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the unexplored land in the nitrate region, so that the farmer may rest assured that there is no fear of the supply failing for a century at least.

### SOME HINTS ON OAT AND BARLEY CULTURE

Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Among the most important factors influencing the production of high-class grain is the use of pure, sound seed, and one of the first requisites for the obtaining of such is a good fanning mill. Most fanning mills, to my mind, have not sufficient fanning capacity to blow out the light, yet full-sized kernels, and which, though of plump appearance, are deficient in vitality. By blowing out the light, hully grains, and the very small ones, one obtains a uniform sample of seed, which, it is reasonable to expect, will produce an even crop, other conditions being equal.

In this part of the West (Central Alberta), where the land is very undulating and the soil of different varieties, it is difficult to obtain equal results from all parts of a field, but I contend that the greatest obstacle in procuring an even crop is the difficulty of conserving the moisture evenly through a piece of land, which is not of the same variety or of the same slope and height. Just at this date, when the frost is allowing a top preparation for seeding on the highest elevations of a field, it should be harrowed frequently to conserve the moisture so that when the entire field is ready for seed, there will be sufficient moisture everywhere to start the grain evenly, otherwise the seed sown in the dry portions will lie unsprouted until the first rain, hence unevenness results in growth and maturity, which will result in a very uneven sample.

There is a difference of opinion as to the best method of preventing smut. My experience, gained last season, is that oats or barley, treated with a solution of 40 per cent. formaldehyde (one pound to about 40 gallons of water), will give satisfactory results. The grain was dipped in the evening, put on a pile over night and covered; spread out early in the morning and allow the air to dry it. A reasonable allowance should be made in sowing for the increase in size of the seed.

Now, as to the quantity of seed per acre, there cannot be a hard and fast rule laid down, owing to the various conditions of the soil and the variations of climate. On a soil which had been brushy, indicating a naturally sufficiency of moisture, the seed may be sown more liberally than on a drier soil, but under no conditions have I sown more than two measured bushels per acre of uniform, plump, clean seed on soil that would warrant a rapid growth.

The foregoing applies to oat culture, but the same methods are applicable for barley growing, with the exception that less may be sown per acre, and that since barley is seeded

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generally on spring-plowed land. The plow should be followed with the harrow, and the seed put in not later than the middle of May so as to escape early fall frost. It is to be hoped that from the benefit that may be derived from the Seed Fairs and Farmers' Institutes that the cereals of this great West will be greatly improved, both in quality and in quantity.

OLIVER W. STAUFFER.

Alta.

### OATS IN NORTHERN SASKATCHEWAN

Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

The land around here is open prairie, sandy loam on clay subsoil. Let us begin our remarks on oat growing at the breaking of the sod. It is very important the time the breaking of the sod is done, and the manner in which it is done, to get best results. The best time, in my opinion, is from the 15th of May to the 15th of July, breaking 2 inches deep or as shallow as possible, and continuing till about the middle of June, then going over the field with the disc to facilitate rotting of the sod. Then it should be backset in the fall and disced thoroughly. After the 15th of June, I break 4 inches deep, and disc in the fall. It is a bad policy to leave breaking undisced till spring as many do.

In the spring, I go over the land twice with the disc harrow, half-lapping, and then two strokes with the drag harrows. I believe in treating the seed with formaldehyde, although there is no smut to be seen. The best time for seeding is from the 1st to the 15th of May. As to the rate of seed per acre, a great deal depends upon the variety of oats, and the state of the land. Take Garton's Abundance, for instance, if the land is in good heart, such as well cultivated breaking, or good summer-fallow, six bushels by weight per acre is none too much. For best results, of course, that would be too thick, as the land gets poorer. As to the depth of seeding, I should say about two inches, and after seeding give another stroke with the drag harrows. Do not cut until the grain is ripe. The judges at the winter fairs count a good deal on oats being well matured. After cutting it is a good plan to get your crop stooked as soon as possible, and keep it stooked. Some people think if they get it once stooked, it is all right, and if there comes a storm and blows part of the stooks down, they let them lie. The consequence is, if the sheaves have got wet, and are left on the ground until dry, we get many weathered oats in our sample. I believe in stacking, and standing in stack for a month before threshing to get the best sample of oats. It is also important to get a machine that can thresh your grain without hulling, and chopping as some of them do. To clean and grade oats for the fair, I find the

April 21, 1909

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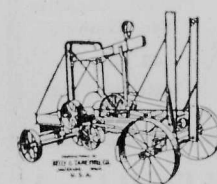
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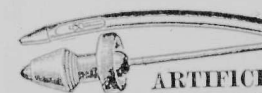


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