

Australia—when stored in government depots. The last scheme proposed secures free competition amongst farmers so far as home grown wheat is concerned, but is a discrimination against colonial and foreign wheat, and again a heresy so far as Free Trade principles are concerned.

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Very interesting is the annual report of the Superintendent of the Foreign Meat Market at Deptford.

Cattle imports from America to the market began in 1879, and to the end of last year the totals reached the stupendous numbers of 2,937,649 oxen, 329,31 sheep, and 1,502 pigs. Foot and mouth disease last year brought down the imports of oxen to 97,639—a much fewer number than usual.

The Canadian trade began in 1893. To the end of 1908 the totals were 537,307 oxen and 296,801 sheep.

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Ploughing competitions were organized by the Herts. County Council ten years ago. In the first year there were 262 competitors for prizes amounting to £115 10s. So popular have these competitions proved that last year the entries were 766 and the prize money £248 14s.

Before a ploughman can take part in the contest he must have taken certain agricultural subjects to be able to qualify. Some men have had to walk as far as eight miles for this instruction, and then back again. The man who will thus walk sixteen miles after a hard day's work is certainly an enthusiast.

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Crop prospects are generally favorable. The genial April weather has made up for the bleak March. Autumn-sown wheat is looking well, grass is rather short, but the prospects of forage crops are much improved and none too soon as the hay supplies are rapidly dwindling.

The land is in good working condition for the planting of mangels and potatoes, though rain would be of service in some places.

Fat cattle are in poor demand in London at lower prices. Fat sheep and pigs are in fair request. Short supplies characterize the meat markets, prices are steady.

Store cattle and sheep for feeding are bringing higher prices. Bacon is quiet, but hams are called for. The cheese market is in excellent condition, especially for home kinds.

Feeding stuffs are higher in sympathy with wheat prices.

Leeds, England,

F. DEWHIRST.

Annual Fodder Plants for Hay and Soiling

Each year a large number of Western farmers find themselves short of fodder for the reason that sole dependence is usually placed on marsh hay or other perennial grasses, and should this supply be lessened through dry weather or from some other cause the harvest of hay is small and the stock suffer, for farmers will seldom go to much expense for stock feed.

Early in spring the observant settler will notice if the snow fall has been light and the marshes unusually low and then plan to increase his supply of feed by growing such annual fodder plants as thrive in his particular locality.

The earliest of these plants to mature is spring rye, it is quite hardy and the seed of this cereal can be sown directly the frost is out in spring without any risk of injury from frost, sow two bushels of seed per acre, using the ordinary grain drill, it grows very rapidly and should be cut as soon as the head appears. Later on it becomes hard and woody when stock do not relish it, but cut when the stem is green and succulent it makes good green fodder and fair hay. It is sometimes cut with a mower, but it is then very slippery and difficult to handle. It is easier to handle in sheaves and by setting the binder to cut low, all the fodder will be saved. It cures well in the sheaf. If cut early in a moist season there is often considerable aftermath which can be used as pasture, the yield varies between one and four tons per acre.

MILLET.—There are several varieties of this useful annual grass, but the fox tail kinds are the most suitable for this country. The earliest of these is the Common millet; it will ripen its seed in Manitoba in a favorable season. The variety known as Hungarian Grass is, however, the most suitable for this country when seed production is not considered. This variety has dark

heads, is very leafy and produces a large amount of good fodder.

The young millet plants are not very robust and only clean land should be used for this crop. The soil should be moist near the surface for the seed is small and will not bear deep planting to reach moisture. For these reasons summer fallow gives the best returns; newly plowed root ground is also suitable, but it must not be plowed many days in advance of seeding or the soil will become too dry for the millet to germinate, but the weed seeds will start and choke out the crop.

Millet is quite tender and should not be sown before May 20th; it takes 23 pounds of seed per acre and the best results are obtained from drilling acre and the best results are obtained from drilling. Broadcasting usually gives an uneven germination. A grain drill can be used for this purpose if in good repair, otherwise the fine seed will leak out of the joints and waste.

For fodder purposes it must be cut as soon as the head is formed, it is then in the best condition for fodder. After the seed is formed millet is unsafe for horses, but cut in the right stage and fed in moderation there is no danger. A sheaf per horse fed each noon hour appears to keep them in good condition and helps out the other fodder considerably. Cattle can be fed a much larger quantity with safety.

The crop can be cut with a mower and treated as other hay, but it makes cleaner feed if cut with a grain binder and bound into small sheaves, then stooked until cured. It cures very slowly and the center of the sheaves must be perfectly dry when stacked or it will quickly spoil.

SHEAF OATS.—In certain districts where grass is scarce this fodder is very extensively used and with excellent results. From reliable data it is found that properly cured oat sheaves are equal in value to well cured hay, but the straw must be bright, cut at the right stage and fed intelligently.

For this purpose fairly rich moist soil should be selected so as to produce a fair amount of straw, the crop should not lodge but stand up well. Rusty straw is very unsatisfactory for feeding, for that reason the seeding should be fairly early. Use at least three bushels of seed per acre. Thick seeding will produce fine fodder. Use only varieties of oats having bright straw, Banner, Tartar King and Abundance are all suitable.

The best time for cutting is when the topmost oats is changing color, this stage gives the maximum amount of nutriment in straw and grain. If cut at this stage the straw is usually slightly green and bright when dry. The sheaves should be made as small as possible and bound loosely so as to cure properly. If made into large sheaves or bound tight the center of the sheaf remains damp and moulds.

The yield of oat sheaves varies between two and four tons of dry fodder per acre, the latter amount is usual from well worked summer fallow. There is often considerable waste from feeding whole oat sheaves and it pays well to run them through a cutting box, then if moistened and sprinkled with chop they make an exceedingly palatable feed for either horses or cattle, and cows fed in this manner give abundance of good milk and keep in excellent condition.

SORGHUM AND AMBER SUGAR CANE.—These are both coarse fodder plants better adapted to southern countries than to the Northwest, but either of them may prove useful for feeding green as a soiling crop. The seed should not be sown before May 20th when all danger from frost is past. Make the rows about twelve inches apart and keep all weeds down by constant cultivation, or sow with a grain drill 6 inches apart and trust to the shade of the plants to keep down the weeds.

They are quite tender and must be cut before fall frost or the fodder will be badly injured. Neither of these fodders will keep in a stack, but must be fed when cut or stooked in the field and drawn in as required for feeding. I have not found the fodder of either of these plants equal to corn fodder and the yield is also much less.

M.A.C.

S. A. BEDFORD.

Advices Lighter Potato Planting

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

It seems to me that some of your readers who have been contributing their experiences recently through your columns on potato growing have not considered the cost of the seed used in estimating the expense of producing a good crop. Seed, to my mind is an important factor, an important item in the cost of growing as well as important as regards the quality of the resulting crop. I notice that one writer allows fifteen bushels of seed per acre for planting. It strikes me

that this is altogether too much. I used to think that twelve or fifteen bushels of seed per acre had to be planted to ensure a good crop, but for the last four or five crops I have used only six bushels of pure seed per acre and have had as good success as formerly. I select for seed good sound tubers, desirable in shape and of a fair size, cut them with a thin bladed knife into pieces, having one eye each, never more than two eyes to one piece anyway. These sets are dropped in drills from twelve to fourteen inches apart in the rows and covered three or four inches deep. The drills are thirty-six inches apart. I work the rows with a horse cultivator until the tops close the space between.

I consider planting fifteen bushels per acre is nothing but a loss of the seed used and may decrease the value of the crop. I would say to those who have on hand fifteen bushels of potatoes which they intend planting on an acre, that they would be quite safe in setting eight or nine bushels of their stock and using the remainder for seed. Those, too, who have to buy potatoes at this season's prices would find it economical to follow the planting method above outlined. My experience in potato growing teaches me that potatoes may be planted up to the end of May, in fact most of the large potato crop come from late planting.

Man.

G. Z. SMITH.

Fodder Corn

A vigorous field of Indian corn in full tassel is a sight to gladden one's heart, its great height, the luxuriant growth and bright green color of its foliage is always attractive to the lover of nature.

The corn plant is also one of the most useful known to man, one-half of the cultivated land devoted to cereals in the United States is planted to corn, and the production in that country is over two thousand million bushels per year. Maize is not only useful for the grain it produces but when properly prepared is one of the most valuable fodder plants we have. All classes of live-stock relish it. When fed to beef cattle it makes the best of roughage, and there is nothing to equal it for the production of milk, as both quantity and quality are good.

While we may not expect to make the growing of corn for grain a success in the Canadian West, we have already proved that for fodder purposes it can be made a very useful and profitable crop. Owing to our long winters it is particularly necessary that we feed a somewhat laxative diet to our cows, otherwise they become unhealthy, their coats rough and the milking period greatly shortened. Fodder corn and ensilage are very suitable for this purpose and greatly assist in keeping the stock in good health. Indian corn will grow on many different kinds of soil, but for the best results it requires a friable soil that is well drained and does not bake in a drought, and is well provided with plant food.

If the land has a southern or southeastern exposure so much the better as this will hasten maturity; unlike the other cereals the outside row of plants are the feeblest, it is always a good plan to make the corn patch as nearly square as possible. We have also found that a sheltered situation is favorable to a large plant growth.

PREPARATION OF SOIL.

While the tallest stalks and the largest crop can be grown from southern varieties, such as the common Horse Tooth, Giant Cuban, etc., these kinds do not mature sufficiently to make sweet corn and I would recommend only early flint kinds such as North Dakota, Longfellow, Peares Prolific and Canada Yellow, these early kinds produce a fair quantity of fodder which is of excellent flavor.

In preparing land for this crop remember that summer fallow gives the largest yields, but the grain can be used very advantageously for a cleaning crop. For that purpose we take stubble land, plow it in early spring, harrow at once to retain moisture, then leave it for a week to enable the weeds to start, then harrow twice in a place to kill these weeds and fine the soil, do this every week until the 15th or 20th of May when the corn should be planted.

Where corn is grown for the grain it is customary to plant it in hills thirty inches apart each way, but from several years trials, we have found the best results from planting with an ordinary wheat drill, in rows three feet apart, dropping the grain from three to six inches apart in the row. Where we wish to have the work done exact we thin the rows with a hoe until the plants stand nine inches apart in the row. To test your drill run it on a hard road until you get the right thickness, this will depend largely upon the size of the kernels of corn. To get the right distance in the row block up all spouts not required with a small bag of corn. It takes about one-half bushel of seed per acre. If the harrowing has been done well previous to seeding, very little after tillage will be required, but it is generally necessary to cultivate between the rows with a one-horse cultivator once or twice during the season, depending on the condition of the land and amount of rainfall.

We usually cut the fodder corn about September 1st. If we have no corn binder we use a sickle, and leave the armfuls on the ground to be stooked up or made into ensilage as may be required. A corn binder is an excellent labor saver, not only because it cuts the crop by horse power, but because it binds it at the same time. After the corn is cut we make it into shocks containing at least three hundred pounds,

to do this neatly, and at the use a corn horse and tie each binder twine. In stooking should be taken that the evenly balanced, and not to will lean badly and collect to handle.

If properly built these stooks barn as required during the to store in large quantities mow or stack and soon spoils.

Corn can however be made after cutting and stored safely winters. We simply cut the leave it on the ground for a excess of moisture is driven the cutting box into the. From ten to fifty pounds of to each animal, and it is as ne can get in this country.—Ac vention, M.A.C., Feb. 18th, Husbandry, M.A.C.

HORTICULTURE

Growing Ga

In walking over the s May, little growth could still considerable frost in were barely commencing sprouts above ground. I leaves above the surface columbines, iris, and oth only to be found by br that covered them. I ha Perennial onions had ma none could be found that table inside of two weeks.

Two years ago weather the same as now, yet we very good crop of cor must not be quite dis spring is late. I plant until the 13th of May. from the spring of 1905 sowed seeds of several var was planting potatoes by

We are fully a month year; so we must not k results from our efforts a is one thing we can do supply our tables this ye shape to grow a bumper seldom have two bad. Such cold springs as this such heavy frosts, are h kinds. The plants that may be depended upon then, and jot down in o vegetables, fruits, and over winter.

Rhubarb is one of the of hard frosts kills it. A may not be amiss, as pe not grow it. In my opin plants to handle. Root and if this is done, they plowed soil. Allow at l way for the plants. Ho a little good manure ea are not available, rhub cheaply grown from see for the plant to grow to the seeds in June, w.

