

When a litter of young pigs arrive, the dam should be fed with liberality, with abundant green food as well as middlings and house-wash, but no meat offal from the butcher should be supplied. As soon as possible, the young pigs should be induced to feed themselves, especially if they can be set at liberty with their dam upon a pasture, where they may be taught to eat grain and pulse, a few handfuls of beans, wheat, or barley being thrown at them occasionally. They will learn to feed from the trough with the sow upon middlings, especially if it is mixed with skim milk. By degrees they may feed alone where the sow cannot enter, barley meal being gradually mixed with the middlings until barley meal and milk alone are used; and then, if the youngsters are induced to consume as much as possible, they will be quickly fit for sale, or for the butcher, the object being to turn over the money invested as soon as possible.

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Dehorning cattle has been proved to be a simple and humane operation. The operation may be painful at the time, but it is of short duration, and not to be compared with the prolonged and repeated suffering caused when horned cattle are packed in sale yards, or on cars. Apart from the humane aspect of the question, such extensive damage is done by horns to beef and hides of cattle travelling by road or rail that the matter of dollars and cents is involved, and the aggregate loss is very considerable. Seventy-five per cent. of the fat cattle in America are dehorned before going to market. In sending cattle from Ireland to England it is estimated that there is an average loss of 5s. per head due to horn wounds and bruises. From a humane point of view it is no more cruel to take the horns off cattle than to cut and mark lambs, and on the other hand, dehorned cattle feed better, as they are not harassed by the more vicious of the mob, and they all have equal chances of enjoying shade and pasture.

FARM

Comment upon farming operations invited.

The Zinc Sieve Coming in

The zinc sieve with the triangular holes is gaining in favor among threshers and farmers. Sieves of this pattern take out more wild buckwheat and wild oats than do the wire screens and are easier kept clean. Unfortunately they are not to be found on all machines, but the perforated metal is available in some hardware stores, while the Ashdown Hardware Company are supplying some enquirers direct from Winnipeg. The sieve is made by some machine manufacturers in the States in three sizes, A, B, and C, but only the one size seems to be available in Canada. In this the length of the sides of the triangular holes is about one-twelfth of an inch. The sieve cannot be made by hand as the zinc buckles with punching. Before another season we hope to see this device more generally available as it is a big improvement in cleaning grain. It was first introduced into the West by Inspector Horn for use in sifting samples.

Frozen Wheat Should be Kept Separate

The grain inspection department at Winnipeg is not finding the present crop an easy one to grade. Frosted grain appears in varying quantities, wild oats are responsible for some rejected cars, smut is more prevalent than usual, and as a consequence of so much rain there is a lot of bleached wheat. On the part of the farmers a little care will not simply help the inspectors, but will repay some extra trouble. An effort should be made to keep sound and frozen grain separate when stacking or threshing. According to the law, frosted grain prevents wheat grading No. 3 or higher, but of course some latitude is taken. At the same time the grain inspector cannot be expected to overlook damaged wheat while it is possible in the field to make a partial division. As showing what can be done, a farmer at Manitou last year kept his grain in grades as nearly as he could in the stook, and sold three cars from the same field one going No. 2, another No. 3, and the other No. 5 feed. This shows how a little care saved two cars from going in the rejected or feed grades, not that the inspection office does not know its business.

Nor should too much be assumed. Frozen wheat may be found in parts of a field where it was not suspected, and other parts may have escaped damage that had been given up as injured. A careful examination should be made of every field and an attempt made to keep sound and frozen grain separate where both are to be found.

Stink Weed in Timothy

A correspondent in South-Eastern Saskatchewan writes:

"Is there a law prohibiting the sale of seed containing a large amount of weed seeds? I understand there is such a law in Ontario, but does that apply to the Dominion? I purchased a hundred pounds of timothy seed this year, and as a consequence have a fine stand of stink weed on ten acres. I have a few pounds of this seed left. As the price was not low by any means, I think the seed should have been properly cleaned."

"The Seed Cont. of Act," passed in 1906, is intended to prevent the distribution of weed seeds in large quantities, and to fix upon the seed dealers the responsibility of supplying seed to farmers which contains the seeds of noxious weeds. The act cannot, and does not, intend to prevent a man buying weed seeds if he wants them, but insists that seed dealers so grade their seed that a man may get reasonably clean seed when he wants it and pays for it. The act provides that a dealer who sells timothy containing seeds of French weed shall have marked on the bag or package containing it the name of the seller, the name of the seed, and the name of the weed seeds contained in it. Also seed containing seeds of certain noxious weeds must not be offered for sale as No. 1 seed, and if the seeds of certain weeds, French weed included, are present in grass or clover mixtures in a greater proportion than five to one thousand, the seed must not be offered for sale.

A sample of seed suspected of containing weed seeds may be sent to the Seed Division, Ottawa, for examination and advice as to what should be done.

In this particular case a sample of the seed is still on hand, and the responsibility for the weeds may be determined, but should there have been no sample it would not be an easy matter to fix the blame, since a farmer could not prove that his field did not become infested with weed seeds during winter.

What Roller Would You Use?

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

"What kind of a packer or roller would you advise me to use on what is termed light land? The land is not sandy but does not seem to pack properly unless artificial means of some kind are used on it. I am trying a 4x12 plank drawn with six horses, would you advise its use?"

I. B. B.

The object should be, in handling land in a climate where the rainfall is not profuse, to keep it so firm that air will not circulate freely through, or to keep it so that it will remain as moist as the soil below, rather than dry out like dust. Plowing loosens the land up so it will dry out, and the object should be to get plowing packed down as soon as possible to prevent the escape of moisture, and also to get the land in shape to hold the largest possible amount of moisture. When land is in lumps, or in a fine dust, it keeps getting drier but when it is in particles about the size of five grains of sand and fairly well settled together, it is in the best possible condition to hold moisture.

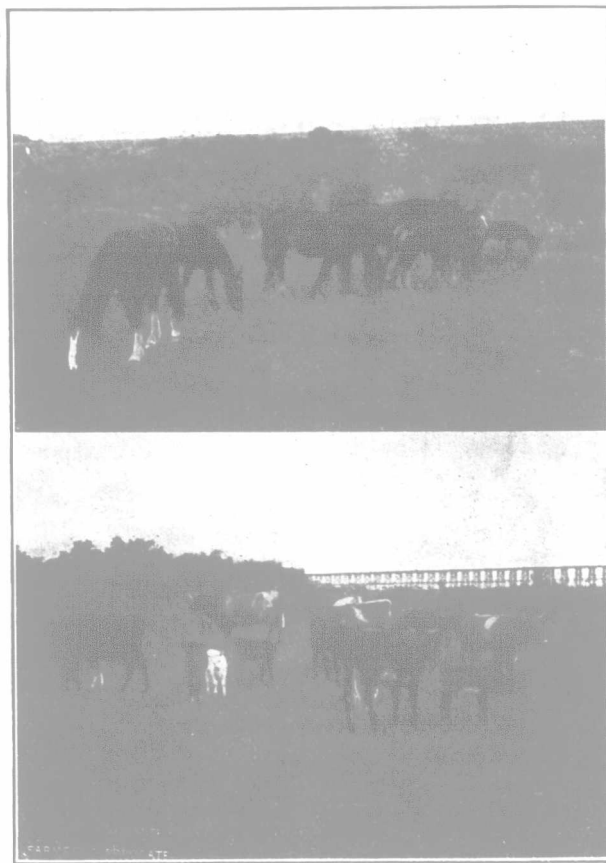
The kind of a roller or packer, therefore, to use will be the kind that makes the land firm to the bottom of the furrow, crushes lumps and leaves the surface in such a condition as to prevent evaporation. The ordinary land roller or a planker, levels the surface and crushes the lumps on top of the ground, but if the plowing is ordinarily deep the soil at the bottom part of the furrow slice will not be packed at all, but will be full of air chambers. But, of course, if the land has been so worked that there is a surface layer of fine mellow dust overlying a hard furrow bottom the roller will settle the fine soil on top. Land in such a condition, however, is in rather a bad way and should be "stirred to its depths" by some sort of process so far unknown, or rather not practiced, in the west.

Assuming that the land is normal, that a furrow from four to six inches deep can be turned without the plow share riding on a hard pan, then a packer made up of several cast steel circles will do the most effective work in settling the furrow slice down, crushing lumps so as to leave a soil that will hold the maximum amount of moisture and leave the surface with a covering of fine soil that serves as a blanket to prevent evaporation, and in ridges so that the rain or snow does not beat it down so hard.

How "Woodmere" is Managed—Our Good Farm Series

This is the first of a series of articles we intend publishing, describing some of the good farms of Manitoba. It is fitting, therefore, that the series should start with a description of the highest scoring farm in the good farming competition just concluded, that is Woodmere Farm, owned and operated by Mr. S. Benson, Neepawa. The Benson farm has been written about and talked about before. So have the methods employed there been pretty well discussed one way and another, at institutes and in the agricultural press. But the subject is worth some consideration still, and the results of the contest just finished will suffice as an excuse for describing again some of the methods which have made this farm unique in a sense and won for Mr. Benson the honor of managing the best farm of the province.

Woodmere Farm lies a little southwest of Neepawa. It contains 860 acres. Stoney Creek cuts into the northern part of it, angling across one corner, and the C. N. R. line to Carberry traverses it north and south dividing the farm proper into two portions. The lower parts, down around by the creek are a little rough and overgrown by poplar, scrub and maple, but the open land even there was broken years ago and



IN THE PASTURES AT WOODMERE

seeded to timothy, the result being excellent pasture on land which had it been allowed to remain wild would have produced very little natural grass. South of this lies the farm proper, the house and buildings situated on a little ravine that runs up from the creek. The soil is neither better nor worse than one finds all through the Neepawa district, an ordinary clay loam, rolling a little, an easily worked soil, fertile and capable of growing any of the common field crops. It's not the situation of the place, the way the farm is laid out, its natural advantages, or the fertility of its soil that has made this farm what it is. Scores of others right in the same district are situated equally as favorably; there are hundreds of farms in the province that have as good, some of them maybe a better soil. It is the unusual farming methods employed at Woodmere that have made it what it is. These, not the farm, are what we want to talk about.

Woodmere Farm came into the possession of its present owner twelve years ago. Previous to that it was owned by a clergyman who rented it, and like most farms managed by renters it was in none too clean a condition when the clergyman and his tenants got through with it. Mr. Benson started in to farm it in much the same way farms ordinarily are worked in this country. A portion was summer-fallowed each year, fields were seeded down to timothy, and an effort made to get rid of weeds by the methods commonly in vogue. In part they were successful. All this time the place was run more or less as a mixed farm. Stock was kept and the manure applied to the land. It was the manure that started the system followed now for the past six years. The owner got the top dressing idea, and covered a