

Growing Timothy for Seed

Profitable New Crop Bringing as High as \$60 per acre to some Alberta Farmers. Alberta Seed Shipped to New Zealand.

Much success is being attained by some Alberta farmers growing timothy for seed as well as for hay. Owing to the care which is now being taken in the handling and threshing of the crop, Alberta timothy seed is becoming well known and widely sought after. Two cars of Alberta timothy seed have recently been shipped to New Zealand. Some of the most successful growers are making from \$40 to \$60 per acre from this crop. The following advice on the growing of timothy is given by Mr. J. J. Murray, of Edmonton, Alberta, who has given the subject close study for several years:

Lots of moisture in the spring is essential for good results in growing timothy. Heavy black soil and abundant rainfall are an ideal combination for success in growing timothy. In Alberta, the central part of the province, particularly around Olds, Innisfail and the surrounding districts, and Pincher Creek district in the south of the province, have produced the best crops, largely owing to the ample rainfall. Dry weather in spring is particularly hard on timothy. Pincher Creek and Olds are the two largest hay shipping points in the province, and timothy hay is one of the main crops of farmers in these districts, and is as important as is the wheat crop in most districts in western Canada. Much of the hay is shipped to British Columbia, the logging camps and coast cities depending largely upon it.

Don't Spare the Sod

Farmers who have old timothy fields should sharpen their discs well this winter, and immediately the frost goes out in the spring give the timothy sod a thorough discing. Some farmers will think they are spoiling their timothy field by doing this. "Look ahead, not behind, when discing timothy sod" is good advice. Timothy weakens itself after a few years by "root binding," and it is necessary to thoroughly cut up the sod in order to bring it back to condition. Plenty of plants will be left to produce a good crop in spite of the thorough discing. These plants will be much stronger and will produce a long head, bearing seed heavily. After the field has been thoroughly discing go over it again with the harrow.

In preparing an old timothy field for re-seeding, the field should be plowed as soon as the crop is off in August, and seeded down again with four pounds of seed to the acre. Four pounds of seed together with the plants which come from the old roots, will give a good stand. The turning of the sod up to the sun which can act strongly upon the soil in August, September and October seems to have a very beneficial effect upon the crop, quite equal in fact to summerfallow. When handled in this way a field of timothy should last for three years, yielding at least three tons of hay to the acre and twelve bushels of seed to the acre. With hay \$20 per ton and seed at eight cents per pound it can readily be seen that this is a very profitable crop. Timothy responds readily to manuring, often giving an increase in yield of from 25 to 50 per cent. after the application of manure to the sod.

Mr. John Coop, Innisfail, this year produced 908 bushels of timothy seed on 123 acres, averaging over seven bushels to the acre, and then sold it for \$13 per ton. This was an old field and it netted over \$10 per acre.

The small amount of cultivation required makes timothy one of the best paying crops. Once seeding is sufficient for three years. During the first two years there is no further cultivation, and the third year all that is necessary is to give the field a thorough discing and harrowing. Allowing \$5.00 per acre for plowing and seeding, discing and harrowing, and \$1.00 per acre for seed, \$6.00 is sufficient to cover the cost per acre in putting in the crop, which yields three harvests. Also there is no danger from frost—the crop is sure in the districts where rainfall is ample. In seeding timothy with barley as a nurse crop use five pounds of seed to the acre.

Improving Quality of Seed

Great strides have been made in the last two years in developing the growing of timothy seed. Two years ago there was very little machinery for handling the crop of timothy seed in Alberta. In 1915 three cars of Alberta timothy seed were shipped out of the province. In 1916 this was increased to 52 cars. At least 75 cars of timothy seed will be exported this year, and had it not been for the dry weather in the southern part of the province the exportable surplus would have been over 100 cars. More remarkable still has been the improvement in the quality of the seed. Out of the 52 cars exported in 1916 only two cars officially graded No. 1, whereas seventy-five per cent. of the 1917 crop will grade No. 1. As there is a spread of two cents per pound between No. 1 and No. 2 grades the better quality yields an increased price of \$1.00 per bushel over No. 2.

Much of this improvement has been brought about by the issuing of instructions as to how to operate the threshing machines so as to retain the hull on the seed. Any threshing machine can be used if run slowly and a few small changes made in the equipment. Extra sieves are required and a change of pulleys so as to reduce the cylinder speed while keeping up the speed of the rest of the machine. A number of cleaning plants will be installed next year at various central points in Alberta. This is a special machine which has been constructed for the purpose, and cleans from 200 to 300 bushels per day. It removes any weed seeds that it is impossible to remove by machinery. An exportable surplus of 200 cars of timothy seed from Alberta may be looked forward to in 1918.

Salt the Hay

Timothy for seed should be cut with the binder in good weather, when it shows a nice brown tinge twelve days after it is in its second blossom, and left in the stacks for not over a week. It should then be stacked and left in the stack for three weeks, during which time it will sweat and the sweating will help to retain the hull in

threshing, as the hull is prevented from drying out. When threshing don't blow it into a pile and leave it, but put a man on to stack it. Have a barrel of strong salt water near by stack and put on the hay a bucketful of salt water with each load. The brine solution should consist of 50 pounds of salt to a barrel of water. This will settle the hay and will improve its palatability and digestibility, making the hay just as good in quality as if it has never been threshed for seed.

Humor

Judge: "What is the verdict of the jury?"
Foreman: "Your Honor, the jury are all of one mind—temporarily insane."

A trainload of newly drafted men reached their cantonment late in the afternoon. By the time they had passed through the receiving station and the hands of the doctors, it was nearly midnight. Several of them were awakened at four o'clock the following morning to assist the cooks in preparing breakfast. As one well-built, sleepy drafted man got to his feet, he stretched and yawned:

"It doesn't take long to spend a night in the army."

Tom Callahan got a job on the section working for a railroad. The superintendent told him to go along the line looking for washouts.

"And don't be as long-winded in your next reports as you have been in the past," said the superintendent; "just report the condition of the road-bed as you find it, and don't use a lot of needless words that are not to the point. Write like a business letter, not like a love-letter."

Tom proceeded on his tour of inspection and when he reached the river he wrote his report to the superintendent:

"Sir: Where the railroad was the river is."

Sandy and Alec were on board ship when a terrific storm arose. Finally the crew took to the boats, but all of them were swamped except one, in which these two were alone. The storm continued and the outlook was dark, so they betook themselves to prayer, turn about. At Alec's turn he confessed that he had been a good-for-nothing, a drinker, a good-for-nothing drinking rascal; but if the Lord would only let him get ashore this time, he would never take another—

"Alec, mon, be carefu'," Sandy here broke in. "Dinna comect yersel' too far, for I do be thinkin' I see land."

Day by day, as a Pennsylvania housewife saw her household and kitchen furniture slowly disappear, she perceived that the moment approached when a final stand must be made. One morning, when Tommy, son of the borrower, appeared at the back door with the statement, "Ma wants the wash-boiler," the housewife determined to act.

"You, tell your ma that when she brings back what she has already borrowed, I will lend her the boiler."

In a little while Tommy reappeared. "Ma wants to know what she has borrowed."

"There is a pound of flour," began the other, "a peck of potatoes, a cup of sugar, a can of coffee, a half-pound of lard, some onions, and butter, and spices; the screwdriver, the hatchet, a pair of scissors and—" she paused reflectively—"three spools of thread, a paper of needles, and—"

But Tommy was gone. Presently he rapped on the back door again.

"Ma says for you to write them down. I forgot some of them."

Whereupon the housewife sat down with pencil and patiently made an alphabetical list of all the articles she could remember.

Tommy took the list and disappeared. A half-hour later he once more appeared at the back door and announced:

"Ma says if you will lend her the wash-boiler to carry them in, she'll bring them home."

PATRIOTIC FUNDS

Red Cross Fund	
Previously acknowledged	\$4,383.26
Mrs. G. W. Quick, Maple Creek, Sask.	5.00
Mrs. Geo. Curdick, Grail Lake, Sask.	25.00
E. F. Bingham, Daughlin, Man.	100.00
John Lockhead, Ridgville, Man.	10.00
J. C. Brown, Gramson, Alta.	25.00
Robert King, Wellwood, Man.	50.00
Albert K. Johnson, Krupp, Sask.	40.00
Mrs. L. J. Styles, Ballinora, Sask.	25.00
L. J. Styles, Ballinora, Sask.	25.00
J. C. Park, Carleton, Man.	25.00
J. G. Peterson, Stonehall, Man.	25.00
Miss Alice Fribble, Tomaha, Sask.	25.00
H. J. Grayson, Theodora, Sask.	10.00
P. J. Hutchings, Edmonton, Alta.	25.00
T. W. A. Rockhaven, Sask.	25.00
Total	\$4,823.26
Prisoners of War Fund	
Previously acknowledged	\$125.00
L. J. Styles, Ballinora, Sask.	25.00
Total	\$150.00
Y.M.C.A. Military Fund	
Previously acknowledged	\$536.55
S. Styles, Ballinora, Sask.	25.00
Total	\$561.55
Serbian Relief Fund	
Previously acknowledged	\$373.00
John Lockhead, Ridgville, Man.	10.00
T. J. Korach, Ivantsov, Sask.	10.00
Total	\$393.00
French Wounded Emergency Fund	
Previously acknowledged	\$33.50
John Lockhead, Ridgville, Man.	10.00
Total	\$43.50
Halifax Relief Fund	
Previously acknowledged	\$52.00
Blaris and Isabella G. G. Assn., Isabella, Man.	20.10
Up and Doing Society, East Brandon School No. 165, Roundswite, Man.	10.00
Total	\$82.10
Belgian Relief Fund	
Previously acknowledged	\$11,771.87
Henry Vitting, Carlyle, Sask.	2.00
F. Williams, Glenavon, Sask.	15.00
Hald, Rogers, Gainsboro, Sask.	10.00
The Young Girls' Aid Society of South Swift Current, Sask.	1.75
John Lockhead, Ridgville, Man.	10.00
A. E. Vallance, Winton, Sask.	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Montgomery, Missions, Man.	10.00
Robert Bennett, Pine Creek, Man.	8.50
Angus Blyth, Dalton, Sask.	10.00
S. H. S. Beattie, Moore Park, Man.	10.00
Total	\$11,854.12
British Red Cross	
Previously acknowledged	\$37.50
Two Creeks Grain Growers' Association, Two Creeks, Man.	62.00
A. E. Vallance, Winton, Sask.	5.00
Total	\$104.50
British Sailors' Relief Fund	
Previously acknowledged	\$35.00
A. E. Vallance, Winton, Sask.	5.00
Total	\$40.00
Canadian Patriotic Fund	
Previously acknowledged	\$890.00
A. E. Vallance, Winton, Sask.	5.00
Total	\$895.00
Previously Acknowledged	
French Red Cross Fund	\$563.50
Polish Relief Fund	110.00
Blue Cross Fund	1.00
Returned Soldiers' Fund	25.00
Soldiers' Families Xmas Fund	15.00
Total	\$19,671.53

BREEDERS' ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meetings of the Canadian National Livestock Breeders' Meetings will be held in the Carls-Rite Hotel, Toronto, February 4 to February 8, 1918. Single fares east on all roads have been asked for their meetings and will likely be granted as they always have been in the past.

It is poor comfort to an unemployed man to remind him that the economic system which deprives him of a job enables an occasional poor boy to become a millionaire. So when an exchange dwells on Henry Ford's rise from a poor boy earning \$3.00 a week to a multi-millionaire, it fails to prove the justice of existing conditions. An occasional exceptional poor boy will reach financial prosperity under any economic system. There is no need to worry about the future of embryo Henry Fords. But the average poor boy is not in that class. He will be in need of a job all of his life. Should we allow conditions to remain unchanged whereby men willing to work can be deprived of an opportunity to work? Would not poor boys gain greatly if chances to become multi-millionaires were reduced and chances for jobs increased? Would not such a change be better for rich boys as well?

Where manure is applied for cultivated or hoed crops the importance of incorporating the manure thoroughly with the soil as near to the surface as practicable should be considered.



The burning ruins of the Northern Elevator Company's Elevator, St. Boniface, in which 80,000 bushels of grain were destroyed on December 22.

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