

Good Money in Alfalfa

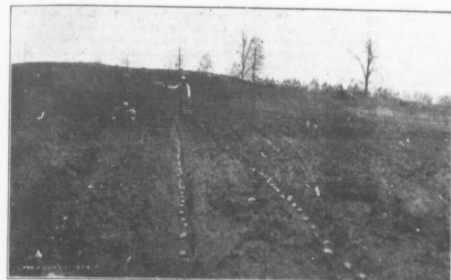
The possibilities of alfalfa as a money crop was the subject of an address by Mr. Geo. Putman at the last meeting of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union. Mr. Putman's home is in Lincoln county, right in the heart of the alfalfa growing district of Ontario. It was in this district that the Canadian Variegated alfalfa, one of our hardiest and best varieties, was first discovered. About 30 years ago two gentlemen imported a few pounds of alfalfa seed from Germany and from the small area from which they seeded the crop has grown in popularity until now thousands of acres in each of the Lake Erie counties are devoted to alfalfa. In his address, Mr. Putman cited several concrete instances to show what a profitable crop alfalfa has proven in his district. One farmer mentioned by Mr. Putman, has a 12-acre field of alfalfa seeded four years ago. Last season from his 12 acres, he secured 25 tons of first class hay from the first cutting and

making alfalfa fields, but that he would mention only one more. For the last two seasons a 15-acre alfalfa field has yielded crops as follows: Two tons, two and one-half tons and three-quarters of a ton to the acre, or an average of five and one-quarter tons an acre from 15 acres. The second cutting one year was threshed and the seed sold for \$212.

"Where can you find a more profitable crop?" said Mr. Putman in conclusion, "that alfalfa field that had been seeded for 15 years, had received no fertilizer or manure in all that time and at the end of that period was in better condition than at the beginning. There is lots of land in this province not considered valuable if planted to alfalfa would double and treble in value."

Impressions of England

"I am glad to say that dairying in Ontario is as far advanced as that branch of agriculture is in this country," writes Mr. R. Reed from land to Farm and Dairy. Mr. Reed who



Why Not Go a Bit Further and Grow Them Commercially?

Mr. R. M. Inman, Elgin Co., Ont., may be here seen planting the small acreage of potatoes that is characteristic of the Ontario farm. And yet potatoes, properly handled, are a most profitable crop with which Ontario farmers don't even supply their own home market. There is room for expansion in this industry.

seven tons in the second cutting, or a total of 32 tons of hay, just as good as bran for feed, from a 12-acre field and this with no expenditure except for labor in harvesting.

Another farmer seeded nine acres to alfalfa. Part of this area was killed out in the land adjoining a creek. In 1910 when the alfalfa had already been yielding crops for five years, 21 loads were harvested from what remained of the nine acres. In 1911 the crop was 25 loads and 12 head of cattle were pastured for six weeks. In 1912 the same field yielded three crops of 22 loads, seven loads and eight loads; or, a total of 37 loads. Mr. Putman valued the alfalfa that year at \$15 a load and considering the high price of mill feeds his is a reasonable valuation. Figuring on this basis, the crop from the nine acres was worth \$555 or \$120 more than the value of the land. In the three years mentioned that field had produced 84 loads of alfalfa and even at \$12 a load, gave the entire crop a value of over \$1,000.

Another six-acre field now seeded 15 years and yielding good crops every year in the past, has produced 30 tons of alfalfa and 10 tons to the acre and also pasture for eight cows one month. In 1911 this same field gave a crop of 15 tons of alfalfa hay and 12 bushels of seed. The seed alone being worth \$150. In 1912 the owner of this six-acre field plowed up an acre and harvested from it the best crop of potatoes he ever grew, and from the remaining five acres he obtained 14 tons of alfalfa.

Mr. Putman said that he might go on all day citing instances of profit

was for years secretary of the Canadian Jersey Cattle Breeders' Association, is now permanently located in England. His comments on agriculture in that country are interesting.

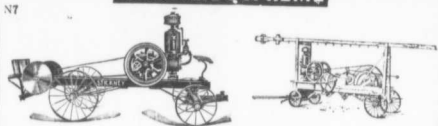
"I have had the pleasure," he writes, "of visiting several farms during the past few weeks. Yesterday I spent a very pleasant day on a dairy farm in Wiltshire where a sale of high class Jersey took place. Some 60 head were offered, all registered in the E. J. H. B. The prices, which were very good, averaged 30 guineas (\$150) for heifers and cows in milk. One bull brought 125 guineas (\$625) and the best cow 71 guineas (\$355). Both were very fine specimens of the breed, a little larger than the Island type."

"The market here demands a different quality of butter to that which we produce in Canada. There is little or no salt in it. The price is from 25 to 50 cents a pound. I have also found that when you order Cheddar cheese at the high class restaurants you are invariably handed good Canadian cheese, which retails here at about two pence a pound less than the English Cheddar cheese. It is difficult to distinguish except by a Canadian."

I am very much impressed by the great possibilities of our northern country for developing the dairying business. I feel sure that no one could do the people a better turn than to get them reading Farm and Dairy so that the seeds of progressive dairying will be sown in good time to yield abundantly when the proper harvest time comes.—R. C. Fowler, Nipissing Dist., Ont.

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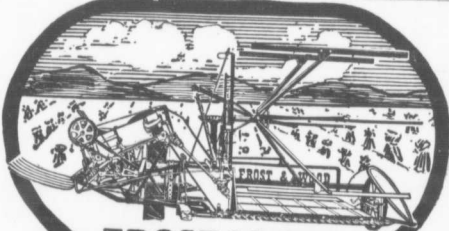


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