

R M

g operations invited.

ing Factor

writing us upon that vernment ownership of says, "I think good, the editor's opinion would not be taken would be regarded from a disinterested

ood a time as any to e FARMER'S ADVOCATE h is being discussed by ciations and which is m by the provincial

ain growers have en- s have drafted it into a put it into the hands it now lies as a politic- or rejected according the respective pro- tions are being cir- gnature of as many

government owner- erse opinions. This can be said such a ully, and economically wrong. The manner the proposal depends s mind than upon its ter, upon his neces- ownership proposal suggestion to engage outcome of which is n though all appear- And this is a truth , namely, that as be- ple politico-economic ised, and the second slight that the latter sfactory. How shall e not approaching a the channels we are eclaring unanimously p, we throw all we rboard, and we begin a structure that may ore satisfactory than under way.

sympathy with every mprove the present The opinions ex- the class of men who t we already possess opportunity for per- much, perhaps, be- ions have afforded a count of the efforts en made to gain our rld of industry, in- ic security. In ex- say that others err e value to existing e are only too glad t to advocate what ods and conditions. wnership requires a h which, in some, re- n others. Probably to be ardent advo- to the conservators however, is given to improve what- n to advance new changes in system. t that when the may call them, need position, the eir natural function conditions in which

Shall I Grow Oats or Wheat?

Writing us from one of those districts where frost has frequently injured the wheat crop one of our correspondents says: "I now think of putting in mostly oats. Would there be more money in an oat crop than in wheat and is there a good sale for oats?"

Oats can always be sold in car lots on the Winnipeg market and our market reports give an idea of the range of prices. It will be seen by these market quotations that the difference in price between No. 2 White oats and No. 3, or feed, is not very great. The spread is nothing like as wide as between the high grades of wheat and rejected or feed. A late quotation gives a difference of only 2 cents per bushel between No. 2 White oats and feed, while on the same day there is a difference of 24 cents between No. 2 Nor. wheat and feed. Then it will be remembered that only last summer, owing to manipulation on the Winnipeg market, feed oats went higher than the best grades.

There is also this in favor of growing oats, where there is danger of frost, that oats will stand more frost without being injured for seed, on account of their husk, and a slight touch of frost does not injure them at all for feed.

In the matter of yield to the acre, a great deal depends on the particular sort of land under consideration and upon the condition of that land. It generally follows, however, that in those districts which have frosts the land is lower, richer and more moist than where frosts are not frequent and such soils are more adapted to oat growing than to wheat raising. But every thing must not be left to the natural conditions of the soil and climate, good preparation and sound seed count for nearly everything in the oat crop.

Taking the country all over, the average oat yield for this year is estimated at 31.5 bushels to the acre and wheat at about 15 or 16, which, at the prices which have obtained, gives a considerable advantage to the wheat crop, but the wheat crop is the mainstay of the country and is seeded earlier on the best soils and the great majority of our lands are better adapted to wheat-raising than to oat-growing. Oats are generally sown late on land that has raised two crops of wheat since breaking or fallow on shallow plowing which soon dries out. Under these circumstances, it is a wonder the average yield of oats is not lower. But 31.5 bushels to the acre is no criterion of what may be done in oat growing. If a man makes a study of the work of growing oats, gets the best seed he can buy and prepares his land just to suit, then has an ordinarily favorable season, he should have an average yield of 60 bushels and upwards to 100. There is a district up on the Yorkton branch that has been through a similar experience to which our correspondent is now going, but that district has become noted for its oat crops and stock. The wise sailor adjusts his sails to the changing breeze.

Earning Power of Farm Labor

The earning capacity of farm labor is in almost direct proportion to the number of horses used by each individual worker. U. S. Government statistics indicate that in North Dakota, each farm worker uses five horses, cultivates 135 acres of land and has an earning capacity of \$755.62 yearly; in Iowa each laborer has four horses, tills 80 acres and earns \$611.11 annually; in Alabama each farm laborer has three fifths of a mule, works 15 acres and earns \$143.98.

The value of labor depends upon its accomplishment. Farm workers in the Orient earn from three to ten cents a day. One man in this country with a five or six horse outfit and modern machinery, will do as much work in one day as two hundred of these five cent men will, and he will not cost more than one fifth as much. The price paid for farm labor is not the measure of its cost. The labor of one farm hand nowadays produces more than the work of ten or a dozen did half a century ago. But labor costs no more because we pay two or three times as much to each worker as used to be paid. The earning capacity has been increased, more work is accomplished in a day.

It would be an interesting line of economic inquiry to find the actual cost of farm labor, as measured by the value of the commodity produced fifty years ago, by each unit of labor and compare it with the value of the same commodity produced by each labor unit to-day. It might alter, somewhat, our ideas regarding the increasing cost of doing farm work.

The Experiences of Homesteading

Scattered over this country from Eastern Manitoba to the Pacific, are several thousand young men and men of maturer age, living on quarter sections of land doing such duties as are required by law to make that piece of land theirs. Homesteading, it is called. A rather large percentage of these homesteaders are unmarried men, hardly any of them have had house-building or house-keeping experience before settling here, some of them have had little experience in farming, mostly all of them have come from homes where mothers or sisters attended to the preparation of meals and the keeping of the house; they are living here in strangely different circumstances to any experienced before. The homesteader's life appeals to some as the ideal mode of existence. But it is not exactly a perpetual picnic to those who elect to live it for a time. It has its difficulties and its drawbacks as most other things have.

It has occurred to us that it might be interesting and highly instructive to quite a large number of the readers of this paper, if the homesteading experiences of as many as possible of those who pioneered, or are now pioneering, this country could be given. With this end in view we have arranged with a gentlemen, well qualified to per-

In the three prairie provinces there are about 80,000 farmers who are not readers of the Farmer's Advocate, and consequently, thousands of dollars are lost through misinformation and lack of knowledge. For this reason we want all our present readers to get up clubs of these non-readers.

To present subscribers:

If you send us two new names and \$3.00 to cover same (each new subscriber paying \$1.50), we will mark date on your paper forward one year as remuneration to you; or, for each single NEW NAME, accompanied by \$1.50, we will advance the date of your address label six months. Cash commissions or premiums, as preferred, for larger lists of new names.

In clubs of FOUR RENEWALS OR OVER, we will accept \$1.25 each.

Premiums not included in club offers.

Start raising your club immediately. Get "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal" into every home in your locality.

form the task, for a series of articles on the homesteader and his problem. These articles will be chiefly on housekeeping for bachelors, the building of the "shack," furnishing and equipping it, cooking and so on. We believe that homesteaders will supplement this writer's efforts by contributing chapters from their own experience and thus widen the good that may be done.

It is not house-keeping experience alone that is wanted. Ways of making the home a better place to live in and methods of better and more expeditiously satisfying the wants of the inner man, are things important enough in their place. But they are not the whole of homesteading. There are several thousand men living on farms or homesteads in various parts of the west whose early experiences in farming in this country would be invaluable to several thousand others who are now trying their hand for the first time at farming in a country where farming conditions are very different to what they have seen or been accustomed to before. We learn from the experiences of others and others may learn from ours. Experience loses nothing by being written down. Publishing it extends its influence for good.

We expect to publish some very interesting matter for homesteaders during the next few months. A number of valuable contributions are already on hand in addition to the special articles previously mentioned, and these will be

supplemented by others as time goes on. Any one who wants to may contribute. Names will be withheld if requested and everything published will be paid for at our regular space rates. Drawings and photos are especially useful in elucidating ideas, and however crudely the former may be done, they can be worked up by our staff artist into publishable form. Nobody can monopolize ideas. Yours are as valuable to others as those of others are to you. Let us have them.

Farmer's Co-operative Demonstration Work.

Working through the department of plant industry, the United States government maintains an organization that has for its aim the placing of practical object lessons before farmers, the illustrating of the most profitable methods of producing farm crops, demonstrating that the average farmer can produce better results. The organization is known as the Farmers' Co-operative Demonstration Work. Its operation, thus far, has been confined to certain states in the south, where the condition of the average farmer is such that he is most likely to be benefitted most by demonstrations of the modern and economic methods of doing farm work. There the average farmer works with one mule or sometimes none at all, tills a few acres of land, earns low wages and does not use economically the resources at his disposal.

Demonstration agents go about in the states operated in and induce farmers here and there to co-operate with the organization in demonstrating the value of following modern farming methods. The object is to have the work done by individual farmers on their own land, to demonstrate to the neighborhood that anyone employing the same methods can produce similar results. Instructions to these demonstrating farmers are clearly given. Government agents visit the farms each month and explain anything not fully understood. Modern farm practices are carried into every district. The government undertakes, with the co-operation of farmers, to show what can be done. No one is asked to believe anything not clearly proved. When the crop is harvested, a meeting is held to discuss the methods by which it was grown. The neighbors become interested and the entire district is influenced for better farming. The Farmers' Co-operative Demonstration Work aims to reach directly the men who should reform. It reaches them in a practical way and establishes a different local standard of excellence for farming and for living.

The idea of those behind this agricultural educational movement is that long-time customs cannot be overcome simply by writing a book or preaching at those who are practising out of date and uneconomic methods. The prime object is to increase the efficiency of the farmer and the net returns from each farm. On that depends the prosperity of the country.

More on Thick and Thin Seeding

Under the heading "How Can Wheat Escape Frost" the opinions of Mr. McKay of Indian Head and of the North Dakota Station were given on the question of thick and thin seeding in our December 23rd issue. These opinions point conclusively to the fact that the thickness of seeding of our commonly grown grains in any one particular season does not noticeably affect the length of time the crop takes to come to maturity. It seems impossible to change the inherent tendency of a plant by a change of conditions during one season of growth. But in the light of the experience of other countries, there is reason to believe that a change in our system of seeding will effect a change in the length of time of growth and in yields. We haven't yet really tackled this question in dead earnest. Our crops are too much at the mercy of the season and the soil. We want grain crops that are more special purpose in their functions. As our grain crops exist at present, they perform a dual function, they stool to produce more vegetable matter, then they go forward and form seed and bring it to maturity. The performance of one of these functions is at the expense of the other, if we had non-stooling grain we would, in all probability, have from that rapidly produced, one stem with a heavy head which would come early to maturity. This is the experience in English grain growing, but we try to keep our cereals growing a certain amount of straw and then some grain. See how