

Preparation for Spring Wheat

ONE of the foremost growers of spring wheat in Ontario is Mr. Peter Wilson, of Cobden, Renfrew Co., Ont. He has frequently stood high in crop competitions, and his cultural methods are consequently of interest. He writes Farm and Dairy as follows:

"I usually sow peas and follow the next spring with wheat, or turn down sod after having, clover sod being preferred. Some people plow sod after having, then disk and harrow, and plow again later in the fall, but I find it more satisfactory to plow but once. The straw will not be so soft and the grain much plumper.

"Grain ground should be well prepared the previous fall. By this I mean it should be levelled and left ready to seed. In the spring this should be cultivated lightly, about four inches deep, but well worked to that depth. It is not well to work the soil when it is wet.

"By following this system I can hold the moisture in the soil and grow a good crop with a couple of showers of rain during the season. We have no trouble in this locality to grow good wheat, averaging from 20 to 38 bushels an acre, while some fields yield even more.

Is Your Machinery Housed?

F. C. Nunnick, B.S.A., Commission of Conservation, Ottawa

RECENT investigations by the Conservation Commission reveal some very interesting facts regarding the effect of care, or neglect, as the case may be, upon the life of machinery on the farm. Between 90 and 95 farms, divided into three districts, were visited in each of the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.

In Saskatchewan, out of 94 farmers visited by the Commission's representative, 76 leave all of their implements out of doors. On 73 of the farms, there were no implement sheds of any description. On 21 of the farms, sheds large enough to cover a part of the implements were found, in most cases this being only a buggy or a democrat, but not on one single farm was the machinery all housed. Not one farmer was found who painted his implements to protect them from the weather.

In Manitoba, only 14 out of 94 keep their machinery under cover during winter, while 44 claim to keep a part of it inside. On 34 of the Manitoba farms no provision whatever is made for protecting implements, and only four claim to have done any painting.

Better But Not Good

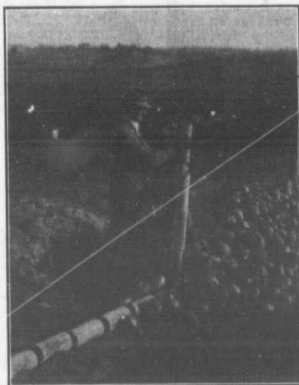
In the three districts visited in Alberta, mixed farming is carried on quite extensively, making more barn room available, so that implements are more likely to be protected, but even here, 37 out of the 92 visited leave all machinery out of doors.

In one district in Ontario where 40 farmers were visited, every man housed his implements during winter, although none of these men do any painting.

In the Ontario district visited where the implements are housed the average life of the binder was found to be between 16 and 17 years. Many binders were seen which were in good running order after cutting 30 seasons' crops.

In Saskatchewan and

Manitoba, where so much of the machinery is left out of doors, the average life of the binder is given by the farmers as about seven years, which is less than half that of the binder protected from the weather. Many binders do not last as long as seven years. One farmer near Moosomin, Sask., who, after 12 years, was retiring from the farm, held an auction sale. His binder, after cutting 12 crops, sold for \$30, or



When Cellar Space is Limited Try Pitting

This illustration gives an excellent idea of the method of pitting roots adopted by Mr. G. A. Brotherton, Peterboro Co., Ont. The tiles afford the necessary ventilation, the uprights extending above the straw and earth with which the pit is covered.

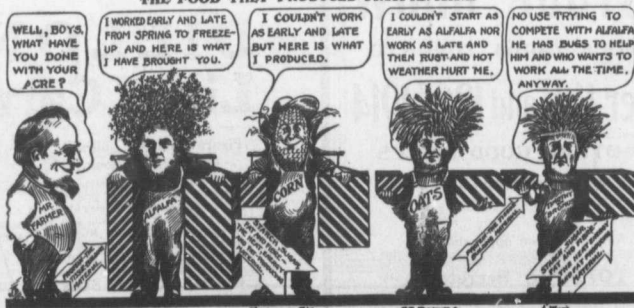
—Photo by an editor of Farm and Dairy.

50 per cent. of the original cost, and his other machinery at proportionately high prices. It had all been well housed and the necessary painting and repairing had been done to keep it in good order. On a neighboring farm a binder which had cut only three crops, but which had been neglected and had stood out of doors, was being relegated to the scrap heap and a new one was being purchased.

Money Well Spent

An implement shed costs money, but if its use will double or treble the length of time the machinery will last, it is a good investment. Farmers often say that they can not afford to build a shed. The truth is, they really can not afford to be without one. Apart from the additional power necessary for operation, the depreciation on unhoused machinery on the average sized farm is so great as to amount to much more than the cost of an implement shed.

THE FOOD THEY PRODUCED FROM AN ACRE



WHO WILL GET THE JOB NEXT YEAR?

To Grow One's Own Vegetable Seeds

W. T. Macoun, Dominion Horticulturist, Ottawa

AS conditions in some of the countries which supply Canada with vegetable seeds are not likely to be favorable for the production of seed next year, and as there was, no doubt, less seed produced this year in those parts of Europe which the war has affected, it would seem desirable that Canadians should make an effort this year to save some home-grown seed and to plan to grow some next year. Not only would it ensure having a supply, but it would be found a very interesting occupation, and the results which have been obtained in the past from using home-grown seed have been very good in many cases.

It is a simple matter to save seed of vegetables which have only an annual growth, such as beans, corn, peas, peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, melons, squash, pumpkins, radish, lettuce, etc. All that is necessary is to clean the seed as soon as possible after the vegetables are ripe, dry it rapidly and then keep it dry until it is needed for sowing. Raising seed of biennials, such as beets, carrots, parsnips, onions, cabbage, cauliflowers, and celery, is a little more difficult, but it is these which are imported mainly from other countries; and it is hoped that a large number of persons will try raising seed of them.

Handling Biennials

To raise seed of beets, carrots, and parsnips, good, medium-sized, shapely specimens are selected at digging time, the tops are cut off to within about two inches of the end of the specimen, thus leaving the centre shoot. Cutting back close to the root will remove this centre shoot, which is not desirable. Store the roots in a cool, fairly dry cellar, or they may be pitted outside, but if this is done care should be taken not to cover them with much soil until really cool weather sets in, so as to avoid danger of heating. Early in the spring plant the roots out in good, well-drained soil, planting the roots about two feet apart in rows three feet apart. When planting, it is desirable to have the top of the beets, carrots, and parsnips slightly below the surface of the ground. Cultivate the ground regularly and the reward is likely to be a fine crop of seed. The stalks are cut when the seed is beginning to ripen and allowed to dry thoroughly, after which the seed may be threshed out and put away in a dry place until it is needed in spring.

To grow cabbage seed, plants having the best heads should be selected and the whole plant dug. Half formed heads or even the stumps after the head has been removed will produce seed, but it is recommended to use plants with good heads. During the winter the plants should be kept in as cool a place as possible without

freezing, and if freezing cannot be prevented they should be kept where they will thaw out gradually. The best plan is to store them outside. A trench is opened where water will not lie, wide enough for three or four cabbages side by side. They are set in this in a slightly sloping position, with the roots down. The tops are then covered with straw at first, or a light covering of earth to keep out light frosts, and later covered with sufficient soil to pre-

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