

You can take a little plot, of course, and flush it over real quick, but you cannot do it in ordinary practice.

DELEGATE: Have you had any experience with corn?

MR. BARK: Not very much. Since becoming an irrigator some 15 or 16 years ago, I have never lived in a well developed corn section, but I have grown a little, but not a great deal. Corn does not take, in my opinion, very much water, but when it needs it, it needs it bad and that is about the time the ears are forming. I can remember as a boy when father would be anxious about it raining just about the time the ears were coming on and if we got one soaking, then we could always get a good yield. We irrigators are relieved from that because we have the soaking at our finger tips any time we want to put it on.

DELEGATE: How much do you plant to the acre of alfalfa?

MR. BARK: Since coming to Alberta I have listened to men who know more about alfalfa than I do and they say to plant 15 pounds to the acre and I have planted a good many thousand of acres in alfalfa and have no reason to doubt that the use of this amount is good practice. That is Mr. Fairfield's judgment as to the amount required. In Idaho it seems to me we got good stands from sowing ten to twelve pounds to the acre, but our winters are more rigorous and the climate more erratic and our land not so well irrigated. Remember, 10 pounds to the acre puts 52 seeds on every square foot of the acre, and if it all grew it would be as thick as hair on a dog's back. If you were planting corn and 50 per cent. did not grow, you would not have a crop at all. If you handle the alfalfa properly 15 pounds would be ample.

DELEGATE: Is inoculation necessary here?

MR. BARK: Inoculation is absolutely necessary in Alberta. In Idaho and Wyoming it was unnecessary. It would not hurt anything, but it would do no good. This inoculation stunt is quite a lengthy problem, but I will say this, there is a little bug, or germ, or bacteria if you like, which if it is in the soil where you plant your alfalfa, renders inoculation unnecessary. Apparently that bacteria is in the soil down south, but they are not in very much of our soil here and alfalfa and other legumes will not do well unless they have these bacteria on their roots.

Generally speaking, you want to put a different kind of bacteria on each different legume. There are exceptions, but I cannot give them all to you. For instance, alfalfa and sweet clover will have the same and red and alsike will have the same, but peas and beans and vetch have different ones. I think I can give a little bit of information about inoculation that would be worth spending a minute on. When I first came to Alberta this inoculation was new to me. I was up in Strathmore and saw farmers coming in to draw away the alfalfa soil which had been sent there from the demonstration farm. This was an expensive arrangement. It had to be shipped on freight cars