

FARM

Topics For Discussion

In recognition of the fact that valuable hints always are obtained from men engaged in actual farm work THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE has adopted the "Topics for Discussion" column, in order that our readers may see an open channel through which they may inform their brother farmers as to practices that are worth adopting and warn them against methods that prove unprofitable. Not only do we wish our readers to discuss the topics announced for the various issues, but also we desire that they suggest practical subjects on which it would be well to have discussion.

This notice appears under the "Farm" department, but the questions dealt with cover all branches of the farming industry. Letters should not exceed 600 words and should reach this office 10 days previous to the date of issue. They are read carefully and a first prize of \$3.00 and a second prize of \$2.00 awarded each week. Other letters used will be paid for at regular rates to contributors.

April 27.—*What advice have you to offer on the production of field roots, such as turnips, mangels and sugar beets? From your experiences or observation discuss most satisfactory time for sowing and give general directions for preparation of the soil.*

May 4.—*What has been your experience in corn growing in the Canadian West? Give particulars as to preparation of soil, most satisfactory varieties, method of sowing and summer cultivation. Compare this crop with other fodder crops.*

May 11.—*What advice have you to give as to methods of farming that can be followed to avoid summer-fallowing? Discuss in detail your system or any system that you know will remove the necessity of putting the land under summer-fallow at regular periods.*

May 18.—*How can roads best be built across sloughs or low, wet places? Give particulars regarding the most economical system of making a substantial roadway that will be fairly passable at all seasons.*

Making the Farm Home

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Having been in Western Canada only two years, and having everything to learn regarding new conditions, we naturally take a very lively interest in your topics for discussion. Judging by what we found on the place and the general run of what we see around us the bugbearism winter chores is due to what is styled the rough and ready conveniences, which seem to be good enough for the housing of stock and easily remedied at a very trifling cost by a little thought and a little labor. Two years ago our only out-building was a roomy stable, 14 feet high to ridge, 42 feet long by 28 feet wide. The floor was earth, not only a great nuisance, but necessitating a lot of extra labor, especially after the frost had gone. As soon as time permitted we set

about putting this right, and providing more and better accommodation, and although our live stock has considerably increased we are now doing the chores in considerably less time and with greater comfort. The stable has been floored and fitted throughout with two inch lumber we have, ten single stalls and two loose boxes with a good sized room for harness and with pegs for everything and places allotted for each set. Under this room we have built a round concrete cistern 12 feet deep and 7 feet in diameter. This is filled with rain water from old and new buildings and so far has given us ample supply for special inside purposes. The buildings run due east and west with a door at each end. On the former we have added another 16 feet, which provides stalls for four milch cows, feed cooker, mixing trough and good sized oat bin. This place is also poled and filled with straw like No. 1. At the west end we have also increased by 16 feet, but in this case have gone 20 feet high at the ridge; the upper portion is fitted with bins to store all feed oats and our seed grain, leaving plenty of room for fanning and cleaning. Underneath is fitted with a 10 foot sliding door. During the winter we drive out and in for hitching and unhitching purposes. To do this under cover is very convenient and very desirable. In the spring and summer we have ample room for preparing two four horse teams without separation. On the south side we have erected a car roofed shed 10 feet high 16 feet wide, running the whole length of the stable. These places are easily made and very inexpensive. The supports are good, 9 or 10 inch poles. The roof is formed of two thicknesses of half inch lumber with tarred paper between. The front is one third open, and leads to a large logged pen in which we store all manure and through which the cattle seem very fond of going. They keep it well tramped down and sodden. We run on this a rack of oat straw. Except for watering once a day from the well, which is fitted with pump and long trough and does not take many minutes, the cattle seem to require nothing further at our hands.

The whole farm is well fenced and although

the stock have free run we find that they invariably spend the night in their shed, apparently enjoying the shelter and good bed. In the stable proper we have 10 horses, 8 of which run out every day. The drivers are clipped and stand in the loose boxes, but all days when not wanted we turn them out about 3 o'clock to roll and run with the others.

Our chores are done by two of us, one attending to feeding while the other milks. After breakfast we turn the stock out and thoroughly clean out every stall, and as the wheeler has only about 6 yards to go from under cover there is not much on that score to grumble about. Fresh straw is added every morning. We are great believers in a good thick dry bed. The mangers are stocked with sweet sound hay just enough and no more to last each horse till morning. Both our straw and hay are kept within five or six yards of the door and are very convenient. I can safely say that everywhere is left clean and tidy and the places ready for re-occupation before 10 o'clock every morning, about 4 or 4.30 the horses come round the yard fences, and taking them to the well, 50 yards away, watering and housing does not take more than 20 minutes. Their supper feed is given them at 7.30, one again attending to the feeding while the other milks. Twice a week we feed boiled barley and bran hot.

I might add that while willing and anxious to make a good living we are also very interested in making the farm a fit place to live on and we have made many additions towards this end. The accompanying sketches show the place as it was two years ago and at present. This will enable readers of THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE to realize what we fear we have but inadequately tried to explain. Improvements referred to have been done by ourselves and are within any ordinary novice's limits. We have also planted about 3000 trees and intend to go on planting till windbreaks surround the place and make complete shelter.

Sask.

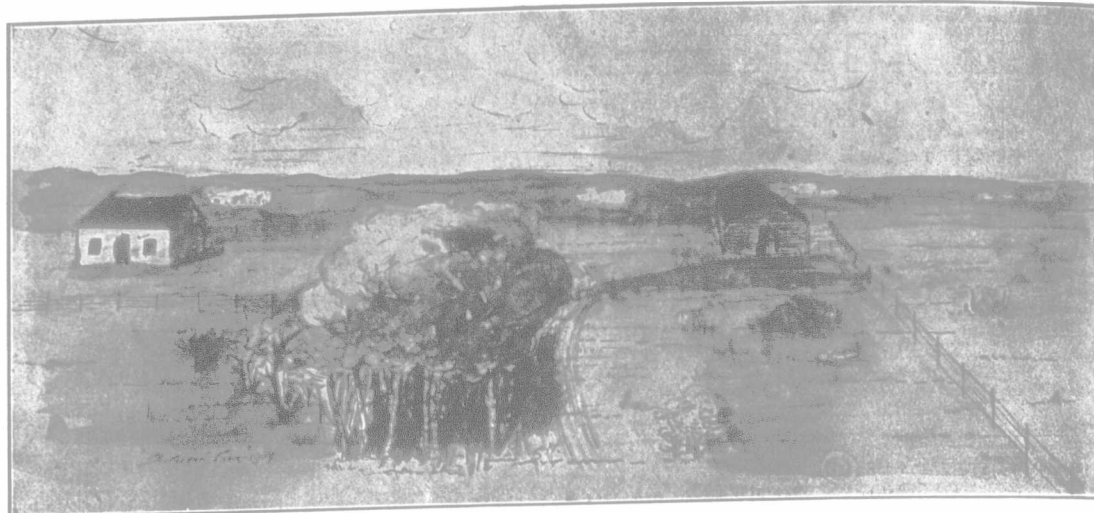
J. A. HARRISON.

Growing Alfalfa for Hay and Seed

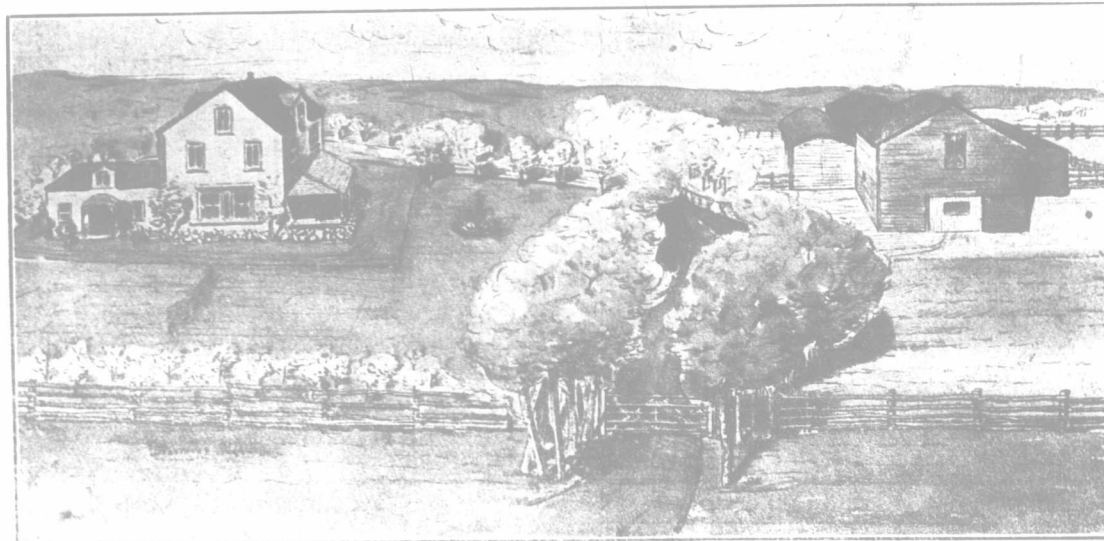
EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

To grow alfalfa successfully we must have a good stand, and in order to get a good stand we must prepare our soil so that we have a good seed bed. If the land is not well prepared, my experience has been that we may as well keep our seed until we have time to get the land ready. I think alfalfa seed should be sown about the first of May on land that has had a good summer-fallow. By doing this more hay is grown in less time than if the seed were put in any old way, as the saying is.

I do not approve of sowing alfalfa with a nurse crop, as the nurse crop will always take the moisture and nourishment from the more tender plants, and perhaps be the cause of a lot of the alfalfa dying, or will at least set it back. If set back it will take all the second year to get the plants to where they should have been at the end of the first season. I have had best success in sowing alfalfa seed with a drill, providing one can be obtained that will not sow the seed too thickly. Ten pound of seed per



SKETCH OF J. A. HARRISON'S FARM STEADING IN 1907.



SKETCH OF J. A. HARRISON'S FARM STEADING IN 1909.