

## FARM.

## Maritime Seeding Notes.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—We prefer to sow a mixture of timothy and clovers—generally about six pounds timothy seed, four pounds red clover, and one pound each of white and alsike clover. There is nothing quite so good as wheat to seed with, though the mixed grains (peas, oats, and wheat, or peas, oats and barley) generally do well; but I prefer wheat, as the stubble can be cut higher, making a mulch and holding the snow later in the spring, thus protect-



CLYDESDALE STALLION, "HIAWATHA."

PROPERTY OF MR. JOHN POLLOCK, PAPER MILL FARM, CATHCART, N. B. WINNER OF CHAMPIONSHIP, GLASGOW, 1892.

ing the clover roots from the freezing and thawing which is the greatest trouble in getting a stand of clover and grass in this section.

We sow the clover and grass seed after the grain has been covered, and then cover the grass seed with a light drag-tooth harrow, and roll as soon as the land is dry. We do not mind rolling grain even after it is two or three inches above ground, but do not like to harrow after it has been in the ground three days.

No variety of wheat did well here last season. Wheat rusted quite badly, especially bearded sorts. A few fields gave more than twenty bushels per acre, and a large per cent. of the grain is only fit for feeding. White Russian, White Fyfe and Green Mountain are the sorts in best repute. Canadian Banner and Black Tartarian oats do rather better than others. Pearce's Prolific or Longfellow corn; Early Ohio, Early Rose, Sunrise, Silver Dollar potatoes; Diamond swede and Elephant swede turnips; Long Orange and White Belgian carrots; and Mammoth Long Red mangels are our favorites.

C. H. BLACK.

### A Good Seed-bed Essential to a Good Yield—Best Varieties of Grain, Roots, Etc., in Shefford Co., Quebec.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I consider that the subject of soil preparation is of greater importance than many suppose it to be, and that the after surface cultivation of all hoed plants has much to do with insuring a good crop, especially in dry seasons; but in order to have cultivating a success, the soil must be put in proper tilth before the seed is sown. On our hillside farms subsoiling is not practiced, but we all in this section plow as deep as a good plow will turn. We prefer fall plowing, so that the frost of winter will help to pulverize the soil. We use the spring-tooth harrow, and harrow in spring till the surface is thoroughly cut up.

The use of the horse weeder in grain crops is now exciting the minds of many, and we shall expect to hear much about this new method this coming season. It clearly demonstrates, if successful, the principle of surface cultivation, but whether it will be profitable or not remains to be proved.

The supply of humus in the soil is maintained principally by stable manure. We always seed down to grass with clover and timothy, and as hay is the largest crop here we aim to put all land in good heart when seeding down, and seldom crop more than twice before seeding down, and on smooth ground only one crop of grain is taken. The aftermath is not cut or fed down by stock, but allowed to remain where it grew, to return to the soil its whole strength, not only insuring the following crop of hay by what it gives back, but it protects the roots from the severe frosts of winter. We consider this a cheaper way to top-dress meadows than any other. Commercial fertilizers are used to some extent to increase hoed crops, in addition to stable manure, so that the latter may cover a greater area, for no one ever has as much as he would wish.

White Fyfe wheat we find of the best quality for flour, but does not yield as much to the acre as some other varieties. The Red Chaff did well the past two seasons. Banner oats give general satisfaction, but there are other new varieties. The "Silver Mine" did well last season, but only a small piece was sown. The Mummy peas proved good, and Mensury barley is among the best.

Huron Dent corn for feeding cows did exceedingly well, and Perry's Hybrid Sweet we prefer for feeding, but it is not so sure a cropper as the dent or flint sorts.

The varieties of potatoes are numerous. Carman No. 1, Rural New Yorker (or No. 2), and Carman No. 3 have all proved good as croppers. The first is of best quality, the last for yield, and the second named between the two. The Somerset comes in for quality and yield combined. Empire State is a good standby. The newer kinds are pushing ahead, such as Maul's Thoroughbred, Monney-maker, Great Divide, Pelham Rose, Wonder of the World, and Lily of California. These were about alike for yield, but only grown in small quantity, the last named being the poorest. For early crop we like the White Beauty, Early Puritan, or Burpee's Extra Early. The Rose of Erin, a late potato, proved to be a big cropper, but of poor quality. The Giant Swede turnip for stock-feeding, and Landradth's Purple-top for table use. The Oxheart carrot yields big crops, but the "carrot rust-fly" injured us for the first time last season. Long Red mangels we count best here. I intend to try the Golden Giant oats and the Preston wheat, and probably some others.

P. P. FOWLER.

Shefford Co., Que.

## Prince Edward Island Seeding Notes.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I prepare the land in the spring for grain crops by harrowing, as I make it a point to have all plowing done in the fall. By putting the disk harrow over the land about twice, setting it pretty deep, and then following with spring-tooth or spike harrow to fine it up and level it, I find it is in good condition for the drill or seeder. For potatoes we use the same cultivation, then spread the manure on top, if it has not been plowed in in the fall. Land for roots I plow once or twice in the spring, so as to get it loose and fine in tilth.

I depend largely on barnyard manure to keep up supply of humus in the soil, but I supplement it when I can with seaweed, and occasionally plow under buckwheat on a poor piece I have nothing else for. I have never plowed in any clover for this purpose, as I have always had use for it as feed in the stables; besides, clover has not done well here lately till last season.

The varieties of spring wheat that give the best satisfaction here now are the Fyfe and White Russian. Campbell's White Chaff has given splendid satisfaction since it was introduced, eight years ago, till this last year, when it was so badly rusted as to be about useless. It will not likely be in much favor in future. In oats, I think the Norway or Tartarian (black) are about the best suited for a general crop on good land, as they have a stiff straw and stand, and yield well. The Joannette has done well in some localities on very rich land. In white varieties, the Siberian and Banner are, perhaps, ahead, though I have been very successful with the Poland and Flying Scotchman. In peas, the crop is confined pretty much to Mummy and Golden Vine, with the preference for the former. Pearce's Prolific and Longfellow are the kinds mostly grown here for silage, though I believe Thoroughbred White Flint does well in warm situations. Our staple potato is the McIntyre (known as Chenango) in the Boston market. It is hardy and very prolific. We grow a great variety of turnips, and it would be difficult to say which gives best satisfaction. "Hazard's Improved Swede" is more largely grown than any other single variety, and is considered the best all-round turnip we have. The Intermediate kinds of white carrots suit best for field crops, and the Long Red Mammoth mangel is the best yielder we have.

WALTER SIMPSON.

Queen's Co., P. E. I.

## Valuable Advice re Seeding to Grass and Clovers.

We seed our land to clover with every white straw crop. The soil is a heavy clay, deficient in vegetable matter, and by continued seeding down to clover we hope to maintain and increase the amount of humus in the soil, and also the producing power of the land per acre per annum. The common red clover is our favorite, and we aim to have it a success if we can possibly do so. We usually sow from three to five pounds of timothy, six to eight of red clover, and one of alsike per acre. If soil and season are favorable this will give a very heavy stand of young plants for the succeeding crop. Fall wheat is our favorite crop for seeding down with, but we have to make use of oats and other grains as well for spring seeding. When seeding with fall wheat, the timothy is sown with the wheat in front of the drill, and one stroke of the harrow is given after sowing. If the soil is not very rich we apply a light top dressing of stable manure previous to drilling in the wheat, and work it in with the harrow. When this is done we have never failed to have a catch, and it did not seem to hurt the wheat in the least. The wheat is generally sown after peas, and the land worked about three inches deep with disk or cultivator. The clovers are sown in the spring or when the land is in the honeycomb state, our experience being that it is safer to sow on the early side than leave it too late. On hills and hillsides that are exposed during winter we like to top dress before the snow goes in the spring, and here we usually have the very best stand of clovers. Last

year the hay crop was good, but on the top-dressed land of the previous winter it was almost double the yield in the same field. When seeding down with oats or other grains in the spring, sow the fields to be seeded down first. Let the hose run light—one to one and one-half inches deep, seed in front of hose, and then follow with one stroke of harrow. We have had excellent results from this method.

With regard to harrowing land that has been seeded down, we think it is perfectly safe to do so. Two years ago we harrowed a field that was very badly crusted by a heavy rain, and had a splendid catch, and we roll our land every year and have never noticed injurious results.

In spring wheat, there is almost none grown here; Oats—Siberian, American Banner, New Zealand; Peas—Prussian Blue, Multiplier, common white pea; Barley—Mensury; Corn—Compton's Early, Longfellow, Stowel's Evergreen; Potatoes—Elephant, Late Rose, Empire State; Turnips—Jumbo, East Lothian, Purple-top; Carrots—Improved Short White; Mangolds—Mammoth, and Golden-fleshed Tankard.

JAS. B. MUIR.

Bruce County.

## Increasing the Humus in the Soil of P. E. Island.

I sow oats in inverted sod plowed the previous fall; prepared in the spring by using disk and spring-tooth harrows until the land is mellow; then drill in grain with Noxon Hoosier drill. I sow wheat in land that grew a root crop the preceding year. Plow in the spring; spring-tooth and spike harrow to prepare the seed-bed, and drill it in along with clover and timothy seed. I manure last season's corn land for barley, plowed under with shallow furrow; harrow with spring-tooth and spike harrows, and drill in the seed. Roll all grain soon after sowing. I drill in peas in similar land treated in the same way as oats. I sow wheat as early as it is possible for horses to go over the land. Peas come next, followed by oats, barley being the last to be attended to.

Clover is so frequently killed by the alternate freezings and thawings of March and April that I do not rely on it for a fertilizer, except that I am very glad to get an occasional crop to increase the bulk and value of the hay crop. But I make every possible exertion to increase the manure heap by carting swamp muck into the cattle yards and pens, pig houses, and every hole or spot where the liquid from the manure heaps or stables may leach. I use a great deal of the muck for composting with the stable manure and letting the mixture heat, and if stable manure is scarce I compost muck with lime. As I find it difficult to get straw enough for bedding all my stock, I occasionally send several miles for loads of sawdust, which makes the nicest litter for a horse stable I know of, and helps to further enlarge the manure heap. By these practices I find my farm increasing rapidly in productiveness, and from the appearance of the soil I judge the humus is getting more abundant.

I sow Wild Goose wheat. My neighbors sow red and white Fyfe, White Russian, Colorado Bearded, and Campbell's White Chaff. The latter was a failure last year, which was a serious loss, as it was largely sown. I sow common six-rowed barley, but two-rowed English barley is more frequently sown. Either are paying sorts in this Province and should be our principal grain crop. For the oat crop I sow Egyptian White. Many rely on our old Island black oat, a valuable kind. Some have good success with the Early Gothland, while a few of our best farmers swear by the Norway, a black oat much



THE WAY THEY DO IT IN SCOTLAND.

CLYDESDALE STALLION, OWNED BY ALEXANDER GALBRAITH, JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN.

advertised twenty-five years ago. Mummy peas are the favorite here, although I have had good crops of the Prince Albert. I am looking for the English Gray pea, as English writers on sheep say it is a useful food for that animal. Longfellow corn is in the ascendant with us; Callico or Chenango potatoes. For turnips, we go the whole hog on Hartley's Improved Bronze-top, locally known as "Hasgard's Improved." It has given larger crops and better roots than any other variety for many years. There is something about it that suits us.

FRED. G. BOVYER.

King's Co., P. E. I.