

"I consider alfalfa a very wholesome feed. I have nine acres in alfalfa, and have grown the crop and cut it for hay for the last eight or nine years. I sowed it for pasture on hillside 14 years ago. From the nine acres now seeded to alfalfa I have never got less than 27 big loads from the first cutting; from 12 to 16 loads from the second cutting. (I should say that sometimes we pasture the second cutting and never cut the third crop, but pasture it always.) Last year the third cutting would have made at least one ton to the acre. This field has been handled

Alfalfa Failures

Did your alfalfa come through the winter in good shape? If not, Farm and Dairy would like to hear about it, with full particulars. You may improve a poor and unsatisfactory stand of alfalfa, and our alfalfa expert will tell you how. Explain in detail how you sowed it, whether or not inoculation (bacteria) was provided, and how you managed it last season up to the time snow came.

It is important that alfalfa whenever it has been sown shall succeed. Half the truth about an unsuccessful alfalfa plot will spread farther and do more to discourage other farmers from growing alfalfa than on the other hand several successful plots may encourage alfalfa growing.

in the manner indicated now for five years. Alfalfa seems to do fine on any soil. The first cutting often grows most too big in the low land. Last year some of mine would measure five or six feet in length."

PASTURES HIS ALFALFA CLOSELY

Alfred Smith: "I have 11 or 12 acres seeded to alfalfa, part of which I cut for hay, the rest being pastured. I pasture more of the alfalfa than I cut. I hardly ever grow timothy at all any more, and have been growing alfalfa for seven years. It stands pasturing fine. I have pastured mine into the ground late in the fall, red clover, with horses and all of my stock and the pasturing has never killed it; I made the experiment on purpose to see. From 3½ acres of alfalfa I cut for hay last year I got 21½ loads; from the first cutting 12 loads; second, six loads; third, 3½ loads. After taking the third cutting the stand grew about one foot in height, and this I pastured. I like alfalfa hay the best of any fodder I ever fed."

H. R. Nixon: "Alfalfa is O.K. You cannot say too much for it. I haven't fed my cows a bit of grain since I had alfalfa hay, and I reckon that my milk as well as when I used to feed lots of grain. The hay from the second and third cuttings is just like pasture."

OLD TIME METHODS UNSUCCESSFUL

At one time, and that not many years ago, Mr. Nixon was opposed to growing alfalfa. He grew it over thirty years ago, and from his experience with the crop at that time he was not in favor of it. Asked for an explanation of this fact he said: "One cannot make much of a success with alfalfa by following old time methods. I did not, in years gone by, cut the crop in time. The first cutting was left until the usual hay-making time, and the leaves all fell off, so that when the hay was housed it was for the most part merely bare sticks. Now, however, by cutting it at the right time we find it makes a splendid crop for hay and the second and third cuttings especially are much superior to red clover."

Mr. Nixon states that his alfalfa runs about three loads to the acre at the first cutting and all told he gets from five to six good big loads to the acre in the season. On one of his farms he has 10 acres seeded now, and expects to sow 11 more this spring. On the adjoining farm he has five acres of an old alfalfa stand and eight acres more, which he plowed up last fall, will be reseeded this spring.—C. C. N.

A Marvellous Money-making Forage Plant

J. H. Gridale, Director Dom. Exp. Farms.—We have tried all kinds of forage plants at the Experimental Farm for a good many years that have been suggested or that have been discovered. We have given them all a thorough trial and in some cases, we have tried them year after year, although we knew they were not proving a success, but still thinking we had not probably discovered the best methods of handling them, so we have continued them until we were sure that they could not be a success and we now have given them up and have concentrated on one crop and this one crop is almost a marvel.

If someone were to tell you that a certain crop could be grown on almost every field of your farm and grown every year and would produce a crop which, under average conditions, would give you fine conditions so far as your cows are concerned, the year round, and which would enable you to grow as much feed on any acre of your farm as you could grow on your very best acre under the best conditions, and that you could grow this food of a quality and kind most suitable for your herd every year for 30 successive years, you no doubt would be delighted. I have been interested in this crop for this length of time and have been able to produce it more cheaply than any other crop that could be produced on our Eastern Ontario farms; produce it more cheaply, not only so far as the manual labor is concerned, but with the least effort.

It is a crop that can be produced almost entirely by horse power or steam power and it is a crop that will enable you to feed in the winter with much less help, and a crop that will give you forage in the winter in perfect condition for your animals to consume and it is always ready to give to the cattle without any preparation in mixing, nothing at all in the way of extra effort, but you merely have to go to your supply and bring it in and feed it to the cattle. It is a crop that is so welcome to the animals that although they might be full to the neck with it, they will still try to get more. It is a crop that with the addition of a small amount of grain or meal, would enable you to produce milk almost as cheaply as pasture at \$1.00 a month.

It seems to me that the average farmer would think that with all these advantages, he would immediately want to know what this crop is and how much he could manage to get in next year with the help of two or three men. We all know what it is. You all know that I mean the corn crop, that is the crop which for Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia is a crop far excellence for the dairyman and for the pork producer and the mutton producer. It is a crop that will enable the average farmer of this country to produce on his farm enough forage to carry twice the stock he is carrying today—I say that advisedly—and to carry it much more cheaply per capita than he can do it under the best conditions which he can devise otherwise.

These are rather strong statements, but they are statements which we have been enabled to back up and prove over and over again on the little bit of a farm we have at Ottawa, where the soil is of an inferior character, where the conditions are not the best, not by any means as good as you have them here and in other parts of Eastern Ontario, for the reason that our land is very poor; but on that farm we have been able to prove over and over again all those points that I have mentioned in favor of this crop.

Corn will grow on any kind of land, the only condition it exacts being that the land shall be fairly well drained—not underdrained, although I am strongly in favor of underdraining and if you can underdrain it, do so, but do not think

that you cannot grow corn until your land is underdrained. You can grow corn crops on heavy clay soil before it is underdrained by putting in proper surface drainage. I have grown corn every season for the past 30 years without one break and I have never seen a failure where the corn received decent attention and proper cultivation, and I never saw a crop that did not pay handsomely for every hour's work that was spent upon it and gave results, in the way of market and meat production, which many times paid for the cost of the crop.

ACCEPTABLE TO ALL LIVE STOCK

Corn is acceptable to any class of live stock. I have fed it to beef cattle, dairy cattle, horses, sheep and swine, and every class of live stock likes it when properly prepared, and every class will eat the whole plant if it is properly served. If you are tempted to break off the ears and keep them—do not yield to the temptation. Some farmers are tempted, and some yield, but it is unwise. Corn is a crop that is available 12 months in the year. Do you know any other crop except hay that you can store up and make acceptable to your cattle 12 months in the year? You can probably make them eat a mouthful or two of straw, but a corn crop is always acceptable to your cattle. I can bring our cattle in off the best pasture that can ever be grown, a mixture of alfalfa, red clover, timothy and orchard grass, and a little bit of broom,—no better mixture can be grown for pasture. I can take them off a pasture such as that where they were wading in it up to their knees and put them in the stable and they will stand in their stalls and eat the ensilage.

HOW FARMERS TAKE IT

One would think with all these advantages in favor of corn, every farmer in Eastern Ontario would at once order material for a silo and prepare 25 or 30 acres of land for corn and get busy this spring, but I regret to state that, as far as I can find out, not more than 10 per cent, or 15 per cent, of our farmers are yet provided with silos. It seems to me incomprehensible why so many of our farmers fail to appreciate this great boon in the way of forage crop and fail to use it to the best advantage and fail to grow it.

I have just stated that during 30 years, I have never seen a failure, but I may just add that I came from a corn growing district in western Quebec, where they have been growing corn for over 50 years. I have visited hundreds of farms in Eastern Ontario, in Quebec and in Western Ontario and have seen the farmers attempting to grow corn under most unfavorable conditions, badly after it was cultivated and harvesting it expensively; in fact doing everything wrong, instead of doing it in the right way. I fear that is the cause of so few growing it. I know there are a great many who have silos, but still there are comparatively few in Ontario who are growing corn and putting it in the silo and I believe the reason is because the majority of the farmers do not know how to do it properly.

Note.—This article is an extract from an address given in January at Perth, at the convention of Eastern Ontario Dairywomen. Other extracts from this address will appear in early issues of Farm and Dairy. Watch for them and resolve to prove in your own experience that corn is the most valuable forage crop you can grow.

Practically all modern incubators have openings for ventilation. On the 6th day of incubation, the ventilators should be opened about one-third, and on the 11th day, one-half. On the 18th day, they should be open two-thirds of the way, and on the 20th day all of the way. As the chickens develop in the shell, more and more air is needed.—Wm. H. Elford, Peterboro.

Ontario

Prof. C. A. Large number of grains and cultural College for the product mixtures are some

AN If a farmer early spring that deficient for his summer, he may turn to sow in the same separately and the last 15 years of growing mixture Sugar Corn, 30 lbs. total, 88 lbs. an acre.

The oats and together and sown drill, and the clover box placed in it. If this mixture in May, it is the 20th of June in growth; the and thrives in the principal practices are readily the oats and the clover may be to furnish one of year. The tramp injury either to or to the soil, years, we have pasture, which year-old steer an splendidly, keeping gaining, on the day.

PASTURE CRO

Many farmers and common red crop of hay, use is again plowed. The timothy form especially in dry is better for pasture; Alsike clover Meadow fescue, 3 lbs. an acre.

This mixture of year either with should be sown in clover and the timothy and the orchard by hand. It could following year in comparison with earlier in the spring in the hot, dry wish a mere about autumn.

CROP RO

Land which is the of the far permanent pasture tags. From more different varieties singly and in corn following mixture under average climate: Alfalfa 2 lbs.; White or grass, 4 lbs.; M. grass, 3 lbs.; M. grass, 24 lbs. The seed of th can be sown in without a grain o