

"BOOK FARMING" WILL BE TESTED

D. A. Goplin will Co-operate with Northern Pacific on Ex- perimental Plot.

R. L. Cuff, of the Northern Pacific agricultural extension department, has been in Binford conferring with D. A. Goplin, in regards to the experimental plot which he will operate this summer, under the instruction of the Northern Pacific.

The railroad company, through its agricultural extension department, has been carrying on careful demonstration work along the line of soil fertility, cultivation and seed selection during the season of 1913, and their work seems to give evidence that plant food and proper cultivation of the soil are most potent factors and are worthy of serious consideration of every land owner who is looking for greater and more profitable crops.

Mr. Goplin has consented to set aside five acres of his land for this experiment and the plot will be divided into five equal parts and all sowed to barley. The plot was plowed last fall and all except one acre will be disced, harrowed and packed this spring before planting. The first acre will be operated with ordinary cultivation. The second will be given extra cultivation but no fertilizer. The third will be treated with 600 pounds of acid phosphate. The fourth with the same quantity of acid phosphate and in addition eight loads of manure; and the fifth with eight loads of manure but no phosphate. The object of this is to ascertain if cultivation will produce a better crop, and if fertilizing is profitable and also what fertilizers are needed.

The purposes of the work is to determine to what extent crop yields can be increased by the use of good seed, and through the practise of a more thorough and opportune cultivation, to ascertain if any of the elements of fertility are lacking in the soils of these districts, and if so, could any of these elements be profitably applied in commercial form; and ultimately, to establish a plan for the conservation and economic utilization of plant food in crop production.

In return for farming the plot in strict accordance with the directions given by the Agricultural Extension department of the railway company, the farmer receives free seed, analysis of his soil, the benefits of a fertilizer, the crop raised, and an average cash payment of \$1.50 an acre. Co-operation with the farmers has been all that could be expected, and community interest has been a matter of deep satisfaction.

The introduction of alfalfa, the acclimatization and successful growing of corn, the selling of grain in the form of livestock, when possible; the generally remunerative practices of better cultivation and seed selection; the maintainance of soil fertility by growing leguminous crops, and by applying the mineral elements, mainly phosphorus, in the most profitable form where found deficient; the conservation of fertility by ceasing the common practice of burning strawstacks; these are the basic principles underlying progressive, profitable agricultural development of these districts.

The experiment on Mr. Goplin's farm will be watched with a great deal of interest by our farmers, and, unquestionably, will result in showing some the error of their system.