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**First National Bank**  
Beach, N. Dak.

## FARM DEPARTMENT

### SOME HINTS FOR NORTHERN FARMERS.

If one is crowded in the spring, if his land is wet, he should put some of his grain land into winter wheat or rye; sow timothy with it, and sprinkle clover on it next spring. He will then have a fine pasture, if not a hay crop in the fall.

Fall crops should go in by September 15. Success, though, has followed sowing a month later.

"If one plans to grow corn or potatoes in 1918, the time to begin the work is now. Manure put on grass sod to be taken up next fall (1917), becomes well rotted and incorporated with the soil, and the weed seeds germinate and are disposed of before the cultivated crop comes on the next season.

Potato-digging time is near. The disease problem will bear watching. It is cheaper to throw out all suspicious looking potatoes now than to mix them with the sound stock, have a double handling later, and lose a lot more in the bargain. Again, it is good policy to select the potatoes in the field, from the promising hill, for next year's seed.

Many farmers will be able to mature some corn this fall, owing to the later frosts. They should look over the stand carefully, locate some well matured ears and get them off before frost. They should leave them on the stalk, however, till frost threatens. They should store their seed corn in a dry, well ventilated place, where it will not freeze. This is their chance to get some corn acclimated.

The root harvest will soon come on. This usually means much labor, in pulling, topping and storing. A plan that has worked well is to let the calves move the roots before digging, then remove the crop with plow or special root digger. With scarcity of labor, this plan will bear testing. —M. J. Thompson, superintendent of the Northeast

### Demonstration Farm and Station, Duluth.

#### THE GRAIN STANDARDS ACT.

This new law was signed by the President as part of the Agricultural Appropriation Bill, August 11th, 1916. This is not a law providing for Federal inspection. It is a law providing for (1) Standardization of grades (2) Federal supervision of inspection, and (3) a Federal appeal.

1. The law provides, in the first place for the establishment of grain standards by the Federal Department of Agriculture. This Department has for some time had an office of Grain Standardization. This new law provides the Department of Agriculture the authority to fix standards of equality and condition for wheat, rye, oats, barley, flax and other grains, and these standards are to be known as the official grain standards of the United States. When these new standards shall have been fixed no person will be permitted to ship in interstate or foreign commerce any grain sold or offered for sale by grade, unless the grains have one of the grades fixed in the official grain standards of the Federal government. However, grain may be sold by sample without any designation of its grade. And it is also provided that in certain cases when shipments are made to and from points where there is no inspector, the grain may be shipped without inspection, in which event either party to the transaction may refer any dispute as to the grades to the Secretary of Agriculture.

2. The Federal government will appoint one or more expert grain "supervisors" for each terminal market, who shall have authority to supervise the inspection of grain, "to secure just and fair inspection and grading and to see that the grading is made to conform to the standards fixed and established by the Secretary of Agriculture. In case the state has no grain inspection department, the federal government will employ persons for carrying out the provisions of this law. But in states, which have or may hereafter have grain inspection departments, the Secretary of Agriculture is required to issue licenses to grain inspectors employed under the laws of such states. These licensed inspectors will then carry out the provisions of this act.

3. Appeals in cases of dispute, may be taken to the Federal Department of Agriculture.—James E. Boyle, North Dakota Experiment Station.

#### SEED GRAIN POOR; EARLY TESTS NEEDED.

On account of the excessively dry weather this summer and the injury to grain by rust, much of the seed wheat, barley and oats is of poor quality. Light seed necessarily means that there is a limited amount of food material in the seed. Farmers should be exceedingly careful, therefore, to have all seed tested for germination before planting. It will be well, also, to have seed tested early so that good seed may be obtained if the first tests show poor germination.

Much of the testing can be done by the farmers themselves, although the Seed Laboratory, University Farm, St. Paul, Minn., will be very glad to make any tests free of charge, for anyone sending in seed. A good sized double handful is a sufficiently large sample to send in for testing.—W. I. Oswald, in charge of seed laboratory.

#### SMALL TRACTOR BEST.

The farm tractor is generally a profitable implement if enough land is cultivated to use it economically. This is the opinion expressed by three-fourths of two hundred tractor users in Illinois to investigators of the United States Department of Agriculture. About one-third of the men in the list increased the acreage on an average 120 acres to the farm, after buying the tractors and finding that they did not have room to use them to the best advantage.

The average size of the farm on which the two-plow tractor is used is 270 acres. The average size of the farms that make room for the four plow tractor is 425 acres.

Here is the minimum size of the farm on which the Illinois Tractor owners think their machines could be used profitably: two-plow tractor, 140 acres; three-plow, 200 acres; four-plow tractor, 250 acres; five-plow tractor, 320 acres.

The large tractor is going out of use on farms. Thirty nine per cent of the tractor owners estimate that a four-plow tractor is the best size for use on a 750 acre farm, while only 22 per cent of the men using tractors favored the eight-uplow machine. None recommended one as large as ten plows.

That the small tractor is coming into greatest use in N. Dakota is the report of many tractor owners in this state. According to Grand Forks implement dealers, the three or four-plow machines are in demand, while but few find use for the larger ones that were often tried a few years ago.

For hauling purposes the small machine has already become the favorite in North Dakota and many farmers have adopted this means of taking grain to market.

The small tractor can also be backed up to a feed grinder or almost any other machine, while the large one takes time to adjust and does no better work in this line.

#### CONTRACTORS FAIL TO BUILD BRIDGES.

Slope County News.—Slope county seems to be having a hard time to get its bridge work done. Last week the News told of there being only one bidder for 16 of the county bridges. These contracts were not let. Several months ago the Great Northern Bridge Co., of Minneapolis, was awarded the contract for the building of eight bridges. The contract time was up September 1st and it seems as if the county would be made richer by \$500, for certified check in that amount was given to the county as a guarantee that the bridge company would fulfill the contract.

This \$500 would build another bridge—but who is going to do the work. The county does not need the money as badly as the people of the county need the bridges. It is not known whether the raise in the price of material made the company decide to let the county have the \$500 check rather than lose as much by doing that they would not get paid for their work as another contractor failed. At any rate we do not seem to be getting county bridges built very fast.

Among these bridges for which contracts were let but upon which no work has been done are bridges across Sand Creek and Deep Creek, in the country west; one near the N. H. Bruce place near Midway; on across Maverick Creek in Peaceful Valley township; one near K. P. Anderson's; one north of Mineral Springs and one in Woodberry township.

## Talk With Waters

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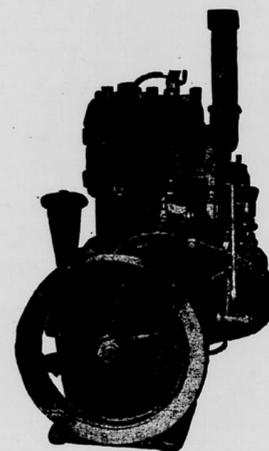
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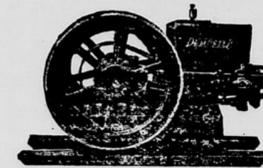
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and all the boys and girls will be able to begin the school work together.

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