

very early with a scythe for green feed. Where this was done the succeeding growth was short and turned yellow while the remainder of the field which was cut later gave an excellent tall, dark green growth. It would seem that with the abundance of rain which generally occurs about the middle of June that our growers need have no fears in allowing their alfalfa to stand until the latter part of June when perhaps weather conditions would result in easier curing. At the same time this late cutting will apparently not have any very bad effects on the succeeding growth.

ANNUAL MEETING CALLED OFF ON ACCOUNT OF INFLUENZA

The annual meeting of the Association was not held on account of the Influenza. The Executive Committee, however, met and acted on a number of matters as to the Association's work for the ensuing year. It is hoped that next year a meeting can be held in order that the work of the organization will be fully presented to its membership.

REPORT OF THE HEMP ORDER

A. H. WRIGHT, *Secretary.*

Of the 158,000 acres of hemp grown in the United States in 1919, Wisconsin grew 4,750. Among the several states growing hemp, Wisconsin ranks first in acreage and production of fiber.

Large areas in Wisconsin are admirably suited to hemp culture, and a firmly established dairy industry helps to insure the continued productiveness of the soil.

The climate of Wisconsin is particularly suited to the production of dewretted fiber of good strength and high quality. The fall months are cool and moist, which makes it possible to ret the crop without scorching or over-retting, an item of vital importance in the production of good fiber.

The yields of fiber obtained in this state have been entirely satisfactory, ranging around 1,000 pounds to the acre as an average; the quality of Wisconsin's hemp fiber is equal to that produced in any other state; and our farmers have received profitable returns from the culture of the crop.

In the improvement of machinery for handling the crop one of the most serious problems of the industry is being solved. Hand labor is now unnecessary in handling Wisconsin's hemp crop. It is harvested by special machinery, and especially constructed and equipped mills are established in the state for separating the fiber from the stalks. In fact, Wisconsin now has over 70 per cent of the total number of hemp mills in the United States.

The stable growth which the hemp industry has made in Wisconsin is due considerably to organized effort. The Wisconsin Hemp Order was organized at Ripon on October 18, 1917, and is affiliated with the Wisconsin Experiment Association. The object of the Hemp Order is to promote the general welfare of the hemp industry in the state. Its membership is composed of hemp growers and hemp mill operators. Anyone in the state interested in the growing and handling of hemp is eligible to membership.

THE WISCONSIN SORGHUM ORDER

A. H. WRIGHT, *Secretary.*

On March 10, 1920, a meeting was held in the Agronomy Building at Madison to form a state association of persons interested in the growing of sorghum and the manufacturing of sorghum products. Professor R. A. Moore addressed the meeting and said in part:

"If great things are to be accomplished in the sorghum business they can best be done through organization. This has been proved most exclusively in the work of the Alfalfa Order, the Hemp Order, and the various County Orders, all of which are branches of the State Experiment Association. The Alfalfa Order has grown rapidly until it now includes hundreds of alfalfa growers throughout the state. The fiber men in the state have also organized and every hemp mill in the state now holds membership in the Wisconsin Hemp Order."

A resolution to organize was moved and carried, and a constitution and by-laws were adopted. The organization is known as "The Wisconsin Sorghum Order, and is a branch of the Wisconsin Experiment Association. The officers are:

- S. O. Rabb, Mazomanie—President
- G. R. Featherston, Milton—Vice President
- A. Carmichael, Poynette—Treasurer
- A. H. Wright, Madison—Secretary

The object of the Order is to encourage the growing of sorghum and the manufacture of sorghum syrup throughout the state, and membership is open to any person who is interested in this line of effort.

At this meeting several subjects relating to the sorghum industry, as "Handling sorghum stalks at the mill to prevent souring or moulding", "Using the refuse for silage", "Obtaining pure sorghum seed", "Factory methods", etc. were discussed in detail.