

(7.) A more even distribution of labour is promoted on the farm. As the crops under rotation are seeded and harvested at different times there is work for farm labour the year round; hence the rush attendant upon the seeding and harvesting of one particular crop grown regardless of rotation is avoided, and the regular employment of satisfactory labour is assured where such is available. More stability is thus given to farming because of this regular employment of labour under a farm crop-rotation system.

(8.) A variety of crops for market and live-stock requirements is provided. Indeed, it is hard to conceive of live-stock being kept and satisfactorily fed without the adoption of a system of crop-rotation, unless resort is made, under favourable conditions, to pasture continuously as a means of feeding and finishing farm animals. Diversity in crops grown on the farm means greater resource in the feeding of various classes of stock, also greater control of fluctuating conditions connected with the market prices of farm animals and their products and of farm crops subject to sale.

(9.) The location of live-stock used for feeding off farm crops is changed every year, thus improving the health of farm-animals as well as promoting increased production through the more vigorous crop-growth, due to change of soil and to distribution of animal manure, and through the increased vigour of the stock fed on new ground.

(10.) Heavy loss, due to failure or destruction of the crop grown repeatedly without regard for rotation, is avoided when a systematic rotation of crops is practised. In adhering to the latter the farmer "has his eggs in more than one basket," and hence failure of one crop in the rotation system means only partial loss of the product of the farm during a single year.

(11.) Seed is kept from deterioration under a rotation system because it is raised each year on a fresh area of land, whereas if grown regardless of rotation on the same land year after year it rapidly deteriorates. Of course, fresh seed could be obtained each year from off the farm, but this system has its inconveniences, and is a means of introducing weed-seeds periodically, and there is perpetually presented the defects due to growing the same crop on the same area annually. By these remarks it is not suggested that farmers should always save their own seed, but in most cases, and especially with certain crops and strains of seed thereof, it is decidedly advantageous.

The foregoing constitute the chief benefits derivable by the farmer from the adoption of a systematic rotation of crops suitable to his special conditions. In view of such benefits it is difficult to conceive of any tiller of the soil to-day refraining from practising a rotation of some kind, much less his neglecting to ascertain the crop-sequence that best suits his special circumstances.

THE NORFOLK SYSTEM.

A type of rotation common to farming in various parts of the world, but particularly in England, is what is known as the Norfolk system. It is a four-year rotation consisting of wheat sown in the autumn on land ploughed out of lea; a cleaning crop or crops, such as turnips, swedes, and potatoes; barley or oats sown in spring; and a leguminous