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FORAGE CROPS

By W. C. McKILLICAN

Superintendent, Brandon Experimental Farm

WITH the development of the live stock industry in Western Canada the question of forage crops becomes each year a more pressing one. Cattle and other stock are introduced as a sideline to grain growing, and the by products and the waste products of the grain growing farm must necessarily be an important part of their feed. But it is not possible to feed satisfactorily on these feeds alone; something of a more varied nature must be provided. And, as a consequence, the question of forage crops is one that is coming more and more to the front in agricultural discussion and research. It is a rather difficult problem under our climatic conditions. The light rainfall and short growing season of the prairie regions in Canada are well suited to growing first class cereal crops, but the growing of forage crops is more easily accomplished where more moisture and a longer growing period lend their aid. Consequently the choice and development of the most suitable kinds

of crops and the learning and application of the best methods are of greater importance here than in districts where these crops are more favored by the climate.

Forage crops like all other plants are annual, biennial or

produce crops for a number of years from one sowing. All permanent hay land or pasture must be produced by perennial crops. They are, in all live stock producing countries, the mainstay in the production of hay and pasture.

HAYMAKING is an operation that must be done in a certain space of time that is short at best and that is always liable to be made shorter by bad weather. For this reason there is perhaps no farm operation in which system and efficiency count for more than in haymaking; yet throughout the hay-growing area more or less haphazard methods of haymaking are still very common. If ever there was an excuse for haphazard methods in any farming operation, it is not now. What are you doing in forage crops?

perennial in the duration of their life. These differences determine the methods used in growing them.

Perennial Crops

Perennial crops are those that

Grasses are the most widely used crops for this purpose, but perennial legumes, such as alfalfa and alsike, also play a most important part. In all crop rotations where more than one crop of hay or pas-

ture is to be grown the perennial grasses must be used. In the maintenance of soil fertility and physical condition they are of vital importance, as the fine turf-forming roots of the grasses renew the vegetable fibre of the soil and the nitrogen fixing properties of the legumes renews its fertility.

The growing of perennial hay crops in a dry country is beset with peculiar difficulties. The methods of moisture conservation which are used in successful grain growing cannot be applied to grass crops except at the start. Summer fallowing and other methods of cultivation are, of course, inapplicable to sod land. Therefore, suitable sorts must be chosen that will grow on the least possible moisture supply and conditions must be made as favorable as possible at the time of seeding down in order to give them a good start.

Brome Grass

Brome grass is the most drought resistant and most productive of the grasses that succeed in Western Canada. It produces hay of



Who said: "Labor shortage?" Query: How many horses and men does this outfit replace?