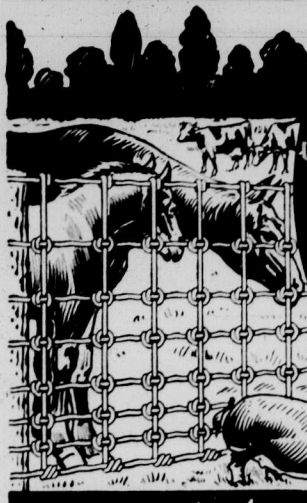


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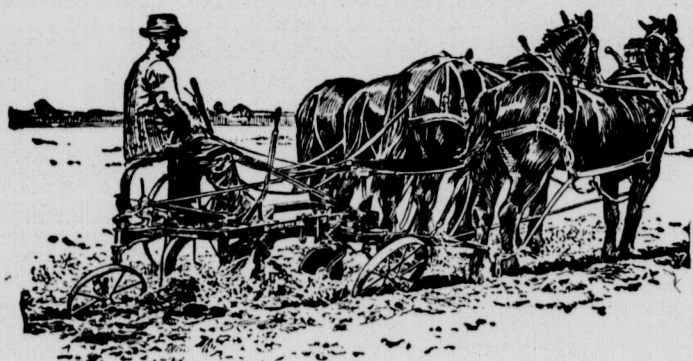
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Oliver plows are built at Hamilton, Ont.



The Value of Good Seed

Continued from Page 15

It is not possible, of course, to procure enough seed in this way for a main crop, with wheat, barley and such like crops, but enough can be obtained to grow the seed the following year.

Briefly this method of selection is as follows: Just before the grain is ripe go thru the field, and pick out the most promising looking plants, with the best heads, most mature, most ideal straw, and generally speaking something a little earlier and a little better than the majority. These seeds should be saved and threshed by hand, and the seed kept separate till the following spring, then to be sown in a plot by itself.

The crop from this plot is threshed separately and saved for sowing on a large acreage the following year. The labor attached to this method is not so great as it appears at first sight. The most time is taken up in the head selection, but bear in mind that by selecting you are taking advantage of variation, and sowing a seed that will ripen earlier, is harder and generally acclimatized to local conditions.

Every year a small amount could be selected to advantage, and sown for seed the following year and by keeping high ideals of a good crop in view, a marked improvement will be noticed in the course of a few years.

A very simple and efficient modification of the above plan of selection is to look over the main crop a few days before cutting, and pick out some part that is outstanding for maturity, yield, and freedom from weeds; in other words, that is made up of a collection of the most promising plants. Mark this place, keep the sheaves from it separately, thresh it first and save this seed for next year's seeding.

When the bulk of the seed has been damaged by severe weather conditions then it is advisable to procure new seed. Frozen, broken, or sprouted seed is to be avoided. Wheat has a characteristic of breaking lengthwise, hence destroying the germ, while barley usually breaks crosswise, which is not so detrimental to its vitality. Sprouted grain, or grain that has been sprouted and then let lie dormant for a period, loses greatly in vitality.

While certain rates of seeding have been determined by experiment the individual soil conditions and characteristics of the seed should be taken into consideration, as they have a direct bearing on the ultimate yield of the crop.

Briefly, factors influencing the quantity of seed to sow to the acre are:

- (1) Tillering or stooling qualities.
- (2) Size of seed sown.
- (3) Vitality.
- (4) Fertility of the land.
- (5) State of cultivation.
- (6) Climatic conditions at time of seeding.
- (7) Methods of seeding.

With regard to tillering or stooling, which is the tendency of the plants to produce more stalks and heads, a good stooling variety should not be sown as thickly as a poor stooler.

The size of the seeds and the presence or absence of light kernels, makes a difference in the number of plants to the acre, for in a bushel of grain there is an immense variation in the number of seeds present, depending on the size.

The point of vitality has been emphasized sufficiently and in the case of the last four headings the farmer must be guided by his own experience and judgment.

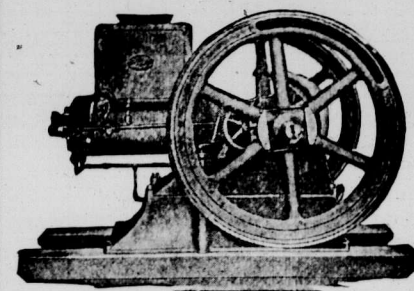
The importance of these influences cannot be over estimated, overcrowded growth produces poor heads and too thin a stand is obviously a waste of land and gives the weeds a chance to establish themselves.

Smut and its Treatment

Smut often reduces the yield considerably, and where danger from this source is feared preventative measures should be taken. The most common disease in oats is the loose smut. Seed which is suspected of being affected by this disease should be sprinkled with a solution of formalin—one pint to forty or fifty gallons of water. This

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