

Uncle Sam Defends North Dakota

(Continued from page 10)

fect and beautify their homes with shade trees, it is giving a larger share of its attention to the revenue-producing crops.

Practical work in the best methods of grain growing and the proper crop rotations to conserve the moisture are being carried on under the direction of J. T. Sarvis and A. W. Schulz, both of them agricultural college graduates who are thorough enthusiasts in their work. The station fields are divided, according to experiment station custom, into plots of one-tenth acre each, which makes computation of expense and yields simple and easy. Mostly three-year rotations of various crops and various methods of soil treatment are being used. This season's work completes the third year of the station and from these three years some results may be considered available for use in the department's bulletins. In this way the station eventually will discover series of crop rotations which produce the best results and keep the ground in best condition.

The station wheat this year was hit with rust just the same as the crop of the ordinary farmer. The little rust devils would just as soon work on Uncle Sam's land as anybody's, but the rust didn't get all the wheat.

The station is testing out a European durum or "macaroni" wheat known as Kubanka durum. It is a Russian grain, selected because it is less liable to rust damage, and this year it produced excellent yields, being practically unaffected by the rust, while bluestem in adjoining plots produced shriveled grains which would rate very low as "feed."

THREE ALFALFA CROPS FROM STATION'S FIELDS

Alfalfa flourishes on the station plats. A third crop was ready to cut when it was hit by an early frost. The work the station has done so far has proved alfalfa worthy of taking a front place in the rank of profitable crops in western North Dakota. The alfalfa at the station was seeded in rows 42 inches apart, wider than is recommended for ordinary growing.

An interesting field was one of sorghum. The field had been cut and was dotted with big greenish shocks about nine feet tall. The station has proved that sorghum for feed purposes can be grown successfully. There was also a field of Sudan grass which has thrived and produced a good crop.

Men at the station noticed where plots of sorghum and Sudan grass had adjoined a new plant which appeared to be a cross between the two. This year an experimental plot of Sudan grass with occasional stalks of sorghum was planted in the hope of developing a cross species which might prove to be of value.

There is a section of land in the home farm of the station. The government owns another section a mile removed to the southeast. On this section experiments in grazing on the native grasses of the prairies are under way. The state

furnishes the cattle and the federal government the land and the care.

FATTENING CATTLE ON NATURAL PRAIRIE GRASSES

"The cattle which were grazed there last year gained an average of 200 pounds in the season," said Mr. Schulz. "We find that the natural grasses furnish good pasture where there are not too many cattle on too small a field. It is one of our purposes to find out the right number of cattle to put on a field of a certain size and also to discover which of the natural plants are the best for feed purposes."

One of the principal interests at the station is the careful selection and preservation of seed. A large brick storage and seed house, the lower floor of which is sheltered by a bank from the prevailing winds, is one of the most interesting of the buildings. Attached to it is a greenhouse. In the seedhouse already was a considerable quantity of grain and big pumpkins, squashes and a few citron were lying in a corner. In the basement there were a variety of berries being soaked out to extract seeds and in the greenhouse two of the young men employed at the station were putting up seed samples in envelopes.

"There's an interesting thing," said Mr. Schulz, pointing to ears of corn hanging from a rack. "We gathered

some seed corn from one of our plats and then we left some of it to take chances with the frost. That gathered before the frost showed nearly perfect in the germination test, while that gathered after the frost was only 25 per cent good." This seems to be good evidence that it doesn't do to allow your seed corn to be frost-bitten.

The buildings at the station are all of brick and substantially built according to the custom of Uncle Sam. They include an administration building, a very handsome residence for the superintendent, a number of cottages for other employes and a dormitory for single men.

The road which approaches the station winds in a series of "S" curves up the steep hillside. When one reaches the top he sees the tall flagpole with the stars and stripes floating above the group of buildings and if he looks to the northeast

he sees the wooded valley of the Heart river below him and the roofs of Mandan among the trees in the distance.

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To vote for this Slope Normal you must get from the inspector at your voting place the "Amendment to the Constitution of the State of North Dakota providing for the establishment of a Normal School at Dickinson." Mark it and vote it with your ballot.

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