

CLOVER AND ALFALFA GROWING.

THERE is no crop grown on the farm which is more necessary or more profitable, all things considered, than some legume. Such a crop is profitable from the standpoint of the returns from an acre and doubly profitable when the fertility of the soil is considered. On the farm where much stock is kept, legumes serve another purpose, that of furnishing cheap protein.

Clover Versus Alfalfa.

Throughout the corn belt clover is the most important legume. In western United States alfalfa is largely grown, while in the south cowpeas, soy beans and vetch are the principal legumes. The legume best adapted to your own locality is the best one to grow, at least until careful experiments have shown that some other is more profitable. In the west, where the soil is loose and dry, alfalfa sends down its long roots to a source of permanent water supply and yields abundant crops. Farther east, where the water table is so near the surface of the ground that the plants have "wet feet" during a considerable portion of the year, it does not do as well. In states east of the Missouri river clover is much more desirable. A small patch of alfalfa may be grown, but it does not fit into the system of farming well enough to be adopted on a large scale. It cannot be sown with the small grain in the spring with any surety of getting a stand. The seed is expensive, and the hay is more difficult to cure than clover.

Alfalfa does not come to its prime for about three years, so that it is not profitable to plow it up the second year, as is done with clover. For this reason it does not work well in the standard rotation of corn, oats and clover that meets with so much favor in the corn belt. It does not fit in with the rest of the work as well as clover either, as the first crop must be cut just when the corn is being laid by. When a good stand of alfalfa has been secured it yields twice as much as clover, but this extra yield is counterbalanced in most instances by its disadvantages.

Getting a Stand of Clover.

The question of getting a stand of clover is a troublesome one on many farms. This is due largely to improper methods. The first point to consider is the soil. Land that has been farmed a number of years is likely to be acid, a condition which makes it ill fitted to grow clover. This acidity can be overcome by adding ground limestone as suggested in article No. 2.

A seed bed in good tilth and free from weed seeds is also an important consideration. Little clover plants are very tender and cannot well compete with weeds or force their way through clods. Land that has been kept reasonably free from weeds the previous season is best for clover. Such land, prepared as for oats as described in article No. 4, makes an ideal seed bed for clover.

Clover seed should be tested for germination before sowing. If it does not germinate very well a larger amount

to the acre will have to be sown. The seed should be cleaned carefully with a clover seed grader to remove all weed seeds. If purchased it should be examined very carefully to see that it contains no weed seeds. If much of the seed is badly shriveled it should be discarded entirely. This matter of testing the germinative strength of seed before the regular sowing is made does not receive the attention which its importance demands. It needs no argument to show that it is the part of prudence to make certain that this essential factor in the season's campaign is proved to be capable of fulfilling its requirement. The eye is by no means an infallible judge of grain offered for seed, and a more searching inquiry should be made.

Where clover is sown with timothy about eight pounds of the clover to four of timothy per acre is the proper amount. In a short rotation, however, it is better to leave out the timothy and use ten or twelve pounds of clover. Not all of this seed will grow the first year. The outer coat of a clover seed is very hard, and a considerable proportion of it does not soften enough to sprout the first season. It will come up the next spring and thicken the stand.

Seeding With Small Grain.

On light soils, especially if the spring is dry, the clover may be mixed with the oats directly and covered at the same depth. Where there is much clay in the soil or when the soil is rather wet at time of sowing the chances are that much of the clover seed will fail to come up at all if put in so deep. A better way is to go over the ground with a wheelbarrow seeder after the oats have been disked in and cover the clover seed with the harrow. Most drills have a grass seed attachment which sows the clover broadcast between the rows of small grain. The harrowing which follows drilling will cover the clover seed.

Drilled grain, especially if drilled north and south, is a much better

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The sun gets in between the rows to the little clover plants, and they grow much more rapidly than they do in broadcasted grain. Late grain does not make a satisfactory nurse crop. It stools out too much, and the ground is so dry and hard when it is finally harvested that the spindling clover cannot make much of a growth before winter. A luxuriant fall growth is the best guarantee against winter killing. Early oats or barley make an ideal nurse crop. They do not stool out much and are ripe early in July, thus giving the clover several months in which to grow before it is stopped by freezing weather. The first fall's growth should not be cut or pastured if a crop is wanted the following year. It is needed to hold the snow to protect the tender roots. In the spring the clover field should be examined early to see how it has come through the winter. The stand may need thick-



FIG. XVIII—LOADING BY HAND.

ening by scattering a little seed over some of the thin spots, or the whole field may possibly be so badly damaged that it will be necessary to plow it up.

Curing Clover Hay.

Clover should be cut as soon as it is in full bloom and before many of the heads have turned brown. If cut earlier it is sappy and hard to cure. If left later it becomes woody. As soon as the cut clover has wilted a little in the swath it should be thrown together into light windrows, preferably with

a side delivery rake. Cured in this way the leaves are less liable to become brittle and shake off. Well cured clover leaves are almost as valuable for feed as bran, so care should be taken to save as many of them as possible. As soon as the hay has cured sufficiently in the windrow it should be gathered up with a loader—if one can be had—and put in the barn. Clover has the reputation of being a troublesome crop to harvest, and many farmers are shy of it on that account. It is true that clover growing for profit demands a good deal of intelligence, but that is also the very factor which brings success in all agricultural enterprises. With proper attention to the habit of the plant and with the exercise of a modicum of judgment in its culture and harvesting there is nothing to be feared for the outcome.

Where it is desired to obtain a crop of seed the second crop should be used. The first crop seldom fills well and is always more valuable for hay than for seed. Most thrashing machines have a clover hulling attachment. It should be carefully adjusted so as to get all the seed. A bushel to a bushel and a half of seed per acre is a good yield. The yield of hay is from one to two tons to the acre for the first crop and a little more than half as much for the second crop. Where the fields are forced the second crop may often be pastured to advantage.

Alsike clover finds a place on land that is too wet for the red variety. It does not yield as well, but it makes better pasture. By loosening up the sod in the low corners of the pasture with the disk and sowing four pounds of alsike to the acre its value may be greatly increased. In seeding a field to red clover it is well to scatter a little alsike in the low spots. It will be sure to grow whether the other does or not.

Handling Alfalfa.

What has been said about alfalfa does not mean that it is not to be

grown at an except in the arid regions of the west, but that it is to be introduced into new regions carefully and on a small scale. The surest way to get a stand of alfalfa is to follow the land during the spring and early summer. About the middle of July a seed bed may be prepared and the alfalfa sown at the rate of twenty to twenty-five pounds to the acre. If the ground is not too dry a stand will usually be secured in this way, since the following will have destroyed most of the weeds. The objection to this plan is that no crop is obtained from the land that year.

A more economical way is to start with a crop of early oats or barley. As soon as this is harvested the land should be disked thoroughly and the alfalfa seed sown. If the ground is so dry and hard that the disk will not take hold it will have to be plowed. The main thing is to get the seed in as quickly as possible. The chances of securing a stand are much improved if a thin dressing of manure is given the land before sowing. After the alfalfa once gets a start it is very hardy and a good yielder, giving four to six tons of hay a year. It should be cut when about one-tenth of the plants are in bloom. The second spring a disk run over the field will split up the crowns and thicken the stand, discouraging the weeds and loosening the soil as well.

Good Hay.

Good hay can only be made by cutting the grass as soon as it heads out and clover as soon as the heads are in full bloom. It is a mistake to wait until the heads turn brown. There is nothing in the theory that sunshine alone makes hay. Air is as much a factor as sunshine. Curing mainly in the windrows and haycocks is now practiced by many of our best hay specialists.

Jos. Hunter's Suicide.

Joseph Hunter, the Bobcaygeon wife-murderer, committed suicide on Sunday morning by hanging himself to the bars over the door of his cell. An improvised rope was made from the sheets of his bed.

On Saturday night he retired early apparently in the best spirits. About 7 in the morning his body was found hanging to the cell iron work. Hunter had torn a sheet of bed clothing into strips, fastened one end to the top bar of the cell and put a noose around his neck. He had tied his feet together with his braces and his hands with his necktie, and after using an upturned pail to stand on, had knocked it away and strangled.

When the guards went their usual rounds early in the morning all was quiet in Hunter's cell. On entering for inspection the guards found the lifeless body of Hunter hanging to the bars.

The legs were tied together and a handkerchief tied over the face, and everything evidenced the most determined act. During the past week Hunter had been cheerful, showing no signs of remorse, and nothing in his demeanor indicated that he meditated doing away with himself.

Bobcaygeon Independent:—The curlers held a meeting on Tuesday evening with President Dr. Fallis in the chair, and elected the following skips:—A. E. Bottum, E. J. Broad, H. Mark, W. Davis, I. R. Stewart, Rev. W. G. Smith, W. Boyd, and Dr. Fallis. Tankard skips, will be Davis and Broad. District Cup skips, Mark and Smith. As it is 25 years since the organization of the Club, it is proposed to have a bonspiel and a special committee was named to make appropriate arrangements.

An interesting story of the benefits conferred on a community by rural mail delivery comes from Vermont. A newspaper correspondent recently went over a sample route of about twenty-four miles in length. It covered an area five miles long and four broad. The carrier served 110 to 112 houses. His average daily budget when he leaves the post office is about 150 letters and from 150 to 180 newspapers of all sorts. He usually brings back to town each trip, to be posted, about 50 letters, 25 postal cards and a few pieces of other description of mail matter, such as newspapers and packages. This route has been in operation ten years, and during that time the amount of mail business has doubled.

Newspapers inform us that it cost half a million dollars to produce the new American tariff. Half a million dollars to perpetrate a humbug on the consumer, an anomaly calculated to obstruct a foreign trade which great effort is put forth in other ways to cultivate—between nations that have a minimum of products to exchange.—Ex.

MARRIED.

McMULLEN—ARNBURG—At the Manse, Fenelon Falls, on Wednesday, October 27th, 1909, by the Rev. C. S. Lord, B. D., Mr. Jas. McMullen to Mrs. Mary Louisa Arnburg, both of Bobcaygeon.

DIED.

MOYNES.—In Lindsay, on Friday, Oct. 22nd, 1909, Mrs. Thos. Moynes, aged 89 years and 6 months.

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