

In Manitoba Timothy is now grown to a large extent in some sections, and by forming a sod much improves the condition of the soil and prevents blowing, which gives it a special value. Brome grass has this quality and to a larger degree. It has, too, another characteristic I should like to mention, indeed, it has so many good qualities that one is apt to think we may be exaggerating when describing them. This characteristic is that, unlike Timothy and nearly all other grasses, there is little decrease in the value of the hay for feed even when it is left standing until the seed is ripe. This is owing to a peculiar habit of growth by which after the flowering stem has been produced, several other supplementary barren shoots which do not flower spring up from the root. These shoots are very leafy and add much to the value of the hay. Mr. Shutt, our chemist, has found that the hay from which the ripe seed has been threshed, is almost of the same value as that cut at the proper time just after flowering, and the grower has besides a large supply of valuable seed for which he can always get a ready sale. The hay is of fairly good quality and smells sweet like English hay. Mr. McKay speaks of from one and a half to two and a half tons as an average crop. Here, we have had at the rate of four and a half tons of hay. I have a letter from Mr. Wm. Hull, who has an irrigated farm near Calgary, in which he tells me that he cut 900 tons off 200 acres, from which he would have got nothing without irrigation.

Mr. MCGREGOR.—With the native grasses one ton of hay is good growing.

Mr. FLETCHER.—Yes, but that is without irrigation.

By Mr. McMillan :

Q. Have you reference to a small plot ?

A. One-twentieth of an acre.

Mr. McMILLAN.—As farmers we would rather see an acre.

Mr. FLETCHER.—Ye, we have that this year.

By Mr. Douglas :

Q. Has any experiment been made with this grass on alkaline land ?

A. Not on land classed as alkaline, but at the same time it has been grown on lands containing a great deal of alkali, and has given good returns. Mr. McKay is now testing it on "alkaline" spots at Indian Head.

Mr. DOUGLAS.—That is an important point, because so much land is now going to waste, and it would be important if a success was made in this respect.

Mr. MCKAY.—We have some alkali on a very low part of the farm and it is growing there as well, if not better, than on other parts. I believe it is a great success on alkaline land.

Mr. FLETCHER.—With regard to the hay, it is particularly sweet and palatable. Any one going into Mr. McKay's barn notices the sweet smell like English hay and moreover the cattle are very fond of it. It holds its leaf which gives it a peculiar value. Most grasses after they flower deteriorate rapidly, but as soon as this is in flower it begins to increase in value from the numbers of supplementary shoots which are produced, so that when it is threshed for seed you have a valuable fodder in the straw.

By Mr. Rogers :

Q. When and how should it be sown ?

A. In the west, it requires to be sown alone, because the young plants dry out in August when sown with a mother crop.

By Mr. McMillan :

Q. As it grows from the bottom, would it not be too troublesome ?

A. It may probably be some trouble to get rid of it again, from the running root-stocks; but if you examine the root I have here, you will see that it is near the surface, and for the same reason it, like couch grass or "Quack," can be taken out of the land by shallow ploughing.

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