

# THE CANADA FARMER

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NEW SERIES.

## The Field.

### Hints for September.

#### *Clover Seed.*

The clover crop will in all probability be a good one this year. The after growth has been particularly favored by genial showers and generally good growing weather.

But it must be remembered that the acreage is small, owing to the large amount of grass seed that failed last year. Therefore we think clover will be scarce.

Owing to light hay crops, many farmers are cutting their aftermath for fodder, this will still further reduce the clover seed crop of 1872.

We advise any who have a fair crop off clover to cut it this fall.

Of course a reaping machine with a self-rake is the most handy for securing clover for seed. Next comes any reaping machine. In default of one however, a platform made of sheet iron or of basswood, very light, affixed to the cutter-bar answers well. In this case it is necessary to have a man or boy following with a rake to rake the crops of the table into windrows.

Where there is a good growth of clover, we should advise great care being exercised in curing, as during the coming season the probabilities are, that even clover straw will be a valuable adjunct to the fodder barn.

But where the stalk is not worth securing for fodder, no fear need be entertained about wet, the seed will not suffer if it get wet and dry frequently, and indeed it will thresh all the better.

Great care must be exercised, however, to get it into the barn dry, for with stacking it is impossible to keep it dry without it is thatched or well covered with boards.

We next come to a short consideration of the fall sowing of

#### *Winter Wheat.*

Of course we believe in the drill; it de-

posits the seed more evenly and saves money in quantities per acre; but we think the shoulders of the drill need be very wide to bear all that is required of them.

We may rest assured that the use of the drill will make no difference, if the land be poorly prepared or the seed bad. Exercise great care that seed wheat be not musty.

On a nice mellow summer fallow, we think the way of sowing should be entirely governed by means at hand, for a good crop is certain under any circumstances. On lumpy land, by all means use the drill.

As a rule we believe in leaving a wheat field pretty cloddy, so that the fall benefit of the frost may be brought into play, in rendering the soil friable; but, where so left, we must make up our minds to harrow and roll thoroughly in the coming spring.

We should strongly advise, in Canada, getting all seed wheat in the ground by the 10th of September.

When sown early, it has a better chance of withstanding the severity of winter, while now-a-days, we need seldom fear so much snow as to smother it out.

If you furrow, don't make more furrows than can be helped, and make them shallow and very wide. Last year we made our water furrows narrow, and in consequence, the spring rains channelled them out, so that we could not cross with our reaper and had to cut an 18 acre field in no less than six parts, such work as this causing much loss of time may be prevented, or at any rate lessened, by forethought at seeding time.

#### *Manure.*

The best way of manuring fall wheat is with well rotted barnyard manure, drawn on and spread well and evenly upon the land, after the last ploughing, and thoroughly worked into the seed bed with harrow and cultivator.

#### *Artificial Manures*

Should be used at the following rates. Nitrate of soda or guano, 100 lbs. per acre. These manures are very expensive, and we can hardly make up our minds to advise our brethren to use them. There is however

one that is a good one in all cases, neither can the any case be called entirely thrown out.

#### *Timothy &c.*

Sown in the fall is safe to take well, and you are sure of a large sprinkling of timothy in your first cut for hay. The chief objections to sowing in the fall are that it occupies a portion of the seed bed at a time when the growing wheat crop demands much nourishment, and that, in peculiarly favorable seasons, there is much green grass in the butts of the wheat sheaves at harvest time.

Whether the latter is an objection we leave to the individual farmer. There is evidently on this point some difference of opinion; for a man in our own neighborhood was praising his wheat crop to us the other day in these terms, "I am going to have so many bushels of wheat and shall at the same time cut half a ton of timothy grass in the straw per acre."

We are great advocates of

#### *Drawing out Manure*

And top dressing our grass lands, either for another hay crop or for ploughing down for roots. In either case the gentle fall rains wash the manurial elements down to the thousand little rootlets of the clover, by which it is thoroughly absorbed, and thus not one particle is swept out of the reach of the succeeding crop.

We trust most farmers have arranged to have their corn and potato and indeed general root field upon what is now a clover sod; it has been fully demonstrated, that roots of all kinds do far better on a clover ley than on any other preparation.

Don't then wait too long before you

#### *Plough down your clover ley,*

But rather manage to put in the teams when the second crop is in full flower.

#### *Fall Ploughing.*

Keep enough hands to have the teams fully occupied at fall ploughing.

Spring in Canada is such thronging time,