

it from growing. Never blanket a horse in the stable, while he is warm, unless you give him a dry blanket shortly after. The driving horse must not be fat, but lean and hard, be well curried, sensitive in mouth and skin. . . . The first great mistake in caring for horses is feeding too much hay; the second, is not feeding often enough. A horse should be fed four times daily, and half the day's feed should come after 6 o'clock at night. More horses are hurt by overfeeding of hay than grain. A horse should not work over five hours without feed, and different horses require different food. Some horses do better on straw than hay."

#### Have Foals Come in the Fall.

To the man who is breeding only one or two mares, and who wishes to work them a part of the year, having them foal in the spring is a real inconvenience. To such the advice given by a writer in the *National Stockman* will be of interest. It is as follows: "We hear much of the decrease in the number of sheep during the last few years, and it has been great. I am certain that within the limit of my acquaintance there has been a greater decrease in the number of colts raised. Business cannot be carried on without horses. It seems certain that before 1900 there will be a scarcity of horses in this country. The newer countries compete with us in the production of meats and wool, but horse breeding seems never to have reached great proportions in the countries where these products can be grown so cheaply. The dangers and expense of shipping afford reasons why they will not. The American horse market will remain for the American farmer to supply. I do not believe in the cry of a general over-supply as the cause of the present depression in business, but there is no doubt that the comparatively high prices of horses a few years ago stimulated the business of breeding so that an increased number of horses were thrown upon the market at a time when business was contracting. These two influences working together have forced prices away below the line of profit. A reaction will come in this business as it does in every industry. The scarcity of horses will force prices up again. With the almost universal lowering of values, it is not necessary that prices should return to their former high level to make horse breeding profitable.

"It has been an almost universal custom to have colts foaled in the spring. There are very many considerations that make fall a more favorable time, especially with mares required for farm work. In the late fall, where a warm box stall can be provided a foal may be dropped with the least possible risk or trouble. The mare need not stop work during the spring or summer, when she is needed, and she has no youngling to worry her or her driver. Under the very best management there is a good deal of risk and annoyance in working a mare with a young foal. The mare cannot do so much work, she must have extra care and feed, and it is not possible for the colt to grow as well as though its mother were not worked. When contrasted with the advantages of raising fall colts there seems no explanation for the common practice of having them in the spring only that it is the custom. During the winter season farm teams, as a rule, do very little work. A mare can raise a colt at this time with the least possible interference with her work. She is not heavy enough in the spring to endanger her, and her colt may be weaned the following spring by the time she is needed. The first of November is the most favorable time for foaling. Mare and foal should then be placed in a box stall for the winter. If reasonably warm the colt will grow faster than it would during the extreme heat and annoyance from flies of summer. Another advantage is that the colt can be weaned upon young grass. Hence, no change in its growth need follow this change in its life. The objection is sometimes made that the mare is thus weakened for spring work, but I do not think it need be so. With the same care I am sure she will be in better condition for work than if carrying a heavy foal or with a young one at her side."

#### Inoculation for Rinderpest a Failure.

Mention was made in the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* recently of the employment of Dr. Koch, the German expert, by the British authorities to attempt to discover a remedy for rinderpest in South Africa. His method of inoculation is now reported to be an utter failure. From Cape Town the news comes that it has become almost impossible to bury the cattle as they die. In such a state of things, farmers have now no alternative but to allow the disease to take its course, which means the early extermination of cattle throughout a great part of South Africa, the absolute ruin of a large and important industry, and a disastrous revolution in the food supply of the Colony.

#### Why Not Get the Best?

A reliable agricultural paper is now an indispensable adjunct for the farmer. True to its name, the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*, published at London, Ont., Canada, and edited by practical men, fills the bill in many respects. An examination of its pages will show that it overlooks no department of farming, giving probably double the serviceable, up-to-date reading matter of any other paper of the class at so reasonable a price. We do not wonder at its increasing popularity and immense circulation. Write for a sample copy.—*Reliable Poultry Journal*, Quincy, Ill.

## FARM.

### Winter Wheat Experiments at the Ontario Agricultural College.

To the Editor *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*:

SIR,—One hundred and eighty-nine plots have been devoted this season to winter wheat experiments at the Ontario Agricultural College. Owing to the late harvest and the exceedingly wet season no "Winter Wheat Bulletin" can be issued this year in time to be of service before the winter wheat seeding is reached.

In an experiment with ninety-three varieties of winter wheat, grown under similar conditions in 1897, it is found that the seven varieties which stand highest in yield of grain per acre are the same seven which have given the largest yield of grain per acre among eighty-six varieties grown on the experimental plots for four years in succession. These seven varieties have yielded at the following rates per acre in the average of four years' experiments: 1, Dawson's Golden Chaff, 51.4 bushels; 2, Early Red Clawson, 50.6 bushels; 3, Egyptian, 50.2 bushels; 4, Early Genesee Giant, 50.1 bushels; 5, Reliable, 49.2 bushels; 6, Golden Drop, 49.0 bushels; and 7, Imperial Amber, 48.8 bushels. It is earnestly hoped that the interested reader will carefully consider the large amount of valuable information embodied in the two preceding sentences written in italics.

Distribution of Seed for Testing Purposes.—The following three sets of winter wheat varieties will be sent free by mail in one-half pound lots of each variety to farmers applying for them who will carefully test the three kinds in the set which they choose and report the results after harvest next year. The seeds will be sent out in the order in which they are received as long as the supply lasts.

Set 1—Dawson's Golden Chaff, Early Genesee Giant, Early Red Clawson. Set 2—Dawson's Golden Chaff, Pride of Genesee, Poole. Set 3—Dawson's Golden Chaff, New Columbia, Imperial Amber.

Each person wishing one of these sets should write to the Experimentalist, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, mentioning which set he wishes, and the grain, with instructions and blank forms on which to report, will be forwarded free of cost to his address until the supply of grain for distribution is exhausted.

C. A. ZAVITZ,  
Experimentalist.

Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Aug. 11th, '07.

#### Wheat on Sod or Stubble.

Where wheat is to be sown on sod the plowing should be done, if possible, about six weeks before seeding time, and the plowing followed by the roller and harrows within a day or two—the sooner the better, as the work of fining the soil and solidifying it will be much more effectual than if delayed beyond a day or two after plowing. Then after every shower of rain let the harrowing be repeated to break up the crust and conserve the moisture in the soil. In a long experience we have found that such timely tillage greatly increases the wheat crop, and many times repays the cost of the work. If the plowing has been delayed till near seeding the same cultivation should be followed as far as practicable.

Wheat after oats is not to be recommended as a rule, yet on land that is in good heart we have seen very good crops of wheat in this rotation, but to make it a success the tillage must be thorough. The ground should be plowed as soon as the oats are removed, the roller and the harrow following the plow immediately, or not later than the following day. Having it all plowed, cultivation should follow every few days, and especially after every shower of rain or rainy spell as soon as the land is dry enough to work right. No crust should be permitted to remain on the surface, and this cultivation will effectually kill all weed growth and also the growth of oats from seed shelled out in harvesting, and which, if allowed to grow, will rob the wheat of just so much moisture and plant food as they take up. The disk harrow or the spring-tooth cultivator may be used to good advantage in such tillage, or, if thistles are showing, a cultivator with broad feet may be used to advantage, but should be followed by the harrow to level the ridges made by the former implement. Of course, much will depend upon the weather, or the amount of rainfall, whether such land can be got into fit condition for wheat. If plowing has been delayed till late in August there will be little time for the preparation outlined, and unless rain comes to moisten the soil to the depth of the plowing before the wheat is sowed the outlook for a successful crop will not be very encouraging, but even if the plowing cannot be accomplished till near seeding time, if rains come and the land is thoroughly worked and a good seed bed prepared there may be reasonable grounds to look for a fair crop. Wheat may well follow barley if the land is rich enough to reasonably expect a paying crop, and the preparation will be entirely similar to that outlined for oat stubble, but the plowing and cultivation should be commenced as early as possible after the removal of the crop, and if possible available it is better to be applied to the soil and worked into the soil by use of a roller and harrows.

### A Trip Through Manitoba.

(EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.)

Leaving Winnipeg the trip to Portage la Prairie occupies some two hours, most of the way through flat, heavy land, with here and there many natural hay meadows. The crop this season is light, and will not produce more than about a ton per acre. Approaching High Bluff, some six miles east of Portage, the first extensive wheat fields come into view. This is the border of the long-settled and rich Portage Plains, occupying about 300 square miles of good wheat land. These were driven over and carefully observed. Very few farmers here have less than half-sections (320 acres), while there are many whole-section farms, nearly all fenced with barbed wire and furnished with comfortable but smallish dwellings, stables, granaries, and, in many cases, good-sized stock barns. These are usually neatly painted with reddish-brown, trimmed with white, while a number of the houses are painted white and bear a general evidence of thrift and prosperity. True, there are many slovenly farmers, who have as a reward poorer crops and less comforts, but these are the exception on the Portage Plains. This must have been a bleak district a few years ago, but now in every direction are to be seen quite strong-growing bluffs planted on the north and west sides of the houses and out-buildings. Those making the best growth are planted in rows 12 to 15 deep, some six feet apart each way, and cultivated between for the first few years. Owners of some of the best bluffs say that good protection can be secured from blocks of Manitoba maples, five to six years planted. It was indeed refreshing to talk to such hopeful, well-to-do men as many of the young "Portage" farmers are. A number of our old acquaintances declared they would not return to Ontario to farm except they owned a good block of well-equipped land in a favored locality. Most of them complain of the long winters and lack of social advantages, but the ease with which a home can be secured more than offsets these drawbacks. Perhaps we visited them at a specially favorable time, as they were soon to commence a very good harvest of wheat, which is generally heavy, with some exceptions on poorly-cultivated farms. The oat crop is generally light and dirty owing to the late spring frosts. We found capital gardens on many of the farms. Potatoes, onions, peas, beans, beets, cabbages, cauliflowers, etc., were generally looking fine, while the small fruit crop was good, except in a few exceptional cases.

Carberry was our next stopping place, some 50 miles west. There is considerable waste land between these points, including huge sandhills, on which very little grows. Carberry, however, is another elevator center much like the Portage Plains, but newer. The crops here are a little lighter because of less rainfall. A day was spent at the summer exhibition, which reminded one of a well-to-do Ontario county fair. While there was considerable well-fitted stock competing that had been shown at the Winnipeg Industrial, also, especially among the horses, some well-brought-out local exhibits. The large proportion of intelligent and hopeful young people of the rural population is worthy of remark. There were also strong evidences of a rapidly-increasing population, as large families of robust children were notably numerous.

Some 28 miles further on Brandon, the "Wheat City," is situated. It is picturesquely placed on the southern bank of the extremely crooked and swiftly-flowing Assiniboine River. It was a great treat to find here some respectable hills to break the monotony of the stretches of almost level prairie land passed farther east. Brandon is a prosperous looking city of some 5,000 inhabitants. Its business blocks and public buildings are magnificent structures; in fact, the Central School is as good as any we have seen on the continent. The soil here is very light in the immediate vicinity southward. This condition does not extend far north, as just across the river, some two miles away, the Manitoba Experimental Farm is situated. A pleasant and profitable half day was spent here, where a great deal of valuable work is being done. The numerous grain and grass plots were in evidence of this. Here, as on every farm we saw in Manitoba, there are evidences of the late spring frosts in weedy crops. These pests commence to grow as soon as the seed is sown, while the grain has to wait for more congenial conditions. In this way they got the start. Much attention is being given by Mr. Bedford to arboriculture, the lessons from which should be of great value to Western farmers.

The Brandon Summer Fair was in progress at this time. It is the exhibition of greatest importance west of Winnipeg. There was much of the Industrial prize-winning stock here, as well as some good exhibits from the surrounding locality, which will very soon be able to export some capital horses. The show was well patronized, there being some 10,000 admission tickets sold during the second day. There must be nearly 100 acres in the grounds, which, while very good, are unnecessarily extensive. Most of the visitors gave the impression of their being a thrifty, prosperous class. Many drove in with good horses and covered buggies, while large numbers came in by rail.

From here we ran down to Souris, some 25 miles south. We drove over this road, and regretted seeing generally light crops. The rainfall since the show went off has been nothing to speak of, perhaps not two inches during the entire season.