Mr. Heckles says that when a field is seeded down quickly after plowing, the crop gets up before the weeds, and if the season be at all favorable the grain will not only keep the mastery, but will kill them out. In the matter of crop, he has found good crops by both methods, and also crops that were not so good in both cases, and he would not express a decided opinion as to which was best. Mr. Heckles was the first man to import pure-bred swine into Manitoba. He brought a herd of Berkshires to Morden from Ontario a few years after he came to Morden.

Mr. Topley, a well-known breeder of Polled Angus cattle, three miles north of Morden, has also had varied experience in the matter. He says that spring plowing is preferable to late fall plowing, but early fall plowing has certainly advantages over spring plowing in killing and keeping down weeds. About the crop results, he says nearly everything depends on the season. One year's crops on fall plowing will turn out ahead, and the next season, without any apparent cause, the opposite result will be attained.

Mr. Henderson, another breeder of Polled Angus stock in the Morden district, favors fall plowing chiefly because it gives a chance of early sowing, which again results in an earlier harvest, with comparative immunity from frost and all the other ills to which a late harvest subjects the crops.

Mr. Geo. Hamilton, one of the Morden pioneers, who is also a beginner in the pure-bred stock industry, says he put the matter to the test last season, with the object of arriving at a decision. He plowed half a field in the fall and the balance this spring. Part of it grew a crop of barley, and the other part oats last year. The field was seeded with wheat, and the furrow dividing the spring and fall plowing was marked. The result was an equal crop all over, and no difference could be seen either in the quality or quantity of the crop.

Messrs. Geo. and Harry Shortreed favor early fall plowing, as it is certainly a method of good husbandry in the fact that it kills and keeps down weeds, and also from the view that the work is done and the ground is ready for early seeding.

Mr. Harry Brown, a practical farmer and an extensive land owner, says the earlier fall plowing is done the better, and that is becoming a recognized fact to such an extent in the Morden district that quite a number of farmers hire an extra man and start the plow as soon as the first land is cleared of grain.

MANITOU DISTRICT.

Mr. William Falls, who has been farming in Manitoba for twenty-four years, states he would go in for fall plowing every time. He would draw the line only at plowing down snow, believing that even late fall plowing is preferable

to spring plowing. One reason he would strongly urge for this is that oats should be sown earlier than they are at present, as early oats give a better and heavier quality of grain than late oats, and with spring plowing it is impossible to sow oats in time.

Mr. Alex. Cochrane came to his present farm twenty-six years ago, and settled when there was not a single settler west of him, and he was fourteen miles from his nearest neighbor in any direction. He believes in and practices fall plowing for wheat, but for oats and barley he says the ground should be newly turned. He would not, under any circumstances, sow barley in any but newly-plowed soil. Mr. Cochrane has had great success in growing roots. He has at present a plot of about two acres of Swedes, of one of the purple-top varieties. The roots are close, and of splendid shape and quality, and are well grown for the period of the season. There is scarcely a blank to be seen in the whole plot. Mr. Cochrane has run a threshing outfit for the last two years by a 20-h.p. gasoline engine, with which he has had great success.

Mr. F. A. Brown, manager Claremont Stock Farm, Manitou, plows all he can get done in the fall, and believes it to be best under all circumstances.

Mr. J. S. Robson, Manitou, plows all he can in the fall, and believes early fall-plowing to be the best. He has seen spring plowing do best, but the cases were exceptional.

PILOT MOUND.

Mr. Aaron McLean, Pilot Mound, who takes a thorough interest in the subject of plowing, and has written to the local papers on the subject of the advantages of good plowing, says that fall plowing is best nine times out of ten. The tenth case does crop up occasionally, but it does not pay to count on it. Mr. McLean says he has seen early fall plowing to act almost equal to summer-fallowing, and in all cases it is the nearest approach to summer-fallowing that can be got. He says that more depends on whether the land be plowed well or not than most farmers seem to take into their calculations.

Mr. J. S. Moffatt believes in fall plowing without exception, and especially early fall plowing, which he has always found to be the best.

CRYSTAL CITY.

Mr. Wm. Smith, who has farmed in the district for fourteen years, believes spring plowing to be the best when it can be done early enough to get the grain sown seasonably. His experience has been that spring plowing gave the best crops. He advocates deep plowing, so that the grain may get ahead of the weeds, and he is so strongly in favor of the method that were it possible to get the crop in early enough he would plow all in the spring.

Mr. James P. Sanson favors fall plowing, but says he has seen crops on spring plowing excel that on fall plowing.

Mr. Waldo Greenway plows all he can in the fall, and believes it always to be the best method, both for getting the work done and for the crop.

Mr. J. J. Ring sets the plows to work on every available opportunity in the fall, and leaves as little as possible to do in the spring.

CLEARWATER.

Mr. John Campbell, who has been farming in the Clearwater district for the past twenty-two years, says his experience is that spring plowing is better for that district nine years out of ten. He would not plow any in the fall if he could avoid it, but, of course, finds it impossible to carry his views into full effect, as he could not by plowing all in spring get his crop in time. He, however, maintains that he has, with rare exceptions, got his best crops off spring plowing.

KILLARNEY.

Mr. E. Hysop, Killarney, also believes in spring plowing, and, as an alternative, early fall plowing. He greatly deprecates late fall plowing, and believes it better to leave off till spring than plow in the latter half of October and November.

Mr. E. Paul believes in fall plowing as best every time, but what he believes more essential in the matter is packing the earth to conserve moisture. Mr. Paul worked at farming in Dakota for some time, and while there he had seen it proved to a demonstration that seeders equipped with press wheels gave far better results in crop than the seeders in general use in Canada, which leave the earth loose over the seed. As an instance in proof of this theory, he says anyone can see that on a road passing through a field or on any part that has been packed with cattle there is invariably the best grain and the strongest and most vital heads of grain.

The best teaching is done through the eye. No paper for the farmer published in Canada, or any other country, contains such a wealth of instructive and attractive engravings as the "Farmer's Advocate." You enjoy them. So would others. Then extend its circulation.

Foul Seeds.

Quite a number in the Edmonton district and other places are complaining of foul seeds which are found in the grains and grass seed which they buy. Weeds unknown to the virgin soil often through this channel become a terrible pest, seriously handicapping the farmer's success, through their many subtle ways of draining his pocket.

Much has been written about the proverbial "ounce of prevention," and few instances are more applicable to the force of the old axiom than this, "beware of foul seeds."

The Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, is alive to this important question, and its Seed Division has issued circulars asking any farmer who knows of doubtful seeds being sold to send a sample, stating the name and address of the seller, where the seed was purchased originally if possible, the grade name under which it was sold, the price, and all other information possible, not forgetting the name of the sender.

Rural Mail Delivery Popular.

Hon. S. B. Daboll, special agent for the post-office department in Michigan, is constantly investigating the rural free delivery and planning new routes. He states that the increase in the post-office business in the districts where there is rural delivery is three times as great as under the old system. This branch of the service was established here in 1899, and in the eighth district from one route the number has increased to 155. It is estimated that each route serves 500 persons, and therefore a vast army have their mail carried daily to their homes. The banner route is at Owosso, where 17,000 pieces were delivered by the carrier in a month. The routes from Saginaw average 8,000 pieces, one carrier having 263 boxes to visit, about double the usual number. Mr. Daboll says: "The advantages of rural delivery, beyond its direct influence for good upon the farmer and his family, are the great increase of the postal business and the saving effected by the discontinuance of the 4th class offices, which will eventually make the service self-sustaining."

Fall Wheat and Other Crops.

Under date of August 11th, Mr. G. W. Buchanan, Glenborne Ranch, Pincher Creek, writes to the Advocate as follows: "This year's fall wheat on my ranch has proved that its growth is an established fact in this part of Alberta, notwithstanding what some wise heads would say and would like to believe, and would like others to believe to the contrary. I have 120 acres ready to cut this week. The straw runs from 3½ feet to 4½ feet in height, and stands stiff and strong. The heads average 4 inches in length. The yield will be 40 to 60 bushels per acre. This grain was sown about July 31st, 1902, and as stated above will be harvested this week. No cattle have ever had a hoof upon it, and I think the yield justifies my having kept them off.

Oats, not far from the wheat and on the same kind of soil, stand in many places 6 feet high, with not a single straw down. The racemes on each straw present a fine cluster. These oats were sown on April 15th, and will be harvested in two weeks. The yield ought to be 60 to 75 bushels to the acre.

Barley is a magnificent crop. A beautiful golden tint is fast spreading over the whole at the time of writing. The straw stands 3½ feet in height. The yield will be 40 to 50 bushels per acre, and of extra good quality.

Potatoes and peas are a huge crop. The potatoes will run well on to 400 bushels to the acre. We have the Early Rose and Northern varieties.

Timothy hay is a splendid crop. Many thousands of tons will be shipped into the East Kootenay country this winter. There is an increased acreage of grain this year, and preparations being made for greater things next year in this line. I have not written this with any idea of being boastful, or for the purpose of self-advertisement. But after reading so many articles in leading agricultural papers, and hearing so many men talk about the doubtfulness of a fall wheat-crop in this locality, I felt bound to write this short article.

Haying was Delayed.

In a recent letter to the advocate, a writer from Medicine Hat says: "Owing to the extraordinarily wet weather which has prevailed in Alberta during July and August, a large amount of hay is still unsaved. In many places the sloughs are full of water and the grass covered. An occasional field of cultivated grass can be seen with the heads merely above the water. Ranchmen who wish to secure some 700 tons, in many cases have only between 300 and 400 now up. It has also added a great deal to the cost per ton, for frequently complete haying camps have done little more than one day's work in a week, the ranchman having to stand this loss, as in most cases men are hired by the month. The few fine days which we had about the middle of August were fully used wherever the ground was sufficiently dry to permit of haying operations. It is to be hoped that warm dry weather will now prevail, else the frost will come while the grass is green and sappy, and thus make winter pasture of little value during one of the seasons when the best would be none to good."

Sugar Beets.

The accompanying portion of a field Melville Reynolds.

The seed was sown on June 8th, and on June 15th. The ground which had been only cultivated and no thinning done.

The seed came is experimenting suit for a beet-sugar.

The crop is very splendid size for the variety. It is provided they are such a little doubt but that as paying in November that we know of, and the average adapted to produce.

Stumps.

Can you inform in Canada, and if Bowsman, Manitoba.

Ans.—The only of at present in Lemire's Stone at quarters at Watton in some sections as well as lifting wheels, and is easy Amiraux, 40 Lans further particulars.

Lacombes.

The new creamery at Lacombe on J. Owing to the late found impossible to sire; this, by and for the output stand, is giving the card that week after starting pounds. A fine la butter-worker, cap butter at each op. The building is appliances, and has betokens success.

Dairying.

The dairying in the Edmonton district, the softness of the soil, water, along with it in many ways. A large number of quite a few pure-bred farms, and could be paying industry. That the coarser grain could be produced. What say Northern?

Effect of.

Prof. G. L. Mc point as follows: "If you were to from the same ching, salt the one ounce, and the third lot will be lot."

This shows the amount of color to amount of salt per

Mr. J. W. Hart as Superintendent School, takes a position of the State College.

While keeping agricultural thought, progressive student policy of the Farm over the heads "of formation that can every day practice. bor who is not yet subscribe.