

Want Column

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References:
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Nehawka Bank, Nehawka.
Bank of Murdock, Murdock.
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WOULD FUSE WITH THE ORIENT.

Writer Declares That Out of Action Would Come a Better Race.

In many respects the orientals are our antithesis, and if our ideals, principles, and institutions are more beneficent, we are under obligation to present them. There should be no collision between the Mongol and the Anglo-Saxon races, but instead there should be a fusion. Out of this fusion there should emerge a better race. We can learn much from the various people of the orient which would be beneficial to ourselves, and while we receive from them we are able to contribute the one great principle of the Anglo-Saxon race, namely, liberty. Every race that has come into power and prominence has stood for some great, overmastering idea. That for which we stand and which is the great touchstone of our great national life is liberty. It is for our nation, as the great western wing of the Anglo-Saxon race, to join in the extension of this principle, and also to bear the message of peace.—Mason S. Stone, Commissioner of Education of Vermont, in *Leaff's Weekly*.

Rubber Displacing Tea.
In a once famous tea district of India the cultivation of rubber has driven the production of the former to second place, nearly 17,000 acres being devoted to rubber plantations.

Not Good.
"Was it a good comedy?" "Very poor; the only time my husband smiled was when he went out after each act."—Houston Post.

Make the Best of Things.
Happiness includes the art of overlooking things and concealing regrets. As the Lord loveth a cheerful giver, the world loveth a cheerful locker.

Proper Proportions.
"How much fuel do you compute we shall need on our motor trip?" "Well, suppose we say two gallons of gasoline and three gallons of Scotch."—Outing.

Making Money On the Farm

VII.—Small Grain Breeding

By G. V. GREGORY,
Author of "Home Course in Modern Agriculture"
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SMALL grain breeding is second only to corn breeding in importance. Indeed, there is even more chance for improvement along this line, since so little has been done already. The average yield of oats in Iowa in 1928 was only twenty-three bushels to the acre, while many fields yielded three times that much. This is only one instance out of many that could be given to show the great need for improved seed.

With small grains, as with corn, the work of improvement must largely be done for each special locality. Each type of soil and climate affects the crops in a different way, and varieties that yield well in one part of the country may fail utterly under different conditions. This makes it necessary for each locality to have its small grain breeder. There is no question along the line of special fertilizing that offers greater opportunities to the ambitious young farmer than this. The work is a little more particular than corn breeding perhaps, but the results are just as sure and the profits just as great. Even though you may not care to take up small grain breeding as a business, it will pay you to carry it on to a limited extent at least to provide improved seed for your own use.

Selection the Basis of Improvement.
The requirements of the various grains vary with the use to which they are to be put, but the yield is an important point with all. Selection is the basis for improvement in yield as well as in the other points that will be taken up later. The first step is to select the variety that seems to be doing best in your locality, and use that as the basis of improvement. The simplest method of breeding is to select a few of the best heads at harvest time to start with. A great difference will be observed at this time. Some heads of oats, for instance, will contain three times as many berries as others not a foot away. The seed from these large heads, following the law of "like produces like," give larger yields.

The seed from the selected heads is sown on a plot by itself the next spring. Small grain is not like corn in that it is normally self-fertilizing. The flower is inside the hull, so that the pollen cannot get from one to the other. The only way cross-pollination can be accomplished is by hand. Some improved varieties have been produced in this way, but the operation is tedious and the results too uncertain for the beginner. Being self-fertilized, the only way small grain can be mixed is mechanically, by mixing the seed. It is not necessary that the breeding plot be a considerable distance away from the other fields, as in the case of corn.

The produce of this breeding plot should be thrashed separately and used for planting a larger field the next year. The year after that there will be enough seed for the entire acreage of small grain.

This method is simple and easily worked out on any farm. The trouble with it is that the inherited differ-



FIG. XIII—GRAIN IN BREEDING PLOT.
Differences in the yielding ability of different heads is not fully taken into account. The only way to tell which of two equal sized heads will yield the most is by actual test. If the greatest improvement is to be made individual head tests will have to be resorted to.

Individual Head Tests.
These individual head tests are carried on in much the same manner as the individual ear tests with corn. The heads should be carefully selected in the fall. In addition to the size of heads, the stiffness of the straw, its height and freedom from rust and other fungus diseases should be noted. The rows in the breeding plot should be four inches apart and the kernels dropped the same distance apart in the row. The aim throughout should be to have the conditions as nearly like those of the field as possible. The number of rows will depend to a considerable extent on the time that can be devoted to the work. The larger the number the greater the probability of producing something good. Fifty rows is a good number to start with.

Increasing the Yields.
In the fall the rows should be carefully examined. Some will be lodged badly. Others will have poorly filled, short heads. Still others will be badly rusted or smutted. Discard all these and harvest and weigh the produce of each good row separately. There will be a few that will be considerably better than the rest. From these enough of the best heads should be selected to plant next year's breeding plot. The rest should be thrashed together and

used for planting an increase bed. The seed from the increase bed is used to plant a bigger field and the seed from this for the general field or for sale.

By selecting the best heads for each year's breeding plot improvement is rapid and marked. It takes two or three years after the improved seed has been produced to obtain it in sufficient quantities for general use, but the results will pay for all the trouble, even if you produce seed for your own use only. After the superiority of your new strain is once shown, however, you will be besieged with requests for seed and can add considerably to your income by supplying the demand thus created. The trade will continue good, for each year you will have something a little better to offer.

In addition to the selection for yield, strong straw and freedom from disease there are a number of other points that should be considered. These depend to a considerable extent on the use to which the grain is to be put.

In selecting oats the per cent of hull is one of the most important points to look to. This varies from 20 to 50 per cent of the entire weight. Since oat hulls are of little more value than straw, it is evident that the smaller the percentage of hull the more valuable the oats will be. A mere examination will show the difference between a thick and a thin shelled oat. To de-



FIG. XIV—GOOD HEAD OF BEARDED WHEAT.

termine the differences more exactly it is necessary to weigh a hundred oats or so on a fine balance such as any doctor or druggist possesses, then press out the hulls and weigh them and calculate the per cent. The weight of oats to the measured bushel varies from twenty-five to fifty pounds. The heavy oats are of course the most valuable. Nearly all grain elevators have a small device for testing the weight per bushel.

Another point to be considered is the tendency to stool. In localities where the summers are cool and late varieties can be grown, a tendency to stool considerably is desirable, since a thick stand can be secured with less seed. Where the summers are hot and early varieties must be grown, however, the tendency to stool to any great extent should be discouraged, since stooling always delays ripening. Often a hull will be seen partly inclosing a smaller oat. These small oats are known as pin oats. They lessen the yield, and a strain which contains many of them should be discriminated against.

There are three general types of oats—side oats, hullless oats and spreading oats. The hullless varieties do not yield enough to be of any great value. The side oats, in which the berries are all on one side of the head, are grown in this country to a limited extent only. Most of the oats grown are of the spreading varieties. There are varieties of oats of almost every color, white, yellow, black and green being the most common. There is little difference in yield that can be ascribed to color. If they are grown in a community in large enough quantities so that they can be shipped in carload lots the selling price will not vary much.

Selecting Wheat and Barley Heads.

In selecting wheat heads those that do not shell too readily should be given the preference, since much wheat is lost by shelling during harvest. The grains should be plump, smooth and bright. The seed coat should be tough and not cracked. Where the bran is brittle and cracks easily it is difficult to separate it from the flour. The kernels should be hard. Hard wheat makes better flour owing to the greater percentage of gluten, and millers will pay more for it. Beardless wheat is more easily handled, but it does not yield as well as the bearded varieties.

In barley the hull adheres to the kernel in thrashing. The grains should be bright, as the quality of brewing barley depends largely upon the color. The best barley for brewing purposes is that which contains the most starch. This can be determined by cutting through the grain and noting the percentage of starch to horny parts. For feeding purposes a smaller percentage of starch is desired.

Beardless barley is a little less hardy and yields a little less than the bearded sorts, but the convenience of handling more than makes up for this. There are two types of barley, the two rowed and the six rowed. The six rowed varieties have given the best satisfaction in this country.

All About a Pie.

Goff, the famous London barrister, has a humor peculiarly his own. He looks at the world in a half-amused, half-indulgent manner sometimes very annoying to his friends. One day, when in town, he dropped into a restaurant for lunch. It was a tidy, although not a pretentious establishment. After a good meal he called to the waitress and inquired what kind of pie she had.

"Apple pie, mince pie, strawberry pie, custard pie, peach pie and strawberry shortcake," the young woman repeated glibly.

"Will you please say that again?" he asked, leaning a trifle forward. The girl went through the list at lightning rate. "And strawberry shortcake," she concluded, with emphasis. "Would you mind doing it once more?" he asked.

The waitress looked her disgust, and started in a third time, pronouncing the words in a defiantly clear tone.

"Thank you," he remarked, when she had finished. "For the life of me I can't see how you do it. But I like to hear it. It's very interesting—very. Give me apple pie, please, and thank you very much."—*Tri-Bits*.

Telegraphers' Cramp.

An interesting feature of telegraphers' cramp is that certain letters are nearly always the stumbling block. The most frequent are "C" and "Y"—that is, the code signals used for these letters. When a sender begins to be "conscious" about so common a letter as "C," his case soon becomes a hopeless one. Another form of cramp attacks the receiver of the message. It takes the form of inability to write fast enough to take down a message quickly transmitted. This is easily understood when it is remembered that a receiver often has to write continuously to code dictation, so to speak, for hours at a time. The strain is enormous, and leads fairly commonly to what is practically a form of nervous breakdown.

Reunited After Many Years.

Report says that Gen. Sickles, veteran of the civil war, and his wife are reunited after 27 years of separation. The story is that Mrs. Sickles' mother, who was an invalid, wished her to return to Spain after her marriage and reside with her. Mrs. Sickles thought she should return to her mother and remain with her till she died. Mr. Sickles did not agree with her and he refused to return to Spain to live. The couple separated, the wife returning to her mother, who has recently died. Now in their old age the couple are reunited.

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