

CROPS

TIMOTHY.

TO one visiting Northern Wisconsin can help but notice the amazing growth of timothy found throughout this region along highways and logging roads and in the "cut and burnt-over" districts. As soon as the timber is removed and the sun is given an opportunity to shine on the ground, timothy seems to take possession and grows to a remarkable height and density. The seeds of this grass were undoubtedly first brought to the country by lumbermen in transporting their hay to the camps, but it is surprising to notice how much it must have seeded itself to be found so extensively throughout this region on unimproved lands.

RED AND ALSIKE CLOVER.

Even more remarkable than the growth of timothy is the natural growth and spread of red and alsike clover throughout this region. Like timothy, the seeds were probably first brought into the country by lumber-

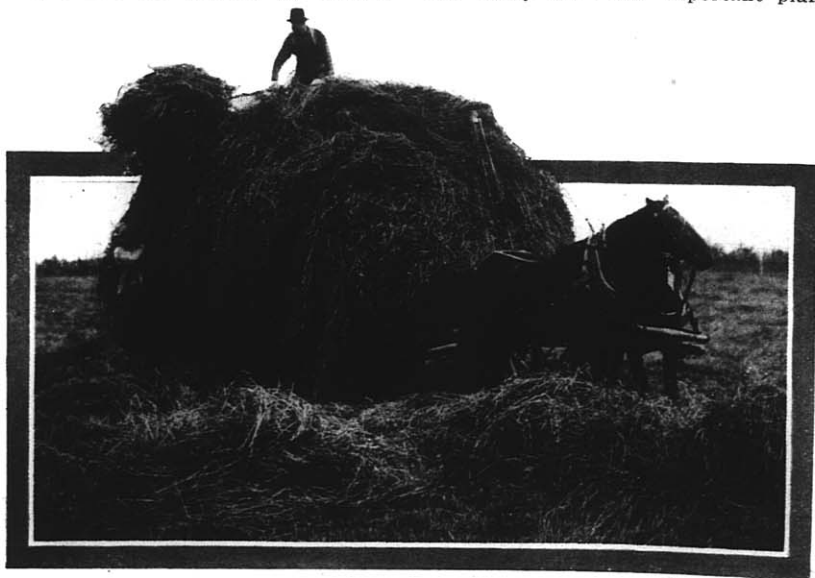
men, but it has spread itself through old cuttings and along roadways so that the proof of the claim that it does not freeze out is self-evident to one taking a trip through this district.

WHITE CLOVER AND BLUE GRASS.

Wherever sheep or cattle graze, white clover and blue grass spring up and cover the ground with a dense mat. The grass is the regular Kentucky blue grass, or what is sometimes called "June Grass" in some parts of the country. Every practical farmer will recognize that a country which will grow Kentucky blue grass, timothy, red, alsike and white clover as naturally as this does, is a region which cannot help but take the lead in dairying and the raising of sheep.

MR. GEO. M'KERROW ON "CLOVER."

In this connection the following statement by George McKerrow, the well-known sheep breeder and superintendent of the Wisconsin Farmers' Institute, is of interest: "The clovers are really the most important plants



TIMOTHY



A Field of Red Clover

that we can grow upon the Wisconsin farm. Clover is the only crop that will give us a good profit and leave the soil better than it found it. The clover plant is the nitrogen gatherer; the microbes or germs, or maybe I had better say the bacilli in the nodules of the roots, are partly what give value to the clover plant. They take nitrogen from the air in the soil and feed it into the clover plant, building up in the roots, and especially in the crowns of the roots, a great amount of nitrogen that is very valuable as a fertilizer, because people who are obliged to buy commercial fertilizer are now paying about sixteen cents a pound for it.

The clover plant also has the ability of going deep for its food stuff, for the potash, the phosphoric acid, the mineral matters, the ash, that it stores up in its body for the growing of bone in your live stock.

Again, clover is a drainage plant, because it runs its roots deep into the hard subsoil, making an opening for the water to get through and those roots in that way add fertility and add porosity to the soil below.

Clover helps to make poor land rich, and when properly handled helps to

make poor men rich; therefore, we say it is a good crop."

CORN.

Although not in the corn belt, corn is grown throughout Northern Wisconsin, and successful results are obtained with the early varieties. While it may be best for the farmer not to rely too much on corn for its grain value, yet it is usually advisable to grow some because of its abundant forage.

RYE AND BARLEY.

Rye and barley are both very reliable crops in Northern Wisconsin and give heavy yields. The demand is excellent, and good prices can always be obtained. The large Wisconsin brewers purchase Northern Wisconsin barley in preference to barley grown elsewhere because of its superior qualities. The area in the United States in which good barley can be grown is limited, and its price does not fluctuate like that of other grains.

WHEAT.

Winter wheat is grown with a considerable degree of success, but the competition of the wheat fields further west do not make this crop the most profitable one here, although the yield per acre is often very high.



Harvesting Timothy Among the Stumps

OATS.

This grain is probably the one which flourishes best in Northern Wisconsin, and enormous yields are recorded. Throughout the region one finds strong straw holding large clusters of grains which are plump and of the best quality. This development is aided to a great extent by the cool summer, which allows the plant to mature gradually. This is one of the best grains for horses, cows and sheep, and the fact that it grows with such good results is of great importance to the farmer.

PUMPKINS.

In speaking of pumpkins, Professor W. A. Henry, in his handbook for the homeseeker, writes as follows: "At Phillips, in Price county, large yellow 'Yankee' pumpkins were found fully ripe during the last days of August and early in September. These well-known farm products are highly appreciated by farmers who are in the habit of searching out a variety of foods for their live stock, and are happiest when the farm animals have the most to eat of the best that the soil furnishes. Nothing will give our readers a better idea of the climatic condition of North-

ern Wisconsin than this fact that yellow 'Yankee' pumpkins were found by us in abundance at points well to the north."

PEAS.

The adaptability of this district to the growth of peas is of importance to the raiser of hogs, sheep and cattle, as well as to the man interested in the canning industry. Again quoting from the writings of Professor Henry, he says: "The pea crop flourishes in Northern Wisconsin in a way perfectly surprising to farmers who have only seen this plant growing further south in the corn belt. Where corn flourishes best, the sun is too hot for the pea vine to do its best, and it usually grows small and spindling, and milldews badly; then, too, over most of our country there is a beetle laying its eggs in the peas, which develops into larvae; these feed on the pea grains much to their injury. We all know the reputation of Canada for producing fine peas in large quantities, and Northern Wisconsin will prove a strong rival to our neighbors in this particular crop. The pea crop of Northern Wisconsin will prove a very fair substitute for Indian corn, through

the ease with which it is grown and the large yields of forage and grain returned. For dairy cows a limited quantity of pea meal may be fed with advantage, while for sheep they are a most excellent food threshed or unthreshed. Hogs may be turned into the pea field to do their own harvesting, and will furnish fine pork if fattened off with a little corn or barley after their run of a few weeks in the pea field. They may also be fed with pea meal mixed with barley or corn. As a region for growing peas, the northern part of our State greatly excels the southern portion." Prof. John A. Craig writes: "There is likely no fodder, with the exception of clover hay, that sheep relish greater than pea straw."

ROOT CROPS.

"Roots grow remarkably well in Northern Wisconsin, for the same climatic conditions favor these that give large pea crops. The cooler days with the bright sun causes the mangel-wurzel beet, rutabaga and other roots to push ahead rapidly and produce roots of large size, tender flesh and with the very finest flavor. When the culture of root crops has been properly developed in our new North, enormous quantities will be used by stockmen for feeding dairy cows and sheep. There will then be no need of shipping carloads of rutabaga turnips from Canada to Wisconsin for table purposes, as is now done."

POTATO RAISING.

Wisconsin to-day supplies a large section of the United States with potatoes, the center of production in Wisconsin now being Waupaca and Portage counties on the line of the Wisconsin Central Ry., the potato lands there being worth from \$50 to \$100 an acre. Yet no better or more lasting results have been shown in these counties than are shown in the products grown in Northern Wisconsin. Furthermore,

potatoes grow here on the heavier soils and large crops are obtained everywhere.

The sandy loam district between Phillips and Fifield is especially adapted to growing potatoes on a large scale. This district has not yet re-



Potatoes that Ran 400 Bushels to the Acre

ceived proper attention from potato growers, but is destined to become exceedingly valuable.

SMALL FRUITS.

The character of the climate as much as anything else makes the berries very large and hardy, bearing transportation exceedingly well. Berries grown here have the added advantage of coming on the market later and remaining about two weeks longer than those from the localities which now supply the larger cities. They thus bring high prices and big returns. The protection given by the covering of snow which remains throughout the winter prevents the bushes or vines from being killed by frost and is a great factor toward making success certain.