

How the Boys Won the Acre Profit Competition

First Killed Twitch—Then Grew Oats
RUSSELL WARNER, Haldimand Co.

IN the account of how I grew my acre of oats, I shall tell how a field of quack grass was eradicated, which, I trust, will be of interest to some; for it was in this field that I had



Russell Warner.

my prize acre and by eradicating the quack I got the land in such good heart and fertility that I had no doubt but that I should have a bumper crop of oats. The field is high with perfect surface drainage, and is a clay loam. In the year 1913 it was in quack grass sod. It was plowed shallow that fall, and again the following spring before our other ground was fit for seeding. We disked it up thoroughly. After our other seeding was completed, we got on to it with our harrows and spring tooth. This process we continued frequently until the first of June, when it was sown with field peas. The peas came on to a good start, but before the season was over the quack had out-rivalled them and we harvested a poor crop. Not to be outdone with the quack grass problem, we plowed the field that fall quite shallow, exposing the roots to the frost. In the spring we kept the ground stirred with the rows and spring tooth, dragging the roots out to the sides of the field. This was kept up until the latter part of June, when we plowed the field to a good depth, burying all remaining roots out of sight. The field was now worked down and sown to buckwheat, two bushels to the acre. This made rapid growth and soon covered the ground, growing thick and luxuriant, and about four feet high. The summer rains lodged the crop, laying it as flat as a carpet. The crop was harvested with a mower. When the ground was finally uncovered there was no sign of quack, it having been completely smothered out of existence.

As the ground was in the best of heart, and no quack to be seen, I decided the following spring to have a trial in the oat competition. I had been in this competition before, but never with such bright prospects. No manure nor fertilizer was necessary and the ground could not work down better and was sown to two bushels of O. A. C. No. 72 oats treated for smut. After being drilled, the ground received a light harrowing. The oats were harvested with a self-binder on the 8th of August, being thoroughly ripe and yielding 74 shecks of 16 sheaves each; the yield being 60 bushels of cleaned oats.

There is much to be learned in one of these competitions. It is not every year that one has an acre that will produce a winning crop. A very encouraging feature of the competition is the controlling of noxious weeds. For best results I would suggest buying seed from prize winning fields and sowing your crops as near as possible at the same time, thereby ensuring an evenness in ripening. The young men who have taken part in these competitions are more intense and thorough in their work than they would otherwise have been.

1,112 Bushels of Mangels
JAS. MOFFAT, Grey Co.

THE acre on which I grew 1,112 bushels of mangels is naturally well drained by the slope of the land toward the south. The land is a clay loam, and has been farmed for about 50 years. The mangels were sown on May 24, and were cultivated twice with a corn cultivator and hoeed twice. The first reason I would

give for the good crop is that the ground was well manured and had been planted with potatoes on the two previous seasons. The second is that the mangels were well hoed and kept free from weeds. The total value of the mangels from this acre was \$155.68, and the cost, \$22.65; my net profit, therefore, being \$133.03.

Won With Dooley Potatoes
WM. S. COURTIS, Middlesex Co.

WHEN I decided to enter the acre profit competition I selected potatoes, because this section of Middlesex county has long been known as a potato centre second to none in the province. The soil is a deep rich sand loam with a clay sub-soil, and has been continuously under cultivation for the last fifty years. It is particularly adapted to the production of clean, smooth potatoes of high table quality, and very free from any kind of scab or imperfection of the skin.



Wm. S. Courtis.

The acre on which I grew the prize potatoes was naturally drained, which I consider the best kind of drainage. Good drainage, whether natural or artificial is very essential in growing potatoes. The previous crop was fall wheat. After harvest the stubble was gangplowed between three and four inches deep, then harrowed and cultivated at frequent intervals, until winter set in. In the spring a liberal coat of good stable manure was applied with a manure spreader. This was at once plowed under, and the land well harrowed.

The variety planted was the Dooley, a very popular sort in this section. It is a white oval potato, and is noted for its prolificacy. It has not as many eyes as most potatoes, and averages from six to eight, therefore it takes a trifle more seed per acre than some other varieties. It takes fifteen bushels to plant an acre. They were planted with a planter which does very accurate work with uniform cuttings. The rows were thirty-four inches apart, and the sets planted a trifle over a foot apart in the row and about four inches deep.

After planting frequent harrowing to conserve the soil moisture were given until the plants were up. After this the scuffler was used. Fall cultivation removes many weeds and any grass which may exist. When the tops fill in between the rows further cultivation is dispensed with. Any weed which cannot be removed by the scuffler is removed with the hand hoe.

The beetles were controlled by use of Paris green and a horse sprayer. It is very necessary to begin in time to control the beetles if it is to

be done effectively. From two to three pounds of Paris green to forty gallons of water makes an effective spraying solution. I did not spray for blight, as the bluestone has become so expensive and hard to get, but I believe it aids very materially in increasing the yield per acre.

Harvesting was begun about October 10th, and was done with a potato digger. The digger is a great labor saver, and if enough pickers can be had four or five acres can be dug in a day. The potatoes are picked in bushel boxes, which are loaded on low, flat racks and hauled at once to the place of storage.

In conclusion, I may say that I attribute my success chiefly to suitable soil, good seed, and conservation of soil moisture. Over the first I had not very much control any more than to have it clean and in a good state of cultivation. Good seed can only be obtained by careful hill selection year after year, and growing a special seed plot from tubers thus selected. To produce a yield of 320 bushels on one acre at a cost of \$44.67, and making a net profit of \$75.23 in a year like 1916, when weather conditions were so unfavorable, requires a good deal of patience and perseverance, combined with a knowledge of natural conditions.

Ensilage Corn After Millet

WESLEY B. TUDHOPE, Simcoe Co.

THE acre plot which I entered in the acre profit competition, and on which I grew 29 tons, 1,200 lbs. of ensilage corn at a profit of \$78.23, was a nice light loam soil which has



W. B. Tudhope.

been farmed for upwards of fifty years. Previous to 1915 it had been pastured for several years. In the fall of 1914 it was plowed and sowed to millet. In 1915, after the millet was taken off, the ground was plowed at a depth of about eight inches.

Owing to the dense growth of the millet the ground was, fairly free from weeds, and on account of the wet spring

I did nothing to it until the latter part of May, when I double disked in eight loads of barnyard manure, and then double harrowed it.

I planted the corn in squares forty-two inches apart on May 31st, using about 14 pounds of seed to the acre, and putting from three to six grains in a hill. The grain had previously been tested, germinating 100 per cent. As soon as the corn was up so that the rows could be made out, I scuffed it and then hoed it. After that it was hoed once and scuffed four times at intervals during the summer. The corn was harvested on

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Coming Horsemen—the Winners in a Colt Class at a School Fair.

Acre-Profit Competitions, School Fairs, Hog Feeding Competitions, and Short Courses in Agriculture are done much to stimulate the interest of farm boys in better farming methods.