

August 7, 19

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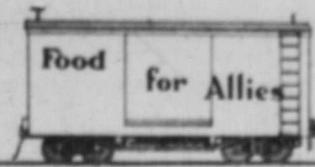
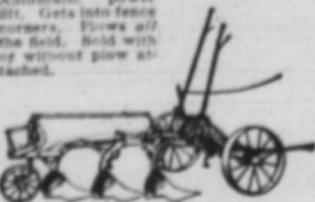
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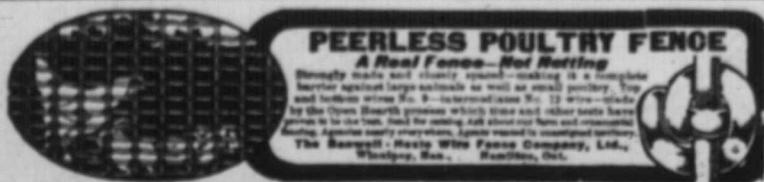
Railroads cannot haul both at once. Don't let this situation happen. It is unnecessary. If the farmers who have usually waited till after Harvest before hauling their coal do so this summer they will go cold this winter. This is the authoritative statement of all railroads.

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WHEN WRITING TO ADVERTISERS PLEASE MENTION THE GUIDE

Field

Dry Farming Practices

In discussing the principles of dry farming at the irrigation convention held at Nelson, B.C., Hon. W. R. Motherwell spoke in part as follows:—

"The practice of stubble burning and stubble farming, sound enough in some localities and for a time, has about had its day and should be permitted to pass quietly into history. There is no question that the burning of stubble together with all top fibrous matter, for the past 25 or 30 years has had much to do with the soils gradual increasing tendency to drift. On the other hand, sowing on stubble, especially on poor stubble, has had the effect of encouraging and establishing perennial weeds, such as quack and similarly rooted grasses, thistles, dandelions, poverty weeds, etc., until they have become a positive and growing menace to the most approved dry farming practices."

"Although fully 80 per cent. of Saskatchewan's open plains wheat has suffered severely from drought this season, it is generally admitted that the 'cow country,' or more recent pre-emption area suffers in this respect more frequently and more acutely than the remainder of the province. In view of this, it would appear advisable to try out at least a portion of one's farm in the west and south-west country, by summerfallowing every other year, instead of once in three years or not at all as is the custom with some. The fact that this dry area in 1915 not only made a record crop yield for Canada but for the world, proves that it is highly productive when given a chance. But the phenomenal, though occasional productivity tempts many to gamble on its early recurrence with the result that when a dry year comes instead, crop failure is the inevitable result on lands where a sufficient store of moisture has not been laid by—not for a 'rainy day' but for a dry day. In districts where early autumn frosts occur, the problem is more complex and this additional factor must there be taken into account."

"During the present summer, the open plain irrigator and dry farmer of the Canadian West have been fighting dry weather, without reserves of either moisture or men, with the result that much of our field agriculture has been figuratively driven temporarily across the Marne. Let us, however, as Allies, unite our field forces under a common leader and with a common end in view, and by methods of better and safer farming, drive the more acute features of that old dragon, 'drouth' beyond our borders for ever."

Growing Timothy Seed

While the growing of timothy for seed is as yet a new venture for many farmers, it is now becoming known in the Innisfail, Red Deer and Pincher Creek districts, as one of the most profitable and safest crops to raise and the easiest money-maker. The growing of this seed can be recommended on all of the heavy black soil anywhere in Alberta, but particularly in districts where the rainfall is unusually heavy. Some suggestions of how to operate for best results may be offered. First remember that Alberta is particularly adapted to it. There is just as much difference in the size and plumpness of the seed grown here and in the East, as there is in the oats; therefore, the demand for Alberta seed, both for home use and for export, will continue to grow. There has been a vast improvement in the process of cleaning and threshing of the seed since three years ago, when Ottawa reported our seed as too weedy for seeding. This year fully 75 per cent. of Alberta seed will, under the Seed Control Act, grade number one and the output will be about 75 cars.

Timothy growing may be continued for many years on the same soil with excellent results. Have a disk harrow sharpened well, and as soon as the frost is out of the ground, in the spring, two or three inches, give the old timothy field a good discing—don't be afraid of spoiling it—then harrow it to make it level for cutting. This will thin it out

and cultivate the remaining plants so as to increase the yield, the heads will be much longer and yield heavier with a better quality of seed. After cutting the crop, plow the field as early as possible in August, cultivate it well and seed it at once, with about four pounds of good clean seed per acre. The action of the sun on the black soil for the remainder of the summer is quite equal to summerfallow. Then you are finished seeding for three years. The first year should yield three tons of hay per acre—which will yield from 10 to 15 bushels of seed per acre. The second year the yield will be not quite so much. The third year, disc again. The farmer should not overlook the fact that he can increase a timothy yield from 25 to 50 per cent. by putting on manure on timothy sod.

Cutting, harvesting, threshing and curing the hay are important factors. About 10 to 12 days after timothy is in the second blossom, or when it has a brown color, cut with a binder low enough to get all the hay. Put in stack and only leave it there until cured—about a week in good weather. Then stack and leave it in stack from two to four weeks. If you can get a machine to thresh it while it is in the sweat or tough condition, this will help to retain the hull and give number one grade. When threshing do not blow the threshed hay out in a straw pile, but have it properly stacked. Take a barrel of water and stir 50 pounds of salt in it. Put in a pail full on every half load and this will settle the stack down, bring a brightness to the hay and make it palatable and digestible so that either horses or cattle will eat it.

Threshing properly has been a great problem though it has been improved very greatly by a few men who have taken pains with it and given it some study. There is still much to be learned. From the present inquiry we have for the large grained, high quality seed, such as we have exported, we feel assured that there will be an unlimited demand, and if the hay is properly handled, there will also be a good demand for all of the threshed hay, and at any rate, it will be all feed for the cattle. We would also ask more farmers to grow bromegrass seed, as we have to import it each year at a high price.—J. J. Murray, Alta.

Rape on Summerfallow

Q.—Would it be advisable to sow rape on summerfallow to provide fall pasture for cattle? How should it be sown and what rate per acre?—Subscriber.

A.—This is a practice that can be followed to good advantage in districts where there are no perennial or winter annual weeds, in that most of the annual weeds will have been killed before the rape is sown or will be killed by the fall frosts before they have had time to ripen. The succeeding crop of wheat, however, on rape land, will not be as heavy as a bare summerfallow, but when the value of the rape for pasture is considered, it is probable that this will be the most profitable procedure.

The rape can be sown as late as August 1 and make excellent pasture in the fall. If the season is sufficiently moist it can be sown as late as September 1. Under favorable weather and soil conditions it may be pastured in about five weeks. For late fall pasture it will give better results than most annual crops in that it will stand quite a heavy frost without suffering any appreciable injury.

The seed may be sown in broadcast or in rows. When sown broadcast early in the season it will require about four pounds of seed per acre. The later sown crops should be put on somewhat heavier. When sown in rows less than four pounds of seed may be used; the quantity is affected by the space between the rows. The rows may be 30 inches apart, which will allow the inter-tilling if this is necessary. Sowing in rows is to be preferred to broadcast, because there is a greater proportion of leaf to stem; it makes more rapid and vigorous growth. There is less waste when pastured as the animals generally

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