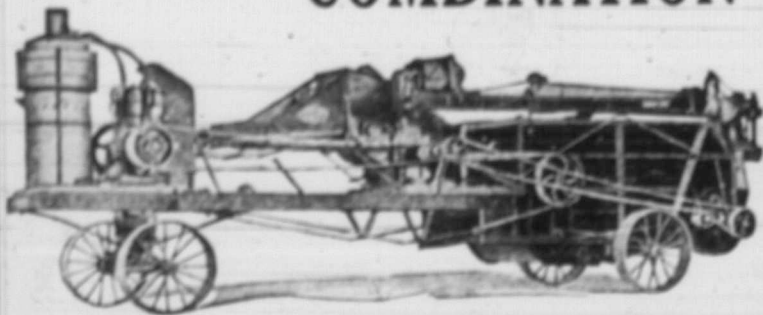


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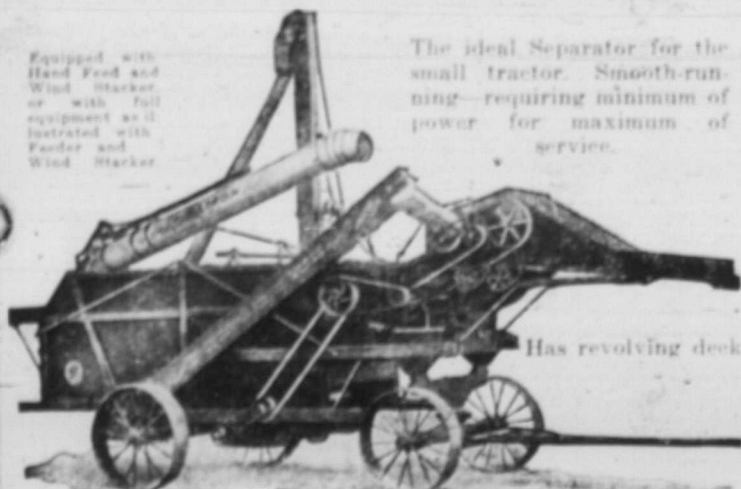
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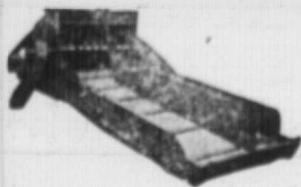
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Looking North over the Plots at the Brandon Experimental Farm.

Gleanings from "The Plots"

Continued from Page 9

is the best—O.A.C. No. 3, a selection of Daubeny made by Dr. Zavitz, of the Ontario Agricultural College, has shown no superiority over the parent variety on the Brandon farm. Orloff, a Russian variety, and Eighty Days, a selection made by Dr. Charles Saunders, are also grown. There is not much choice between the four varieties.

A reference to the illustrations on page nine will show the marked difference between barley grown on corn land and that grown after stubble. The upper part of the cut shows 461 A barley, an Ottawa strain, grown on stubble. For a few inches on the margin of the plot, the plants had advantage of the moisture which they drew from the bare soil on the outside, and show a fair stand, this being characteristic of experimental plots. In the centre, however, the crop was very poor. Contrasted with this is the same strain of barley grown on adjoining plot after corn. It was a thick, even stand, and its height may be judged from the fact that the photo included Mr. McKenzie, who is well over six feet in height. The uniform experience has been that grain crops do even better after corn than after summerfallow. As a rule, however, barley is grown on stubble land and the marked difference this season, as shown by the illustrations is due largely to having two dry years in succession.

Of the varieties of barley tested Manchurian easily takes first place in yields obtained. From sowings on summerfallow over a five year period this variety averaged 61 bushels 46 pounds. Gold, a two-rowed variety, outyielded O.A.C. No. 21, a six-rowed selection made by Dr. Zavitz, and the leading sort now grown in Ontario, which yielded 55 bushels 31 pounds. Canadian Thorpe, also two rowed, did not stand up so well, giving a five year average of 52 bushels 4 pounds.

Winter Rye a Promising Crop

Winter Rye is a promising crop and may become a standard crop in the West," said Mr. McKillican, when the conversation turned to this cereal, which of late years has been attracting so much attention. "It was pretty badly killed out last winter but some plots, including North Dakota 959 and a strain received from Saskatoon came through. Two other varieties were killed out, according to our estimates, 45 and 50 per cent. respectively. I believe it is much harder in this respect than winter wheat. I wouldn't like to prophesy that it is going to take a place amongst our commonest crops, but I am inclined to think that it is."

Mr. McKillican states that there was a lot of work yet to be done in standardizing varieties of winter rye and that it may be greatly improved. But little experimental work has been done with it as yet. It has several good points, among which is that it is quite drought resistant. This year it stood up well through the trying dry spell. It also has considerable value for fall and spring pasture. There is likely to be a good demand for clean seed for some years. Cases have come to his notice of where it has been pastured for a while and then allowed to come on for seed with good results. He is doubtful, however, if the feed secured by this method would not be more than

counterbalanced by a decrease in yield. There has not yet been time to experimentally prove the advantage or disadvantage of such a procedure.

Arthur Peas the Best

Arthur is one of the earliest peas grown on the farm. It yields up pretty well with the best and on account of its earliness is recommended as the best variety for our conditions. As a rule it grows splendidly but peas are a hard crop to handle and until the labor shortage is relieved Mr. McKillican does not expect farmers to take hold of them very well. On the farm they are cut with a mowing machine with a pea harvester attachment. It takes two men to follow the machine. Another objection is that if a high wind springs up the bundles become dissatisfied and are seized with a wandering fit which nothing but a good wire fence or a bluff can check. Farmers are, therefore, likely to stick to wheat, and other stay-at-homes until greater inducements are offered to switch to this elusive crop.

Corn Growing for Grain or Fodder

Corn growing for grain has not proved to be a success on the farm. Every year the early varieties are sown but the experience is that they do not ripen frequently enough to make it a profitable proposition. So long as oats and barley can be grown so much easier with larger yields, it is felt that it would not be practicable to go over to this uncertain crop. Squaw has been grown consistently and on account of its earliness is O.K. for table use before the other varieties are in. This year an interesting experiment is contemplated. Half an acre of Squaw Corn will be allowed to ripen and then hogged off to see how much pork it will make.

"But remember," said Mr. McKillican, after expressing himself on corn as a grain proposition, "what I have said does not refer to corn growing for fodder. Fodder corn is, I believe, going to help out greatly in Manitoba. True, the frost hit the corn a pretty hard crack in 1915 and again in 1914, but previous to 1915 we had four splendid corn years in succession. Even on the poor years referred to we had one-half or one-third of a crop. Besides, corn can be made to take the place of part of the summerfallow. As a preparatory crop for wheat and oats it is splendid. We have rotations in which each year wheat follows corn and summerfallow, and on the average the corn stubble gives the best crop. The grain grown on corn land has a big advantage over that on summerfallow in cost of production. The corn, at the least, pays the cost of working, while with a summerfallow, the grain starts in with an idle year to pay for. It is not wise, however, to plant corn where perennial weeds are prevalent or where there are too many other weeds. The cleanest part of the land should be selected for corn and the rest summerfallowed. I would not tackle corn on land infested with sow thistle, couch grass, or Canada thistles. North western Dent is the best variety to sow though Minnesota No. 13 and Longfellow are also good."

Experiments conducted this year to discover the best date on which to sow corn show that this should not be delayed too long. The dates of sowing were May 20, May 29, May 30 and

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