

The Clover Catch

C. Bishop, Oxford Co., Ont.

WHEN pastures are short and the silo empty there is a strong temptation to turn the dairy cows into the new growth clover shortly after the grain crops have been removed. I used to make a practice of doing this myself. I always made resolutions that I would not pasture to such an extent as to injure the clover at all. There is always a tendency, however, to pasture more than you intend to and I have also come to the conclusion that the tramping back and forth of the cattle is altogether too hard on the young clover plants, even if none were injured by eating too closely. These young plants need all the energy that they have to establish themselves strongly, and make ready for the crop of the next year.

Of course, we must take care that the clover does not bloom the first year in which it is seeded as this has a very detrimental effect on the crop of the next year, the biennial character of the plant then being interfered with. In a few exceptional years my clover has threatened to head out. In that case I have clipped off the tops with the mower, running the cutter bar high. I prefer to do this to pasturing, which I regard as a very prevalent source of winter killing. Another little precaution that I take to ensure the very best chance to the young clover plants is to leave a fairly long growing stubble. This stubble protects the young plants by holding the snow; and as long as the snow is on the field there is no great danger of winter killing.

Two Crops a Year

Paul Bowman, Wellington Co., Ont.

A successful 100 acre farmer, just across the concession from myself, has gotten the Florida fever. He follows general farming and has made money. He believes that if he could get to Florida where he could produce two crops a year that he would make twice as much money. I suggested to him that he could grow two crops a year right here in Wellington county, and at first he did not take kindly to the idea. A little talk convinced him how-

ever, that his own farm might be in many cases a two-crop farm.

He had himself been taking two crops without realizing their significance. A common practice of his has been to plow the sod after taking off the hay crop and sow to rape from which his sheep and pigs derive splendid pasture through the late autumn. I have even known this man to grow a splendid crop of flat turnips on a sod that had produced a crop of hay the same year.

I recently ran across another case of two-crop farming as struck me as being all right. It is practiced by a young farmer in Halton county. As soon as the hay is off he plows up the sod and sows to buckwheat. Occasionally the frost catches him, but generally he has a fairly good crop of grain.

Anyone who has moderate success with alfalfa gets two crops a year. In most sections it is possible to take a crop of clover for hay and another for seed. Really, after all, this two-crop idea which is turning the eye of some discontented ones and other greedy ones to Florida, can be hammered home in favor of old Ontario.

Methylene Blue for Abortion

O. C. James, Prescott Co., Ont.

ONE of the greatest scourges with which the dairyman has to contend is abortion. Widely advertised remedies have again and again proven of little value. The problem of checking the disease, however, seems to have at last been solved. Dr. F. A. Rich, of the Vermont Experiment Station, has done the trick. The methylene blue treatment has been giving excellent returns at that station.

The following is a letter from Dr. Rich himself, which appeared in the Holstein-Friesian World. I would like to see it in Farm and Dairy. It reads:

"The writer's treatment for infectious abortion in cows as administered at present, consists in giving each cow a heaping teaspoonful or more of medicinal methylene blue, on silage, once a day for four or five weeks.

"After calving the treatment is resumed for a few days, and within a few hours after freshening, preferably immediately after expulsion of the afterbirth, the cow's uterus is washed out

with methylene blue solution, consisting of a heaping teaspoonful of the blue and an ounce of table-salt to the gallon of boiling water. The solution is cooled to about 105 degrees F., and strict aseptic precautions are observed in its introduction into the cow's uterus (womb).

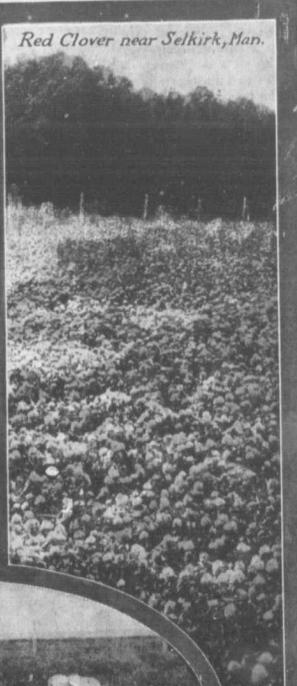
"The stables are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected and the disinfection is repeated after each occurrence of abortion therein. The calving pen is cleaned and sprayed with mercuric chloride (corrosive sublimate) solution each time after occupation, and on the return of each fresh cow to her stall the platform and trench behind her are sprinkled daily with 1 to 1000 mercuric solution for at least ten days.

"The afterbirth is burned or deeply buried and the calf and soiled hind parts of the cow are carefully sponged with warm one per cent. lysol solution.

"The sheath of the bull is washed with one per cent. lysol solution, and either this or the above described methylene blue solution is injected into it."



Corn grown at Gladstone, Man.
The man is 5' 11" high



Red Clover near Selkirk, Man.



Pigs in Alfalfa near Indian Head, Sask.

CROPS WHOSE CULTIVATION IN THE WEST SHOULD BE EXTENDED.

Commission of Conservation.

Canada's Great West is no Longer Exclusively Devoted to Wheat Growing

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