

## A FEW WORDS ON ALFALFA.

An article furnished by S. J. Harrison of Sunnyside district, Yakima county, and dated July 13, to the Lanark (Ill.) Gazette, contains some interesting information on alfalfa. We reproduce it herewith:

Sunnyside, Wash., July 13, 1901.—Dear Gazette (Lanark, Ill.): Our first cutting hay—alfalfa, clover and timothy—is all in stack. No one puts hay under roof. Very few even "top out" the stacks until the third cutting is put on. The hay is very heavy. Some clover and timothy fields make as much as five tons per acre from the first cutting. The second cutting of alfalfa will begin next week. Hay-making is in almost continuous operation from June 1 to October 1. Hay hands get \$1.50 per day and board, at other work, \$25 to \$30 per month and board. Two young men came here last spring, a year ago, one from Indiana and one from Iowa. They had no money, but set to work at once. In the fall they each applied their earnings—\$240—on forty acres of land apiece. Only the interest becomes due this fall. What they will have earned this year will enable them to grade and seed their land this fall and winter, and next fall the crop from the land will more than make the second payment and all other expenses. Such opportunities for energetic, sober young men without money I have never seen anywhere else. In five years they can have a home that will bring them an income equal to 120 acres of your best Northern Illinois farms. A man with a family must have not less than \$1,000 to make the same start. Families should come here in October, so as to get land ready for spring seeding. If they come in the spring they practically lose one year's crop, as they cannot get their land ready early enough to raise much.

How farming is done. About Sunnyside almost everything has come from hay. The orchards are young, and what fruit they could have borne was mostly killed by a late frost. Most of the hay is sold in the stack November 1, either to feeders who run stock on the ranges March to October, or to shippers who bale it themselves and haul it away. The price for alfalfa is \$3.50 per ton of 512 cubic feet. Clover and timothy fluctuates more. Last year timothy averaged about \$12 per ton; clover and timothy mixed about \$9 f. o. b. cars.

This year some have contracted to feed their alfalfa hay for 6 cents per pound for weight put on the cattle. I have contracted to feed 100 head that

way. I get the cattle October 1 and deliver them in April. I expect to get about \$5 net in the stack for my hay this way. On May 15 I turned fifty-two head of cattle on sixteen acres of timothy and clover mixed pasture. I gradually increased the number until two weeks ago I got in sixty-five head. The pasture sustains this number well. A party in Iowa who saw a report of this in the papers, wrote me inquiring how many are "suckling calves." There are three suckling calves. All told, about ten are under 1 year old; five are 3 years old and more, thirty yearlings, and ten are 2 years old.

I will now submit a few figures as to what may be made off land here: Estimating the cattle on pasture to gain thirty-five pounds per month for six months, and the gain to be worth 3½ cents per pound, sixty-five head of cattle thirty-five pounds per month for six months at 3½ cents, \$477.75; deduct for hay and salt \$77.75, and you have left \$400 as the net proceeds from sixteen acres, or \$25 as the net proceeds per acre.

One acre of alfalfa will grow twelve hogs that should average \$10 each, or \$120; then deduct \$48 for grain for finishing for market, and you will find the net proceeds per acre from hogs to be \$72.

One acre of alfalfa will support fifteen sheep the year round. The fleece per sheep is worth \$1; the lamb per sheep is worth \$2.50; the fleece and lambs from fifteen sheep is \$50.50, therefore the proceeds per acre from sheep is \$52.50.

One acre of alfalfa will sustain the year round two milch cows. The butter from each cow per annum should average \$40; the calf \$15; two hogs per cow on the milk, \$20, which would make the total gross receipts from one acre \$130, and after deducting \$52 for the grain supplemented, we find the net proceeds of one acre from dairying to be \$78.

The cost of irrigating and putting alfalfa in the stack is \$1.25 to \$1.50 per ton. I pay that on one forty-acre tract which I have. Average yield from acre of alfalfa (three cuttings), seven and one-half tons, at \$3.50 per ton, \$26.25; expense, \$11.25; net proceeds per acre, \$15.

Yield from timothy and clover mixed, four and one-half tons per acre (two cuttings), average price, \$6.27; expense, \$6.75; net proceeds per acre, \$20.25. So much for the profit side.

When we read of the prostrations in the states we take comfort in looking up to our perpetually snow-covered

mountains which send down to us such a temperature that makes heavy wool blankets a real necessity when the sun hides his smiling face. Mercury registered 91 degrees above zero in the shade on our hottest day, and the heat does not oppress as much here at 100 as at 90 there. S. J. HARRISON.

## THE CORN CROP.

Six weeks have past since the drouth was broken in most sections of the corn belt. We have had time to see what the corn fields would do under the influence of rain after being held at a standstill for so long. Some have said there would be plenty of corn, and others maintained there would be comparatively none. None of these prognosticators were right. At the present stage of the growth of the crop in the main corn belt it is clear that the early planted corn will not recover to any great extent. It is also clear that what product we get of the early fields will not be of good merchantable quality. Many of the ears will be cobs with scattering kernels. The consensus of opinion among farmers is to the effect that the early planted fields of corn must go for what is ordinarily termed feed for stock cattle. This feed will be good enough to keep stock cattle in excellent condition, but will not have sufficient of concentrated food to finish cattle for market unless it is fed in very large quantities, so that there would be considerable waste in the coarser parts. Now, if we had sufficient data to determine the proportion of the corn that was planted early, we could determine pretty closely as to the expectancy of the present crop; because it is pretty clearly to be seen that all the late planted corn in many sections will make a good crop, and the early corn in much of the more northern sections of the corn belt will also make a good crop, provided the weather continues favorable for its development. No one should attempt to magnify the prospect of the corn crop for the benefit of the consumer or the local land speculator; neither should any one attempt to minify the crop in the hope of benefiting himself. The equities of commerce in the exchange of services between producer and consumer demand that all shall know and accept the truth about the present short corn crop. It is surely safe to place the whole crop of the United States at a billion bushels. There are many sections that will scarcely have a bushel for the market, and none will have the usual surplus. When Kansas and

Nebraska fail in a corn crop, it is easy to maintain a corner on corn, but when Missouri, Iowa, Illinois and Indiana join these states in a general failure, there cannot be enough corn to make a corner. Some say, "Oh! we will feed wheat." But the price of wheat is about sixty cents per bushel at the local markets, and a bushel of wheat is worth but little more than a bushel of corn in feeding value, hence sixty-cent wheat means at least fifty-cent corn before the wheat will begin to take its place. Besides, there are millions of bushels of corn consumed in manufacture, for which wheat cannot be used as a substitute. Follow a line through Southern Wisconsin, Southern Minnesota, Southeastern South Dakota, Eastern Nebraska, Eastern Kansas, Southwest and Northern Missouri, Illinois, Indiana and Southern Michigan to place of beginning, the corn instance the justices have imposed a field of the United States, and the largest area for the growth of corn in the world, has been surrounded, and the area from whence comes the corn to fill the elevators and supply the export trade. When this whole section is pinched with drouth the elevators must go empty and the export trade go begging. Any one who has ever studied crop conditions ought to know that when a general drouth has been reported from this section, lasting from thirty-five to forty-five days, according to locality, and accompanied with extreme heat and hot winds, there will be a very light supply of surplus corn. The drouth has written the conditions on the wall, and the crop will be found wanting. Car window observations and hotel chats result in only poor guessing and confusion at best. The way to estimate the probable yield of a field of corn is to count the number of ears that promise to be of merchantable quality in a row eighty rods long, multiply this number by nine and divide the product by 120. The quotient will be the number of bushels per acre. This rule will give a result very close to the actual yield of the field if a fair average of rows be taken as the unit for the estimate.—Iowa Homestead.

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