

able examination will disclose, and with the warranty given and fulfilled. His judgment was for the pursuer, but with modified expenses. Whether auctioneers would need to modify those conditions, he could not there decide.

THE FARM.

Practical Ideas on Harvesting Alfalfa.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

For the past few years I have been growing alfalfa hay only. I have found it to be so far superior in feeding value to all other kinds of roughage that, although some years ago I grew as high as eighty and ninety acres of timothy and red clover, I have gradually decreased the size of my old meadows, and all new seeding was made with alfalfa. We have now in the neighborhood of fifty acres of alfalfa, and expect to go on increasing this acreage as time progresses.

My system of handling the various hays is, briefly, as follows: Red clover I cut when nicely in bloom, raked a little on the green side, and coiled up, allowing it to cure in the coil. Timothy was usually left until the other hay had been safely stored in the barn, although, for the best hay, I think it should be cut soon after the stamens appear on the heads. This will give you a good palatable hay. I allowed it to wilt thoroughly before raking, and then used the side-delivery rake and the loader to load it with.

Alfalfa I will discuss more thoroughly, because it is, in my opinion, the coming hay crop in this Province. I cut it when the young shoots at the crown of the plant begin to show, as this indicates that new shoots will be sent up almost immediately after cutting, and thus insure a quick start for the second crop. I leave it in the swath, tedding if it is heavy until it wilts considerably, but before the leaves wilt enough to be crisp, then rake up and coil in high, slim coils. It is left in the coils for a few days to allow it to sweat out well, and the coils are opened out for an hour or so if at all damp, and then hauled to the barn. I have found this method of handling to lessen the danger of heating in the barn, and to give me a splendid quality of hay for feeding during the winter. The loss of leaves is kept very small, and this insures an excellent feeding value for the hay.

In referring to the machinery used in the making and storing of the hay, I will discuss the various implements as they are used. For the past number of years I have been using a six-foot-cut mower, and would not use a narrower one; in fact, on level land, a seven-foot cut would not be too wide. A tedder and dump rake are, to my mind, much superior to a side-delivery rake when handling clovers, especially alfalfa. The side-delivery, unless used when the alfalfa is hardly wilted at all, will knock off too many of the leaves, and materially reduce the value of the hay. When using the tedder, we do not allow the hay to wilt much before tedding, and then, after tedding, we let it wilt a good deal more before raking, although not enough to let the leaves dry up too much. Then, when the raking is done, the hay is fit to coil. When using the side-delivery rake, it is impossible to separate the operations of tedding and raking, and this is necessary if one is to get the best quality of hay. When growing timothy, I used both the side-delivery and the hay loader, and made very good hay with them when the weather was good. However, I think that, under average conditions, better hay can be made by the old-fashioned method of coiling. A dump rake is almost necessary, even with a side-delivery and loader to gather up the rakings that are bound to be left after the loader has gone along the windrow. I have discarded the side-delivery and loader since growing alfalfa, as they do not fit in with my ideas of the best way of handling the hay, and, also, our land is too hilly to make the loader a very satisfactory implement.

When unloading the hay, we use the slings after the first few feet in the bottom of the mow have been filled. The fork has not proved with us as clean and quick a way of unloading alfalfa as the slings, for it seemed almost impossible to get a good-sized fork load to stick together. We can unload a pretty big load in three draws, and, as the slings are center-trip, the hay lands in the mow in about the same way as it was loaded on the wagon, and mowing away is comparatively easy.

Waterloo Co., Ont.

Thinning Roots.

The season has continued its increasing roll, until it is again opportune to discuss the subject of root-thinning. Owing to the scarcity of labor and the amount of work required in the production of a root crop, roots have been, during late years, gradually losing favor in the eyes of farmers, and their place has been taken by silage. There are still, however, thousands of farms on

is absolutely necessary if the roots are to "bottom" well, and it is necessary to destroy weeds and hasten growth. Too much care cannot be used in thinning that a thorough separation is made and only one plant left in a place, as every time two or more plants are left together, the yield of the crop is materially lowered. Root-thinning is one of the branches of farm work at which it is essential that careful work be done. The old adage, "work well done is twice done,"

applies very well to this operation, for a good hoeing, if at the time of thinning, being careful to remove every weed, means, under ordinary conditions, a fairly clean hoed crop. While it is always advisable to give a second hoeing some time after the thinning, press of work often precludes this, or necessitates its being left rather late, so that weeds, if not killed at the first hoeing, get a good start, are difficult to remove, and injure the crop more or less, according to their numbers.

The first question is the size at which to begin thinning. Too many leave the roots too long, and press of other work gets the better of them,

the plants are too large to thin easily, and are injured more than if they were thinned when smaller. Besides, the weeds get a chance to get a strong root-hold. Experimental work carried on some years ago at the Ontario Agricultural College with Swede turnips, showed that the largest crop of roots was obtained when the

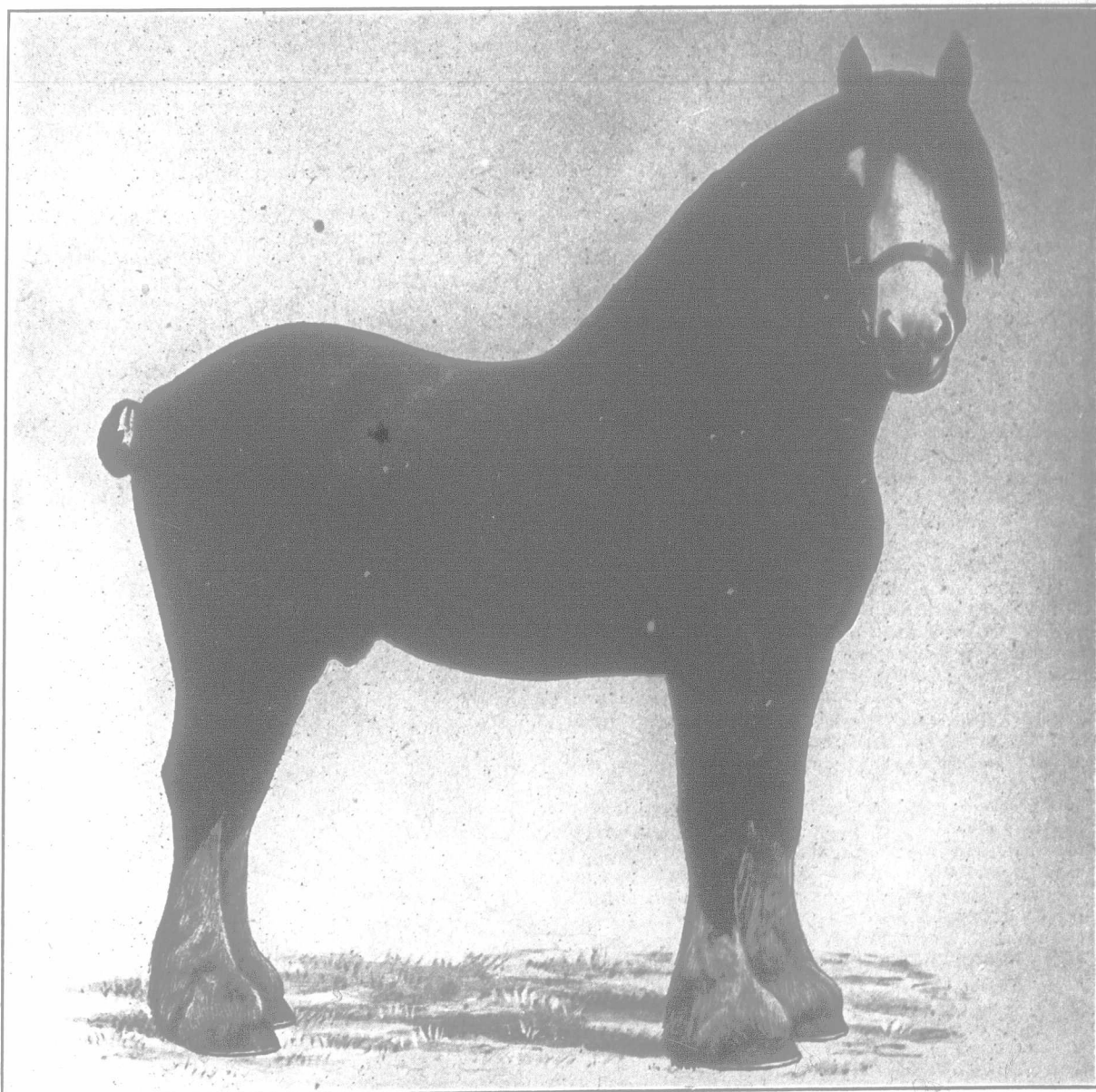


Eye-opener, by Sensation.

First-prize harness horse, 15.2 and under, at the Galt Horse Show. Owned by A. Yeager, Simcoe, Ont.

which roots form almost the entire hoed crop, and thousands more on which they are grown, perhaps in smaller quantity than formerly, in conjunction with the corn crop. For young stock, roots are almost indispensable, and a fair acreage is profitable on every stock farm.

Thinning is important from two viewpoints. It



Scotland's Pride.

Sire Hiawatha, dam by Baron's Pride. One of the best breeding horses in Canada. A colt by him, rising one year, sold for \$450, and a filly rising two, for \$425. This horse is owned by S. J. Prouse, Ingersoll, Ont., who expects a record year with foals from his ten imported brood mares.