

in the wholesalers' hands are very tight.

(4) The conditions in the States are somewhat like our own.

In view of this would it not be well for farmers to press as far as possible every clover field which can be made fit to produce seed into service? Will it pay? We believe it will, and it will pay to produce as far as possible clean seed. The best way to produce clean seed is after a hoe crop or summer fallow, but any piece of land may be handled so that weed seeds will be reduced to a minimum. Pastured clover usually produces the plumpest and best colored samples of seed. In an ordinary season, in order to escape the clover seed midge which often plays havoc with the seed crop, it is advisable not to pasture later than June 20th. Then if the stock have not cropped the weeds and clover down closely, it is a good practice to clip it evenly with a mower by tilting up the cutting-bar. This puts back weed development enough so that the clover plants can get a good start of the weeds, when they will practically smother them out except on the killed-off places or where the clover is thin. The weeds growing on such places can be easily prevented from seeding by cutting them green with a scythe or mower.

Often splendid crops of seed are produced after a hay crop. Much will depend on the season as to what time the first cutting should be made. To escape the midge, early cutting is preferable; but with a late season like this, no doubt time and seed would be too early, and good seed has come from taking the hay crop off in July.

Weed seeds can best be eliminated from the clover seed in the growing crop. With the great difference in price between clover seed, foul with weed seeds, and comparatively clean, it would pay to spend some time in weeding the growing crop. The work in this way is simplified when the seed crop is produced after a live crop or a summer fallow. Rye-grass, perhaps the most common weed seed impurity and hardest to separate from the clover seed, can be easily seen just after the mower has gone over the crop. Meadows containing this weed should be gone over half a land at a time and these plants spud out. Weeds like curled dock, false flax, night-flowering catchfly, Canada thistle and chickory may be either pulled by hand or spud out. Fox-tail and trefoil or black medick, which usually grows on bare or thin places, should be cut early for hay.

By paying attention to a few of these details, farmers might increase the value of their seed crop easily \$5 per acre, which would more than pay for the labor involved in weeding the crop. Prices are bound to be high for No. 1 seed and the supply scarce, and it will pay to produce all the clover seed possible this year.

Bumble bees should be encouraged to make their nests near the clover fields to ensure fertilization. This may be done by providing boxes and cans filled with wool or rags here and there along the fences, but high enough from the ground to prevent ravages from field mice.

Every farmer should remember that the Seed Branch Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, is at his service to test for him, free of charge, his small seeds for purity and for germination when the latter is required. He will get his report on purity in three or four days and it may be of great

value to him if the sample he sends is representative of the bulk lot he is offering. The report will show what noxious weed seeds are present and the extent to which they exist. If the seed be well lanned, of good size, and well colored, he should get the top market price if the analysis shows freedom from weed seeds. Let every farmer be wide-awake to his opportunity this year.

T. G. RAYNOR.

Hay-Making

As the hay-making season is drawing near, a word or two on the subject may not be out of place, especially as prospective light yield makes it all the more important that the crop should be saved in the best possible condition.

One of the commonest mistakes, especially early in the season when the hay is full of sap and consequently slow to cure, is to cut down too large a quantity at one time. If the weather is favorable some of it gets too dry before it can be got under cover, and if the weather is showery some of it is sure to spoil.

Another mistake, or rather a custom, that many still cling to, is the plan of coiling hay. I consider this quite unnecessary, hence my speaking. Some say that if you wish good hay you must cure it in the coil. During the past thirty years the writer has assisted in saving 150 to 200 tons of hay, each year with few exceptions, and we did not coil more than 10 to 15 tons in any one year and that only when the weather was catchy, and I venture to say that our hay will compare favorably with any other. But as we are beginning to grow alfalfa, we make a practice of curing it mostly in the coil.

I will try and outline our plan in brief. The alfalfa comes first on the list. We cut early in the day just about what can be handled the next day in the afternoon. We "ted" it almost right after the mower, and if it is heavy, "ted" it again immediately, then again early next morning, so as to have it done before the dew is off. (Right here is where many make a mistake and consequently condemn the tedder, which is the best hay-making tool we have. They leave the hay until it is dry on top before they start the tedder, when it knocks off a goodly portion of the leaves especially of clovers.) As soon as the dew is well off, we rake it up. In the afternoon we put it up in good-sized coils, which we leave standing for several days. These will take very little harm if it does rain, as it goes together very closely when coiled so fresh.

As soon as the alfalfa is in coil, we go right ahead with the red clover and timothy, not cutting any more in one morning than we can save in an afternoon, using the tedder, etc., just the same as we do with the alfalfa, especially in the early part of the season. The exception is that we commence to haul in the afternoon instead of putting it in coil. Whenever it is convenient we draw in a load of two of alfalfa or if it is threatening rain we quit cutting and draw from the coils.

If hay gets a shower, the tedder should be started as soon as the rain is over. This will loosen it up and shed most of the water out and you will scarcely notice any stain from the wet. We put about three quarts of salt upon each load after it is

spread in the mow, and we spread each load from the horse fork the same as if pitched by hand. By so doing the hay can be put in much fresher than when left lying in horse "forkfuls."

The above system works well, generally speaking. Of course, it has to be varied slightly according to wind and weather.

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Note.—We would be glad to have the experiences of others as to the best methods to follow in hay-making. A full discussion of this subject just now would be timely and profitable.—Editor.

Impure Seeds

During the year 1906 about four hundred samples of clover, alfalfa and timothy seed were tested at the Iowa Experiment Station for adulteration, impurities and vitality. The average germination of the alfalfa samples was 57 per cent. Timothy seed on the market show the status of these seed is very low also, the percentage of plump-appearing seed being close to 64 per cent. Of one hundred and thirty samples of clover examined, only 2 per cent. were found to be pure, the average impurity being about 2 per cent.

Sharpening Disk Harrows

A dull disk harrow does not do satisfactory work when there is any trash on the surface of the ground. We once tried having the disks drawn out to a nice edge by a blacksmith, but it was expensive and the temper was left uneven. John Gould, writing to the Rural New-Yorker, says: "A carbide wheel will cut these hardened disks down to a fine edge and with great expedition. We have one of these little wheels with a bicycle mount, and grind everything with it from chilled iron plow points to stone tools; things that an emery wheel makes little or no impression upon. Just take the disks out of the gang, and one is surprised how fast they are edged up, and that without starting the temper, nor is wet grinding needed, a dry contact being all that is required."

Of course a harrow will not last so long if it is kept sharp, but it will do better work while it does last. It is not half so important in a harrow's life, or a person's either, to "last" a long time here on earth as it is to do first-class work while it is doing, and not smear over work that would be better done if an inefficient agent were not pretending to do it.

Nearly every man knows a great deal about how the affairs of the county or Province should be conducted, but when it comes to filling a petty little township office they can't even put a motion to adjourn.

Don't make life miserable for the family another season by trying to grow poultry and garden truck on the same piece of land. One fence will fence in the garden and fence out the poultry.

"A place for everything and everything in its place" is the only rule on the farm by which tools and small implements can be found when wanted. I have known men spend an hour of a very busy day looking for some misplaced tool necessary to repair machinery.