

Home-Grown Clover Seed

With Care Excellent Results may
be Obtained—Methods of
Cutting Explained

Under normal conditions the second crop of clover should be cut for seed when the heads have turned dark brown and when most of the seeds are in the stiff dough stage. It is not advisable to cut the clover when the seeds are soft, expecting them to ripen after the cutting, as light, shrivelled seed is likely to result. Give the seed a chance to fill properly, even if a few ripe heads are lost. This loss may be materially reduced by cutting either early in the morning or late in the evening; there will be little shattering when by reason of the dew, the straw is less brittle. If the clover is tall enough it can be cut very conveniently with the binder. The cord should be removed, and the trip and the boards, that hold back the sheaf, should be slackened or removed to allow the clover a free course to the ground. In this way, the clover will be laid in a light windrow out of the road of the horses on the next round, and in good shape for drying. When ready, it can be gathered easily with the barley fork. The old-fashioned reaper is sometimes used, or, if the crop is short, the mower will be suitable. A flat, board table may be attached to the back of the cutter bar, after having a couple of holes drilled in it. The clover is kept back from the bar and raked off into windrows by the man following the machine.

The clover must be thoroughly dry before threshing. If threshed in the field, it should be left until the dew is gone; the same course should be followed if it is to be hauled into the barn to be threshed later on. If a clover huller is available, the threshing is a simple matter. If, however, there is no huller in the neighbourhood, grain threshers may be used, some of which have a clover attachment. If necessary, the ordinary machine can be adjusted to do fairly clean work. First, the clover should be run through, as in grain threshing, to separate the heads from the stalks and hull part of the seed. Next, fasten a piece of sheet iron in firmly, directly behind the cylinder, to close up all of the back except eight or nine inches at the left end, and close the front, except a foot at the right end. Close, also, any openings in the concaves. The object is to make the short material pass from one end of the cylinder to the other in order to remove the seed. The chaff can be put through again, if necessary.

—F. C. N.

Human life, and its preservation from disease, impairment of usefulness and its loss of producing power, is the most fundamental of all subjects of Conservation.—*Col. Harvey, Pennsylvania.*

Sanitary Conditions Essential to Healthy Homes

The art of laying-out, either the nucleus of a new city or the extension of an existing one, to the best advantage of its population, as regards economy, beauty and health, both now, and in time to come, is called "town-planning."

If the twentieth century is to be marked by Canada's expansion, and no one doubts the statement, it is in the highest degree essential that we should be wise and see to it that none of the evils incident to the development of the great industrial centres of other countries, particularly in the way of insufficient, inadequate and improper housing accommodation, scar the fair name of Canada.

Let it be said of Canadians that we have been wise, and, by the early adoption of preventive measures, have endeavoured to obviate errors in town-planning and housing. These will no longer be possible if adequate powers be given to health authorities to condemn, and, if need be, destroy the house which is not a home. Along these lines the Commission of Conservation is working, in the hope that our provincial governments will, at an early date, adopt the necessary legislation, and, what is more essential to the successful carrying on of the work, will establish provincial boards or commissions to direct and supervise the work, which is of a peculiarly technical character. To attain this end, the assistance of the public is necessary, for it cannot be too clearly understood that sanitary reform in this direction waits on public opinion. Without this impulse from the people, no substantial housing reform is possible. This was the opinion of the Royal Commission of Great Britain on Overcrowding, in 1884, and the words are worth repeating here: "What, at the present time, is specially required is some motive power, and probably there can be no stronger motive power than public opinion. We require an awakening of civic conscience and a well-informed and active public opinion."

Perhaps to secure this public opinion the moral effects of sanitary reform may be indicated in the words of two well-known English reformers, one a philanthropist, and the other a sanitarian, Lord Shaftesbury and Sir J. Simon. The former said: "Ninety-ninths of our poverty, misery and crime are produced by habits of intoxication, and I trace these to the domiciliary conditions of the great mass of the population of this metropolis and of the large towns of the country." While the father of sanitary science in England wrote most tersely—"Where overcrowding exists, in a sanitary sense, almost always it exists even more perniciously in certain moral senses." To children who are born under its curse, it must often be a very baptism of infamy."

If, therefore, we cannot favour this sanitary problem for sanitary reasons, surely the appeal for support to the effort now being made to secure improved and healthier homes, must strike a sympathetic cord in the hearts of mothers and fathers—for, to sum up the opinion of these two philanthropists, overcrowding is damnation of both body and soul.

We require in Canada that the health and vigour of our race should be maintained at the highest attainable standard, so that each and all can fulfil the duties of life and leave the world better from our having lived here. These desirable objects can only be attained by individual effort on the part of each one of us to do his or her utmost to preserve the lives of those entrusted to our care and thus conserve the health of the community in which we live and the nation of which we form a part.



Cut No. 71

Cutting Red Clover For Seed

Two holes may be drilled in the cutter bar of the mower and a flat, board table attached, upon which the clover is raked back and ^{off} into windrows, as shown in illustration.

Disaster at Hillcrest

Should the Government Educate
Miners along line of their
Hazardous Occupation?

One of the worst accidents in the history of mining in Canada occurred at the Hillcrest colliery, in the Crownsnest district, on June 19. Two hundred and thirty-seven men went down to work in the mine and only forty-eight returned alive.

The great elements of danger in coal-mining are gas and coal dust. Every precaution is taken to prevent the ignition of these by the use of approved safety lamps and permitted explosives. Shooting is not allowed where gas has been found and all shots are fired by shotlighters. Despite these precautions, explosions occur, and, in the case of coal-mining in the Crownsnest district, where the coal rolls down chutes to the level below, there is necessarily considerable dust. When one considers that experiment has proven that an explosion was obtained when coal dust is present only to the extent of about one-fifth of an ounce per square foot, this is much less than the dust present in the roadways of many mines, the importance of the dust problem becomes apparent.

Many remedies have been proposed to render the galleries of a coal-mine safe from coal-dust explosions, the chief of which are—

- (1) Removal of the dust by shovelling.
- (2) Watering by sprays, etc.
- (3) The provision of "stone dust" or of "wet" zones on the main roads of the mine.
- (4) Use of salt, calcium-chloride, or other inexpensive, deliquescent compounds.
- (5) Intermixture of stone or shale dust by sprinkling the roads with the same.
- (6) Prohibition of dry tamping in shot firing.
- (7) Prohibition of coal-dust tamping in any form.

It is hoped that the investigation will not be confined to the cause of the disaster at Hillcrest, but that it may be extended to cover all coal mining operations in the Crownsnest district.

Another proper governmental function would consist in some action towards educating the miners with regard to the nature and hazard of the work. This important matter should not be neglected, because, on account of the scarcity of miners in the West, the operators have to employ men with little or no coal-mining experience and safety depends, to a certain extent, on the intelligence of the least intelligent man employed; his carelessness or ignorance may wreck the whole mine.—*W. J. D.*