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AND N.-W. T.

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Feed the Pigs.

At this season, pigs as a rule are not making rapid growth, owing largely to lack of pasture and a light meal bin. Now that harvesting is well along, the grain allowance may well be increased with profit, always bearing in mind the special purposes for which the various lots are intended. A gradual increase of ration, even when the block is the immediate object, is not only safer, but actually gives better returns, producing the finished animal at an earlier date. This increase of ration should continue until the full digestive capacity of the animal has been reached, but not overtaxed. A roomy pasture may be regarded as a grain-saving addition to the pigpen, and if a portion of it be low, moist land, with willows or scrub, all the better during the hot weather. Should the pigs root too freely, try ringing as a preventive; it is cheap and gives good results. Pork is now in demand at good prices, and therefore the hogs should be shoved along before the market becomes glutted.

For Government Control of Elevators.

At an Institute meeting, held some few weeks ago by the Moose Jaw Agricultural Society, a memorial was submitted and approved by the meeting endorsing the principle of Government ownership of grain elevators. Mr. Wm. Watson, of Marlborough, who prepared the memorial, suggests a scheme of Government ownership of all grain elevators and Government control of the whole grain trade, including shipping and selling in the British markets, on much the same plan as is now in vogue in the creamery business of the Territories, which are operated and controlled under the supervision of Prof. Robertson's department. The proposition made by Mr. Watson, which would also have to include government expert grain inspectors, weighers, etc., at shipping points, is a big one.

I am well pleased with your premium rate. I also found the material first-class. My daughter was well pleased with the book, "Flowers, and How to Grow Them." The new subscribers are also well pleased with the "Advocate."

A. HARRISON.

Indian Head Experimental Farm.

Not long ago a representative of the "Farmer's Advocate" enjoyed the pleasure of inspecting the Experimental Farm at Indian Head, Assa. At the time of the visit everything about the farm presented a delightful appearance. Along the walks and driveways the trees and flowers were a beautiful sight, and going further back, the fields were all bearing heavy crops and giving evidence of good tillage and careful management.

A most interesting part of the farm is the experimental plots. Here various grains and grasses not common to this country are being tested as to their fitness to our soil and climate. From what we saw of this department and the work which is being carried on, farmers have good reason to expect information of great significance from this source. If it were possible for farmers' institutes or clubs to arrange excursions to this place just before harvest begins next season, visitors would be more than repaid for their trouble.

A large variety of the different classes of root crops are being tested this year, and the outlook speaks well for the future of this country in the production of roots for stock and vegetables for the farmer's table. Some are yielding much heavier than others, while considerable variation in the keeping quality of different varieties is to be found. Thus the kinds best suited to our conditions are determined. In leguminous crops, peas were the principal variety. The grass pea and several varieties of the common pea have been grown this season, and at the time of our visit gave prospects of a very satisfactory yield. With the absence of the pea-bug, which is said to be very troublesome to pea growers in Ontario, this should become a profitable grain to grow. Vetches, too, giving every indication of a heavy crop, could be noticed in many plots near the peas. This year's seeding of alfalfa, common red and alsike clover were all looking splendid. Timothy was also good, but orchard grass was light. A fine crop of brome grass, with long heads, was being cut for seed. The corn crop was only fair, the excess of moisture during the early part of the season being partly accountable for this. In the orchard a large number of healthy crab-apple trees were found, and on these during the last two years considerable successful grafting with the Russian varieties has been done. The hybrid apple trees are also doing very nicely and promise good results. Experiments along this line are of deep interest, and should a few good keeping, prolific varieties become established in this country it would mean a grand addition to the farm. The Weaver and several other varieties, as well as the native plum, are all doing extremely well; some of the trees were so heavily loaded that they were propped. The Aitken, a large, early plum, of fairly good quality, being one of the best. Raspberries, black-caps and all kinds of currants were doing well, but gooseberries only fair. The principal trees on the farm are mountain ash, Scotch pine, hard and soft maple, native rock elm, white birch, cottonwood, poplar, pine, balsam, cedar, larch, spruce and ash leaved maple.

In live stock the three breeds, Shorthorns, Ayrshires, and Guernseys, are represented by males, while in females there are only Shorthorns and grades.

Yorkshire, Berkshire and Tamworth swine are also kept; and quite a nice selection of poultry can be seen in very comfortable quarters.

A well-managed grain and fruit exhibit in connection with the institution is open for the inspection of visitors. The samples are very choice and well put up. The cattle stables are being refitted, cement floors taking the place of the former wooden ones. This will prove more lasting and healthful, as well as more easily cleaned. On the barn there is a windmill, which is used for grain grinding, and another, some distance away, for pumping.

THE FORESTRY DEPARTMENT is under the management of Messrs. N. W. Ross and George Lang. It is steadily making progress, having a very large number of fine seedlings of maple, cottonwood, Russian poplar, and elm. They are strong and healthy, having been well cared for, and will be ready for shipment in the spring. Besides these, can be seen, other trees, larch, spruce, ash and white birch, all of which

promise to do well. This industry is in its infancy, and the farmers are only beginning to get in shape for the benefits they can reap from it. Trees are shipped when one year old, free of cost, provided the farmer takes a fairly large quantity, prepares the ground according to directions, and promises to care for them in a suitable manner. The managers report that a large number have already taken advantage of the offer. In connection with this department a new building is in progress of construction, and will be used as a packing house and office. Many trees, which seem tender in our climate at first, become more hardy each year, and the seed from such trees, it has been proven, is much better adapted to this soil and climate than seed of the same species grown elsewhere. This leads us to the conclusion that by persistently experimenting with some kinds which do not adapt themselves immediately to their changed environments, we may yet be able to successfully grow many good species which at present do not thrive.

Stacking Grain.

The introduction of modern farm machinery makes it possible for a man to work a very large area with very little help. Had all the grain in the West to be stacked before threshing, 40,000 harvesters would be required, instead of 20,000. As it is, the stacking of all the grain is simply an impossibility. With the improvement of threshing outfits and facilities for handling the grain by the use of double wagon boxes or the small field granary (as described in the "Advocate," June 5th), into which the grain is spouted direct from the machine, without any harding whatever, stook threshing means an immense saving of labor, and has now become the regular thing in most sections where wheat farming is carried on extensively.

There are districts, however, where stook threshing is neither possible nor desirable, and even on any farm there are apt to be breaks in the weather which makes it advisable to stack a certain amount of grain almost every year.

With the great influx of new settlers, there are many of our new subscribers who have not had any experience in stacking grain, and for their benefit we venture to describe a practical method of building a stack, which, if followed, will ensure rain-proof stacks. Of course, no old settler nor farmer from the Western States needs any pointers in stack-building, for every one of them knows well the need of a good stack and how it should be built (if only he will do as well as he knows).

Grain stacks can be built round or oblong, the former can perhaps be more easily built, but in a long stack more stuff can be put away from the weather, and when properly "placed" they are equally convenient for threshing. Round stacks are generally placed in sets of 4 or 6, thus: $\circ_0 \circ_0$ with just room between for the separator.

Beginning a round stack, start with a round stook in the center, continuing the stook, keeping the sheaves as upright as possible, till the foundation is large enough. In this way no heads touch the ground to get damp, and an even foundation is given, which makes the stack less liable to slip out when building and less liable to lean when settling. Before beginning the regular outside tiers, it will likely be necessary to lay some extra sheaves in the center to bring it up full, and keep all sheaves on the next tier sloping outwards. Begin a layer of sheaves round the outside, laying the second row at the same time, and placing the butts of the second about to the band of the first. The stacker should keep his weight off the outer row, and in laying the inside rows continue round and round systematically, laying one row at a time as closely together as possible, stepping on each sheaf as laid, each course overlapping the one below about to the bands, or sufficiently to keep the center well above the outside row. Thus the outside will settle more than the center, as it will not be so compact, and all sheaves will slope downwards and outwards. By putting on a bulge—that is, letting the stack out a little larger each course till high enough for the stalem—more grain can be put under the same roof than if the stack is built with straight sides. At the "take-in" be sure the sheaves do not fall. Continue as before, taking in each course a little, and keeping the heart