FARM AND DAIRY & RURAL HOME

We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas

The Recognized Exponent of Dairying in Canada.

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—*Lord Chatham.*

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Greater Production from Canadian Farms

Methods That Will Increase Crop Yields Described by Canada's Foremost Farmer, Mr. J. H. Grisdale

THERE is scarcely a farmer in the Dominion who is working to the straining point. There is not a farmer in the Dominion producing to the limit. Each Canadian farmer is not asked to greatly increase his output, but if each one of us will do a little bit it will amount to much in the aggregate. There are 1,000,000 farmers in Canada farming probably 100,000,000 acres of land. If each one of us would produce one bushel more grain per acre, a quarter of a ton more hay from the acre, a few more bushels of potatoes, a few thousand pounds more of milk, think what it would mean. It would benefit the Mother Country and help us materially.

It pays to do our best on each crop each year. The man who grows the hoed crop well, and it is the key crop of the rotation, is the man who gets his farm into such shape that he cannot avoid getting heavy crops in succeeding years. If we have a good hoe crop this year we will have a good grain crop on the same land next year. If we seed the grain to grass we will have a good hay crop the third year. A good hoe crop ensures good crops all through the rotation.

Spread Manure Now

If we haven't done anything yet towards the crops of next season, now is the time to get busy and apply the manure this winter. The man who leaves the manure in small piles in the field is making a mistake. He who leaves the manure in the barnyard is making a still greater mistake. The best rule is to spread it directly. If spread on sod it will start the grass to rapid growth in the spring. This growth may then be turned over with a shallow furrow, four to five inches, and rolled at once to secure rapid decomposition.

On average land spring plowing is to be preferred for the corn crop, and I would always put corn on sod land. Don't follow corn on grain stubble. If the grain has been seeded on sod land, fertility has been wasted. Sod land contains so much vegetable matter that, with manure added, we can't avoid getting a good crop of corn. But with grain the growth goes largely to straw. On very heavy land, on the other hand, fall plowing will give good results.

I would emphasize the importance of rolling at once on spring plowing. By this I do not mean rolling as soon as we have plowed a 10-acre field. Stop plowing each day at four o'clock and roll the land turned that day. This will ensure rapid decomposition of the vegetable matter, which will give a large amount of readily available plant food to start off the corn crop. This rapid decomposition, too, generates heat, and we have, as it were, a hotbed, or its partial equivalent, under the corn. I would use the disc harrow immediately after rolling to prevent evaporation.

Good Plowing is the First Step to Greater Production.

Farmers of York Co., Ont., where this illustration was secured, have a provincial reputation as good plowmen and good farmers. They, like all the other farmers of Canada, will aim to produce a little more this year than in other years. If all will produce a little more the aggregate increase will be enormous.

Tilth That Satisfies

When the land is plowed, rolled and harrowed, work for ideal tilth. Do not cease efforts until the land is so thoroughly prepared that no one could take exception to it. Be your own most severe critic. If necessary, roll again and disc until the land is so mellow that the horse does not sink more with one foot than the other all the way down the field.

I do not hold a brief for any company, but I must say a good word for a comparatively new implement, the double disc harrow. It will enable us to prepare land for at least half the cost as compared with the single disk. We tried this implement out on three different fields at Ottawa. On one we used the large disk and the cost of working an acre was 90 cts. On another we used the small disk harrow, and the cost was 70 cts. On the third field we used the double disk harrow, and the cost was 46 cts. an acre. Three or four horses are needed to pull this implement. Two cannot handle it. This is a point to which we need to pay more attention. Instead of having a man to a team of two horses, let us have one man to four horses and apply labor on this principle to all farm operations so far as possible. The final implement to use in preparing the seed bed for corn is the spiked tooth harrow. If getting a new harrow this year, get a tilting tooth harrow.

The Seed and Seeding

In the actual planting operation we have found that three feet apart in hills, or in drills three and one-half feet apart, is a good planting distance. Get the seed corn on the cob and keep it on the cob until ready to use it. The extensive corn grower may need to shell earlier, but the average farmer, growing corn for ensilage, can shell all the seed that he will need in two or three hours. I would cut both ends off of an ear to get rid of the nubbin corn; it is of low germinating power and every miss in the corn field means a loss. We want to have every hill growing three or four stalks and have every square yard of space working. Sow as soon as the land is ready and keep in the best condition.

We can't prevent too much rain from coming, nor can we ensure a sufficient quantity of moisture from the sky, but so far as possible we should conserve the moisture that we have in the soil. In no season do we get enough moisture in the form of rain to raise a good crop. The effect of moisture conservation has been demonstrated wonderfully on our prairies, where good crops have been raised with practically no rain. We in the east are now becoming more and more seized of the wisdom of moisture conservation. We lose moisture by improper handling of the soil when working in the spring and by evaporation throughout the season.

Warm Soil by Harrowing

As the corn is coming up I would go over the field with a slant tooth harrow. This harrowing