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THE GRAIN GROWERS' GUIDE
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A Weekly Journal for Progressive Farmers

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GEORGE F. CHIPMAN, Editor and Manager
Associate Editors: Ernest J. Trott and E. A. Weir
Home Editor: Francis Marion Beynon

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Farm Experiences

FALL AND SPRING RYE

I wish to add a note of my experience with rye to that of J.A.L., who writes under "Farm Experiences" in the issue of June 7th. He says, "From my experience spring rye is not a good crop to sow because any of the best known tame hays or green oats will beat it for feeding qualities and the hay crops sown with grain can be sown at a more convenient time."

I have found spring rye an admirable hay crop. It should be sown very early in the spring and it can be successfully sown on the poorest and dirtiest part of the farm. The first crop of hay is cut when the rye is just headed out about July 1. This will yield from 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 tons, of as good quality as Bromo hay.

J.A.L. says that unless a man grows a carload of fall rye it is hard to dispose of. My experience is different. At the present time there is an active demand for fall rye seed and anyone who cares to advertise it for sale in The Guide can dispose of small lots for seed freely.

There is no crop so profitable as rye on dirty ground and there is no crop as good a weed eradicator. There were 364,572 bushels of rye grown in Manitoba in 1915. Most of it was grown on ground too dirty to grow anything else.

My experience agrees with that of J.A.L. that fall rye mixed with barley or oats makes a splendid ration for horses, cattle, hogs or sheep. Not only is it good feed for stock but it is ad-

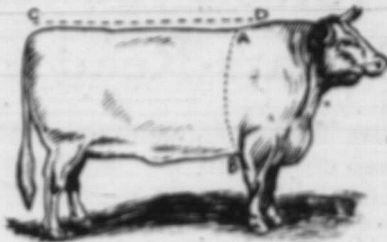
mirable for bread. Personally I prefer rye bread, that is bread made of one-half rye flour and one-half wheat flour, to straight wheat flour bread. It is more nutritious and, to my taste, it has a better flavor. Try it for yourself. Every farmer should have a copy of Winkler's first bulletin "Rye as a Weed Eradicator," No. 31. It will be sent free on application to the Editor of Publications, Department of Agriculture, Winnipeg.

A. McLEOD,

Morden, Man.

ESTIMATING WEIGHT OF CATTLE

Measure round the animal close behind the shoulder, then along the back from the fore-part of the shoulder-blade to the bone at the tail. Multiply the square of the girth by five times the length, both expressed in feet. Divide the product by 21, and the result is the approximate weight of the four quarters in stones of 14 pounds. Very fat cattle weigh about one-twentieth more, and lean cattle about one-twentieth less than the result obtained by the above method.



when divided by 21, shows the approximate weight to be 58 1/2 stones of 14 pounds.

PERENNIAL SOW THISTLE

Everybody should be on the watch for the perennial sow thistle. This weed is now getting a foothold in the central part of the Red River Valley and prompt eradication measures must be employed if this weed is to be kept in check. The sow thistle is the most noxious perennial weed in the valley in that it makes a sod more rapidly than quack grass and smother crops more than either quack grass or Canada thistle.

Like the Canada thistle, the perennial sow thistle has a long, underground, creeping stem, which will produce a new plant every few inches. By spreading in this way it is able to take complete possession of the ground, crowding out young grain plants before they get a start. All fields should be carefully searched at once for this weed and all plants in bloom should be pulled and burned and, if possible, the patch should be dug up and destroyed.

Everybody should become acquainted with this weed and aid in its extermination. F. M. G., Man.

BEE KEEPING

During the winter of 1914, owing to poor stores and too much heat and smoke in the cellar, out of sixteen colonies put in I took out only two which were of any use.

Seeing bees advertised in pound packages I ordered a pound from the South just for an experiment. They came the first of May, in the very best condition, with only about one dozen dead bees. I put them on two drawn combs filled partly with sugar syrup. They were beautiful bees. The weather was very cold, so I covered them with quilts and stuffed a feather pillow in the open space at the side of the hive and left them alone, except to visit them and sit and watch them hustle. They were the greatest little workers—out first in the morning and in last at night.

I determined to have more of them, and wired for five more packages, which arrived May 26 in even better condition than the others—not a spoonful of dead bees. How proud I was of them!

I followed the directions as nearly as possible, giving them drawn combs of sugar syrup. I tried putting a tomato-can of syrup inverted, on a saucer in the open space at the side of the hive, and it must have worked all right from the way those little duffers worked and built up.

I shook one of my old colonies June 17, and gave frames of brood to the new ones. They had their hives full of brood and bees in the middle of July. On the 19th the first one cast a fine swarm, and from then on I had a swarm every day until all but one of the new colonies had swarmed.

The bees I received May 1 filled two supers of sections and one half-depth super of extracted. I got 20 cents per section and about 30 pounds of extracted, which I sold at 15 cents a pound. I did not give these bees any brood either, as they were almost a month ahead of the other five.

I now have sixteen good strong colonies and two not so strong, if they winter successfully. From the remaining colonies I sold 193 sections and 196 pounds of extracted.

My little apiary is on the north side of the lawn, with about 50 acres of natural shelter to the west, and with a hedge on the east. The bush is oak and wild fruit trees—plum, cherry and saskatoon.

MRS. F. WESTGATE, Portage la Prairie, Man.



Caribbean government commissioners witnessing the destruction of millions of dollars worth of Mexican "revolutionary" currency in the burning ruins of the government printing and engraving building, Mexico City. The burning was set off by the Caribbean government in haste by political reasons.