

FARM

Comment upon farming operations invited.

Corn Growing in Manitoba

A few miles from Winnipeg, out beyond the agricultural college lies the Monroe Milk Company's farm where this week a sixty acre field of corn is being harvested and put into the silo. There were a few other fields of corn grown in this province this year. Benson, up at Neepawa, had quite a patch of this cereal, twenty acres or so, and it looked like quite a field, but the Monroe people have sixty acres in one block. Two corn harvesters are at work cutting it, a portion of the crop will be used for silage and the remainder shocked and cured in the field. The soil it is growing in is a tough gumbo, like most of the soil around Winnipeg. The variety of corn is the Longfellow. It was sown with the drill in rows three feet apart about the twentieth of May. Harvesting operations began on the twenty-third of September, at which date the crop had just been glazed with frost. It stood then an average height of eight feet, and will yield fifteen or eighteen tons of green fodder to the acre.

It is remarkable how thick corn gets on the bottom in this country. Corn will not grow to any remarkable height in this country, the ordinary varieties will not ripen, but it spreads out so thick at the bottom, stools out so exceptionally, that for fodder it yields equal to anything grown in the regular corn belt. The harvesters had all the bottom they could handle, and, though the largest size built, the cutter choked up occasionally in the heavier parts of the field.

Corn is no new crop in Manitoba, but it is seldom one sees it growing here in sixty acre blocks. That it can be grown successfully has been demonstrated, that it will make excellent silage, the experience on this farm for the past two years is ample proof. For putting in the silo it is rather too green and immature when cut, and requires to be wilted for a few days after cutting. But dry it out a little and it makes silage equal in quality to anything made anywhere else. And as a winter feed for dairy cows nothing yet discovered is its equal.

To insure of a good growth before frost comes in the fall corn requires to be in the ground just about as early in May as a man can get it in. This field we are speaking of was sown a trifle late, the land not being fall plowed throwing the seeding a little later than it should have been. From the first to the tenth of May is the proper time for sowing. The soil intended for corn should be fall plowed always. Drilling the seed in is the handiest way of sowing, though if the field is badly infested with weeds, it would be better to plant in hills and cultivate both ways. The crop needs frequent and thorough cultivation during the summer, the cultivator requires to be kept going most of the time. But if a man has a stable, full of stock to feed, if he has cows especially, his labor will produce more milk-producing fodder than it will produce applied to any other crop that can be grown in this country.

Getting Rid of Wild Buckwheat

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:—

Can you give me a few points on the method of summer fallowing, that you think the most likely to suit many of the settlers in this district who are troubled with buckwheat?

It does not appear necessary for us to consider the question of moisture at present. The only points which it appears necessary for us to consider are:—"How to kill the buckwheat and leave the ground in condition to ripen the following crop of wheat as early as possible." We have now been trying to grow Red Fyfe for three years, but it appears likely that on breaking we shall get frozen wheat two years out of three, so our only chance now appears to be to either to sow wheat on land that has had several crops of oats, and accept the volunteer oats in the crop, or manage our summer fallowing in some way so as to give us earlier ripening in the following crop than is usual from the ordinary method of summer fallowing.

Alta.

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As wild buckwheat is an annual plant, it does not present as many difficulties in the way of eradication as perennials or biennials do. If the seeds produced in this season's crops are sown this fall on the ground, or allowed to start next spring, the plants produced can be cut off by cultivation, cultivating before seeding if practicable, or by harrowing after the grain is up. A good plan is to disc or harrow the stubble in the fall, directly after harvest, so as to cover

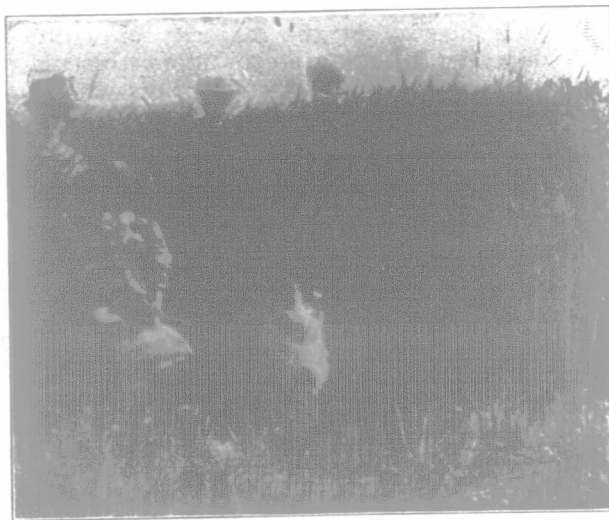
up and encourage the germination of as many seeds as possible in the autumn. After-harvest cultivation, as soon after harvest as possible, is strongly advised. This method of treatment is recommended in preference to summer fallowing if you have the difficulty you speak of in getting the wheat crop following the fallow to mature early enough to escape frost.

The only system of summer fallowing possible to effect the eradication of the buckwheat is very similar, we imagine, to the plan you are following. Plowing for summer fallow should be done early, so as to turn down the plants before they produce seed. Then, by surface cultivation during summer, any weed seeds brought to the surface by the plowing are given a chance to germinate, and the plants can be cut off and destroyed. Your trouble in summer fallowing seems to be that so much plant food is rendered available in the soil by the summer cultivation that the succeeding wheat crop grows too late in the season and is liable to get frosted before maturing. Try after-harvest cultivation, it will help you in getting rid of both the volunteer grain and the buckwheat. Plow the stubble in the fall.

Winter Wheat in Saskatchewan

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:—

Winter wheat growing in Saskatchewan is yet largely experimental. I might say in regard to my own experience with winter wheat, and also some experimental work under the direction of the Department of Agriculture at Regina that in neither case was I satisfied with the result. The wheat appeared to stand the winter fairly well. The most trying period is the interval between winter and spring. After the snow is melted, it gets spring-killed. In a late spring it would probably do very well, but in



WINTER WHEAT ON THE FARM OF MR. A. E. BURNETT, NANTON, ALTA.

any case I see no advantage in growing winter grain in this part of Saskatchewan, where the August frosts scarcely ever injure the spring wheat crops.

I might add for the information of your readers, that thirty years ago near Stonewall, Man., I grew a quantity of this so-called Alaska wheat that is being boomed nowadays. It certainly is a wonderful looking plant when growing, but one trial was sufficient to convince me that it was merely a fad. It was known then as Egyptian wheat, and I am convinced that it is the same wheat that is now being boomed under the new name of Alaska. I have in my time tried most of the new varieties and I have yet to find an equal to Red Fyfe. It has no peer amongst wheats.

Sask.

A. W. McCLURE.

Rural Contentment

A man's happiness does not rest in the magnitude of his possessions. It comes rather from reconciliation with the conditions of life and an inspiration to make the most out of life's opportunities. Nowhere should contentment be more conspicuous than in rural communities, where far from ignoble strife for riches the residents pursue the even tenor of their way. The husbandman should be contented on a good farm. A laudable pride to maintain the fertility of the land, to keep the fences and buildings in good repair and to improve the home surroundings should lead to contentment. To watch the trees and vines grow that one has planted to provide flowers as well as fruit is a pleasing ambition.

From the soil spring the necessities of physical life, and the farmer finds contentment in the daily contemplation of the harvest prospect and enjoys the fruits of his own toil. He is a workman in the great laboratory of nature and is content to watch the operations of the inexplicable laws of vegetable and animal life continually going on around him. If the farm is stocked with well-bred cattle, horses, hogs and sheep, if sickness does not afflict his family and his home is adorned with magazines, papers and books, the farmer has every element of social and intellectual contentment. Contentment does not consist in a life of idleness or boundless wealth. The farmer and his nature are never at rest. The earth

rotates on its axis every twenty-four hours and marks the changes of day and night. It plunges through space in its annual circuit around the sun to evolve the spring, summer, autumn and winter seasons and never pauses in its tireless revolutions. The grain of seed planted in the soil commences its work of development into the tiny blade, then the stalk and the fully ripened grain that sustains animal life. All nature teaches man that there is contentment in work, and the farm offers man the highest opportunity for healthful exercise.

Contentment is incompatible with a vacillating purpose. "Where a man's treasure is, there will be his heart also." If a man lives on the farm and his ambition is to fill some other calling than husbandry he lacks the mainspring of contentment. Reconciliation with one's vocation does not come by spontaneous evolution, but, like plant life, is a quality of development. Contentment on the farm should be cultivated and the farmer's aspirations circumscribed by his achievements in agriculture. The farm is the best place to enjoy life, where artificial conditions are eliminated and man comes into direct communion with nature.—*Farmer's and Drovers' Journal.*

The Prize Farm at Carberry

Wind Clear is what they call the place, and the name is both original and appropriate. The McGregor farm is wind clear all right, that is, if dense wind-breaks on the North, West, and to some extent on the East do anything towards keeping the breezes off. It is about a mile-and-a-half from Carberry, South-West of the town, out past the agricultural society's grounds. The farm seems originally to have been divided in half, two sets of buildings being on the place, one towards the North side being occupied by a hired man, the other being the home buildings of the owner. The farm, as one approaches its main entrance and turns up the lane towards the house and barns, impresses one most favorably, with the level sweeping fields, stretching for a mile to the West and half-a-mile North or South, the house and outbuildings sheltered in the grove, and the homelike appearance of the whole place.

Wind Clear Farm belongs to Mr. Thos. McGregor. Mr. McGregor came to this Western country from Huron County, Ontario, about thirty years ago, and settled on this particular place about ten years since. Previously he had been living out at Wellwood, where he homesteaded. Wind Clear was never seriously infested with weeds, and its former owner was as careful as the present occupant in seeing that no noxious weed was allowed to gain a foothold on the place. The result is that, by giving careful attention to seed, by preventing as much as possible the introduction of weed seeds during threshing time, and by a thorough system of crop rotation, under which no portion of the farm gets a chance to run wild, grow weeds and not do much else, the place has been kept in good condition as regards weeds.

The farm contains 640 acres. It is run on the mixed farming basis, some 15 cows being milked, hogs fattened and cattle fed. Ordinarily it produces about 300 acres of wheat and some 175 acres or so of oats and barley, the remainder being in hay or summer fallow. Little land on the home farm is used for pasture. Mr. McGregor has a bunch of land three or four miles west of the home place, up in the sand hills, on the shore of Lake Chaska, where the young stock pastures during the summer, and to which the cows are driven each day. Besides the field crops mentioned, some turnips, about two acres or so, are grown, and a large patch of land back of the house is given over to kitchen gardening.

ROTATING THE CROP

The cropping course is a six-year one, the land in that time producing three crops of wheat, one of oats and barley, one or timothy hay, and for one year it's in fallow. To describe it we will start with the summer fallow. During the winter the manure, as produced, is hauled out on to the oat stubble that's to be summer fallowed the coming summer. As soon after seeding as possible, the land is plowed, worked up at intervals during the summer, and plowed again in the fall. Next season it goes into wheat, and the following year again it is sown in wheat, this time with a seeding of timothy. In the fourth year the crop is timothy hay. After the hay, the land is plowed and backset if time permits, and next season it goes into wheat once again. After that, a crop of oats and barley comes off it, and it's ready to be summer fallowed again and manured for wheat. The rotation in some respects is a good one. It provides for plenty of wheat—the crop that must be amply provided for in any cropping scheme recommended in this country.