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WILD OATS*

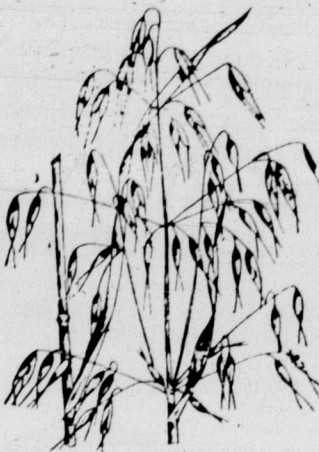
Wild oats were, until this year, comparatively unknown in a great many of the districts in South-western Saskatchewan where the oat crop last year was a failure, but unfortunately they are a familiar pest in much of the country where oats were last year grown successfully. It is therefore not surprising that in purchasing seed oats for the drouth affected areas the Dominion government, the rural municipalities and private parties should have found it impossible to get enough clean oat seed to supply the settlers. The result is that the newer districts as well as the older ones now have a wild oat problem on their hands.

In the older districts farmers did not know of the character of this weed until its presence reduced acre yields. The spread of wild oats in those districts was due largely to continual cropping under a straight grain rotation, and too long intervals between summerfallowing. In older districts, men are finding that by changing the rotation to take in alfalfa, winter rye, cultivated grass and fodder crops, and by having stock to feed off the summerfallow in the late fall, they are able to keep wild oats under control.

Habits of the Wild Oat

In the new areas men can take advantage of the experience of the farmer in the older districts. Knowledge relating to the habits of wild oats is absolutely essential in keeping them under control.

Only about 10 per cent. of a season's wild oat crop will germinate the same fall. They will not all germinate at



Wild Oats

one time, in the spring or in the summer. Wild oats germinate far more readily during the first ten days of warm spring weather than they do any other time of the year. Wild oats will not germinate thru more than 2 1/2 or 3 inches of heavy loamy soil, and not more than 4 inches of loamy soil. If buried more than 5 inches deep, the seeds may retain their vitality from three to five years and germinate when cultivation brings them nearer the surface.

Wild Oat Control

Men in the older settled parts of the west who have had experience in the control of wild oats can recommend to farmers in the newer parts for their serious consideration the following points:

1. This summer go carefully over an area sufficient to yield seed for 1916 and pull out all the wild oats. Thresh this area separately.

2. The grain to be used for feed should be ground thoroughly before feeding. This will prevent spreading wild oats over the fall cultivated land and avoid infesting the manure during the fall, winter and spring with wild oats, so that it can be placed directly from the barns on to the fields.

3. Burn all screenings and all the straw that is not required for winter feeding just as soon as possible after threshing. Fence the straw required so as to keep cattle and horses from feeding on same and scattering seeds over the fields.

4. Double disc and harrow as soon as possible after harvest every acre on which wild oats have appeared. This may not germinate any wild oats this fall, but it makes conditions ideal for germination as soon as the frost leaves the ground in the spring. If this work

cannot be done in the fall, it should be done first thing in the spring.

5. Some of the land now seeded to oats would, in the ordinary course of events, have been summerfallowed this year. High prices and shortage of feed have caused farmers to seed land which may have needed cleaning. Summerfallowing such land next year will, therefore, be a good farming practice, but every effort should be made to secure a large germination of wild oats before the final deep plowing of the summerfallow.

6. Note that all practices mentioned above are those which are common with farmers who are securing each year the highest yields in their district. Men are finding that farming to produce maximum yields incidentally keeps weeds under control, and many farmers are finding that one acre of wheat yielding 25 bushels per acre is more profitable than one and a half acres yielding 20 bushels per acre. Write for further information concerning summerfallowing, now in pamphlet form, from the Department of Agriculture, Regina, Sask.

A SLANDER RETRACTED

The Saskatoon Daily Star, which recently accused the Saskatchewan Co-operative Elevator Co. of gambling in puts and calls and also stated that the company was heavily in debt, has apologized and admitted that there was no truth in the charges. Below is the retraction as it appeared in the Saskatoon Daily Star on June 1:—

"ELEVATOR CO. AFFAIR IS MOST SATISFACTORY"

"Financial Position of Company Sound, Enquiry Finds"

"NO TRACE OF GAMBLING"

"FULL DENIAL OF STATEMENTS CONTAINED IN STAR SOME TIME AGO"

"In the Saskatoon Daily Star of Saturday, May 15, an article appeared headed 'Elevator Company Heavily in Debt, Gamble,' and in the body of the article the statement was made: 'It is an open secret that the Co-operative Elevator Company indulges in gambling in puts and calls.'

"The information which formed the basis of this article came from a source which we considered reliable. The Star, however, on investigation, cannot find that there is any foundation for either of the statements above referred to, and the Star is pleased to withdraw them, regretting their appearance in the first place. It would appear, from the investigations we have been able to make, that the company is in a sound financial position, and our inquiries have shown that neither within the last few months nor at any previous time has the Co-operative Elevator Company indulged in any form of gambling.

"The Star has no desire to attack without cause any farmers' institution, and would be very sorry indeed if the article in question should have the effect of injuring the reputation of the company with the farmers."

INDEPENDENCE THE REMEDY

The Toronto News says: "The revelations of political misdoing in Manitoba are disturbing to the last degree. Clearly all who are involved must be exposed and punished. For years the Daily News has argued that the patronage system in offices and contracts should be utterly abolished. We have in Manitoba the legitimate fruits of the system as we have had these in so many other cases elsewhere. It has flourished under all parties since Confederation, and beyond. It has root in most of the provinces as well as in the Dominion. It draws its strength from the office-making and contract broking element in politics. It destroys public men, bedevils parties and degrades politics. But only a resolute and continuous assault by the independent forces of the country will ensure its destruction.

"Senator, you promised me a job."

"But there are no jobs."

"I need a job, Senator."

"Well, I'll ask for a commission to investigate as to why there are no jobs and you can get a job on that."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

All ambitions are lawful except those which climb upward on the miseries and the credulities of mankind.—Joseph Conrad.

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Are now decided. We have prepared an excellent exhibit of models showing the radical changes in fur fashions for the coming season. This display will be well worth seeing and those not contemplating another trip to Winnipeg before the winter may choose their new furs from these authentic styles. Remember, too, that the unusual conditions the world over have had the strong tendency to reduce the cost of high class furs from the prices of a few years ago.

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