

parishes and townships, there is an abundance of stone; and good stone, too; generally, not very far away. I hardly think it would be an average of a half mile to draw them where needed, in a great many cases close at hand, and they are an intolerable nuisance where they are in the fields. I can easily see that some divisions of certain countries this plan would not be feasible, as the country is low and flat, and then no stones for a long distance. But I can assure you, Mr. Editor, if all the localities that have the raw materials quite convenient would adopt it, a marvellous change would take place in a very short time. It takes time to work reforms. How long it took in your own country to abolish the corn-laws over half a century ago. But we must advocate it; talk it up; write about it, and agitate for it, and perhaps our efforts will be rewarded by and by.

We can only expect to arrive at something definite when our people get educated up to a point where they see the error of their ways. In Ontario, the most of the leading roads are macadamised. If some of our farmers could take a trip out when our roads are in their worst state, perhaps in the spring—and see a bit of well drained, well rounded macadam, it would give them an idea at once of the benefits of good roads.

I have not mentioned anything about drainage—as I was afraid some would say I was a little cranky on that question. But nevertheless if we are to have good roads, they must be well drained, and if so their permanency will be ensured four-fold.

I hope, Mr. Editor, you will keep the agitation going, as agriculture will get a set back if our roads are not attended to very soon.

Yours truly,

PETER MACFARLANE.

April 2nd, 1900.

GROWING ALFALFA OR LUCERNE.

To the Editor of FARMING :

As it is now time to begin farming operations for the season of 1900 and one of our first and most important tasks is to arrange for our meadows and fodder crops. It is necessary that we apply our clover seed to our fall seeding of timothy with fall wheat or rye. As I have been experimenting with alfalfa for a few years my testimony on behalf of this plant may be of some encouragement

to brother farmers. My first experience was with about two acres of young orchard which I wished to seed with clover. When at the seed store the dealer showed me a bag of alfalfa. I had read of its good growing qualities and concluded to give it a trial. I procured half a bushel of seed and applied it with Advancer Teas to my young orchard. I got a good stand which gave me a grand calf pasture in the fall. The next spring the alfalfa shot up very quickly, I think it must have grown three inches some days. It was the admiration of passers-by and it was not an uncommon thing to see people get over the fence to examine it. Making such a good growth so early in the season it began to blossom by the 24th of May, and I cut it on the 28th of May, getting about three tons of fine alfalfa hay. I pastured it the rest of the season with much satisfaction instead of harvesting another crop. The coming winter was a very cold and barren one and alfalfa as well as all other meadows had a hard call. I may say here that I think our cold, barren winters are our only drawback to successfully growing this plant and yet it lives as well as our red clovers. Alfalfa is noted for its enormously long roots which are bound to find moisture and it will be found always green in our severest droughts when other plants are apparently dead.

I have made a practice of mixing alfalfa, alsike and red clover in equal parts with timothy seed and am well pleased with the results. When sowing alfalfa with other seed it will not mature as early as when grown by itself and will mature with timothy. It requires high, dry land and does well on our light clay gravel soils where it is hard to get timothy to grow tall and rank. A year ago I sowed the above mixture of clovers on fall wheat when the snow and ice were leaving in the spring, having put the timothy on with the wheat in the fall. The alfalfa took a hold as well as the other seeds and looked well in the fall. It makes a fine hay (1) and all stock seem to like it and it makes a good pasture for hogs, sheep, cattle and horses. I would advise all farmers to give alfalfa a trial. It is a new plant to our soils and gives a change which I think is a profitable one.

BRUCE E. JOHNSON

Pictou, Ont.

(1) True, if you can keep the leaf on! Ep.

