

ALFALFA

By P. A. Beving, Associate Professor
of Agronomy, University of British
Columbia

The grain bill, always, and never so much as now, is a large factor in cutting down, or out, the profit in feeding. The concentrates, like cotton and linseed meals, gluten, etc., are used chiefly for the purpose of putting a larger proportion of protein into the ration than it would otherwise contain. Protein, generally speaking, is the most expensive part of a normal ration, and every effort should be made to obtain it as cheaply as possible.

Alfalfa has a higher protein content than any of our other dry roughages, and, moreover, experiments (Hart and Humphrey) seem to indicate that alfalfa-protein is at least as effective for the production of milk as that of cornmeal. Practical experience goes to prove that alfalfa is one of the most

valuable plants of the farm, and the old Arabs were certainly justified in naming it "Alfalfaah," which means "The Best Kind of Fodder." In comparison with other feeds it has been shown that only 2.3—2.35 lbs. of alfalfa hay are needed to equal 1 lb. of mixed concentrates, whereas 2.5 lbs. of clover hay and 3 lbs. of meadow hay are required to make up the same feed value. All animals relish alfalfa, be it given in the green state or as hay.

"What about alfalfa for ensilage?" It seems to be the consensus of opinion that when it is possible to make alfalfa into first-class hay it should not be put into the silo. During a rainy season it may be impossible to get the hay up without some damage, and under such conditions siloing may



The smoothing harrow should always follow the disc, so that the rougher cuts may be closed up.