

In the cultivation of fallow land it is desirable to leave as much stubble and other "trash" on the surface as possible, and to produce a rough cloddy tilth, in order to reduce susceptibility to drifting. Good trash cover may be secured by shallow cultivation; in this respect, the "ploughless fallow" in which the fallow and subsequent seed bed is cultivated without ploughing, is being advocated and is coming into wide use. Rough tilth is secured by the same method, and by avoiding the use of implements which produce extreme pulverization. A combination of surface cultivation and strip farming is proving useful in controlling soil drifting. In some cases cover crops of spring grain sown in the late summer are used to prevent drifting. However, considerable difficulty is experienced in getting stands of these crops, particularly in dry years or when grasshoppers are numerous. Various emergency methods are also used, such as spreading straw on small areas of incipient drifting and cultivating or ridging land at intervals across a field.

Where the control of soil drifting cannot be effected by any of the foregoing methods, as on some areas of sandy land, regrassing may become necessary. Owing to the difficulty of securing a stand of grass on land which is subject to periodical drifting, it is frequently necessary to provide some vegetative protection for the soil. Cover crops of grain, such as fall rye, are used for this purpose. Grass seed of the desired species, usually crested wheat or brome grass, is seeded when sufficient protection has developed to check drifting. Sometimes several attempts at regrassing are necessary in order to secure the desired result.

Cultural Rehabilitation Work by the Experimental Farms in Association with Local Bodies.—The development of cultural work under the rehabilitation program is supervised from the Dominion Experimental Farms located in the drought area. As such experimental farms have been in operation at Brandon, Man., and Indian Head, Sask., for over 50 years, and at Scott, Sask., Swift Current, Sask., and Lethbridge, Alta., for many years, they form ideal centres for the spread of rehabilitation work through the agencies described below.

District Experiment Sub-Stations.—These are essentially sub-stations of the Dominion Experimental Farms, established for the purpose of undertaking experimental work and illustrating methods of crop production, suitable for various districts. Comprising usually one section of land, these sub-stations are private farms operated under the supervision of the local experimental farm. In addition to field work with rotations and soil-drifting control practices, these sub-stations serve as experimental demonstrational points for farm gardens, shelterbelts, and various other farmstead improvement projects. Since the inauguration of the program, 47 sub-stations have been established at strategic points.

Reclamation Stations.—Investigations to determine the most economical methods of dealing with marginal land on which crop production has been abandoned due to soil drifting, are in progress at reclamation stations located at Melita, Man., Mortlach, Sask., Cadillac, Sask., and Woodrow, Sask. Smaller reclamation projects are in progress at many points where drifting has been severe including over 40 demonstrations of the best methods of establishing grass cover on light land.

Agricultural Improvement Associations.—In order to promote the widespread adoption of rehabilitation measures, some means of establishing contact with the farmers and of enlisting their co-operative support, is essential. This has been effected through the organization of farmers into agricultural improvement associations, the purpose of which is to secure united community action on drought