

Alfalfa Growing in Manitoba

Alfalfa has been regarded quite generally as a crop suitable for districts where the climatic conditions are known to be comparatively mild. While it is especially well adapted to the warmer portions of the South Western States, and is also counted as the banner forage crop of the irrigated districts in the West, special types or strains have been developed for the northern areas, and field tests have proven conclusively that alfalfa has a much wider range of territory than was formerly supposed.

The demonstration plots in this Province have afforded still further evidence in this direction, and the man who wishes to devote a portion of his farm to the production of an excellent forage or hay crop, will do well to give alfalfa a place in his list. Practical farmers in several localities have cultivated alfalfa with some measure of success, and this merely substantiates the field demonstrations which have been started and are being extended by the Provincial Department of Agriculture.

SPECIAL VALUE OF ALFALFA

Alfalfa not only serves to balance the ration for the farm live stock, but it also provides a means whereby nitrogen can be secured cheaply from the soil air. Alfalfa has a deep rooting system, and it may thus take the place of a sub-soiler in opening up the lower soil layers. It may be observed as well that such a crop leaves considerable organic residue in the soil. The latter material is important in that it increases the moisture holding capacity of the soil, and in the process of decomposition assists in liberating plant food for the growing crop. With the introduction of alf-



Alfalfa Field in Western Manitoba