

Notes for the Month.

LOOKING FORWARD.

Every prudent man, when entering on a farm, will endeavour to know the qualities of every field—its state of fertility; of cleanness; whether its soil is dry or wet; clay or sand predominate; what crops it has lately borne, &c. Without some such knowledge of the different parts of his farm, he will, in all his labour, be but groping in the dark. The farmer who has occupied his farm for some time, and tilled perhaps every arable foot of it, has not such enquiries to make. But he has enquiries to make of his own experience. He has to ask himself how he shall turn every sod of it to the best account. He has to consider every field separately, and also in connection with the whole. He has to take into account the probable prices of the ensuing year; what crops are most marketable within easy distance; as well as what his land is best fitted to produce; what labour he can command; what system of culture he shall now pursue that will, in other years, be most beneficial to him by improving the soil. A farmer, to be successful, must be a man of prudence and foresight. He must expend labour and money in expectation of a future remuneration. What system of culture shall he pursue? This is an important enquiry that every farmer must decide for himself. It was too much the custom (a custom not yet altogether done away with) to pursue no regular system—to have no regular rotation of crops—to sow wheat year after year till the soil, entirely exhausted, refused to pay any longer for the tillage. With such exhaustive tillage no farmer can be successful. The elements in the soil that wheat demands as food must be restored in some manner, or it will cease to be productive; and it will be more difficult to renovate it than it may have a remunerative degree of productiveness. Each kind of crop needs its own kind of food, though some particular elements are needed by all. With some crops the soil is partially enriched, by the mode of culture they require and receive, and by the fertilizing elements they attract and inhale from the atmosphere.

We note this subject now, as this is the best season to devise the system you will adopt, not merely for the year but for future years. Shall it be a course of four years, of six years, or what?

WINTER WHEAT.

This is considered by farmers the most important crop in his farm. It will, if a good crop, bring him in, more immediately, a larger sum of money than any other. For it the soil must be well prepared, clean, rich and dry. If there be danger of water lying in any part of the field, let this be guarded against by well-formed, open drains. It is better to sow it so early that it will have a good start, and be well rooted before the winter storms. Drill sowing is now practised by the best farmers.

SEED WHEAT.

This requires careful selection. Let it be thoroughly clean, and free from the seeds of weeds. In another article in this paper will be found some good advice as to the varieties of seed.

SOILING.

To this subject we directed the attention of our readers in a late issue. It is now time to commence preparations for it. Sow your first crop for soiling. In this country the best and earliest crop for soiling is Rye. In the old country we had a greater variety of soiling crops than we can have here. There we had Winter Vetches (tares), Spring Vetches, Clover, Italian Rye-grass, Rape, and then the root crops for soiling. Here, our principal crops for soiling are Rye, Peas and Oats, Corn, Clover. Still, there is variety enough to practise soiling successfully. The earliest, I have said, is rye. It produces a very large amount of feed for cattle. I have grown it here and six feet

high. You can have it out of the way in time to prepare the ground on which it grew for turnips.

Cost of Illinois Cereals.

The *Prairie Farmer* publishes some estimates as to the cost of the several grains grown in Illinois by Mr. Gibson, a farmer in that State, and read by him at a meeting of a Farmers' Club. The following is his account for growing thirty acres of wheat:—

Ploughing, 20 days, at \$1.90 per day..	\$33 00
Harrowing, 4 " " at \$2.10 " " ..	8 40
Rolling, 4 " " at \$2.10 " " ..	8 40
Seed, 25 bushels, at \$1.50 per bushel..	37 50
Interest on seed, 10 mos., at 10 per ct.	3 15
Seeding and use of drill, 2 1/2 days.....	10 70
Rent, 20 acres, at \$3.60 per acre.....	72 00
Taxes.....	10 00
Harvesting, 2 days.....	52 60
Stacking, 4 men, 2 days.....	20 45
Threshing.....	38 05
	\$299 25

He estimated the yield on the 20 acres at 300 bushels, or 15 bushels per acre. This would make the average cost little less than \$1 per bushel.

This can only be regarded as an estimate approximating to the real cost and value of the crop. Many items of the account are not what a Canadian farmer would reckon, and then it must be an inferior crop to yield only 15 bushels per acre. For rent, the charge is high; for taxes, the charge, we would say, is still higher, but that we know that taxes in the States are so much higher than they are here.

We give insertion to the article, hoping that some of our readers may be induced to look into their accounts of *debit and credit* in their several farm operations, and being desirous that some would forward to us an accurate account, or, at least, an estimate of the cost of their several crops. There are among our agricultural friends some as competent to keep accounts of their outlaying and incoming as any city accountant. There are but few, we think, who keep such a farm Day-book and Ledger as we would suggest to them, though we know it would, were they to do so, greatly conduce to their advantage. Though they have seasons of hurry and fatigue, they might find time to make their entries regularly. As. T. Ed.

Arsenic as an Insect Exterminator.

In the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*, potato-growers have been advised to use Paris green with plaster for exterminating the Colorado potato bug. We carefully studied the whole matter before we gave that advice. We have since then heard and seen and read much on the subject, and we have closely watched the effects of the prescribed remedy, and the result has been the confirmation of the correctness of the advice we then gave. A writer in the *Michigan Farmer*, a paper of very high authority in agricultural matters, has recommended arsenic instead of Paris green, as a bug-exterminator. The principal argument advanced for the use of the arsenic is its comparatively little cost, it being sold for 20 cents per pound, while 50 cents is the price of Paris green. In reply, it is shown that "arsenic is capable of being absorbed in such quantities as to prove injurious to the living vegetable." "It is a dangerous material to have in the household, because it is so easily mistaken for other white substances in common use; for example, flour, saleratus, &c. Paris green is not liable to this error because of its strongly marked color." "Again, when applied in large quantities to the soil, it may accumulate in the soil to the injury of subsequent crops, or it may dissolve in quantity greater than the oxide of iron of the soil can render inert, and may find its way into wells, and slowly poison all who use the water. Injury by no means confined to sudden and violent death." "Three pounds of arsenic, the quantity recommended for one acre, is for each hill of potatoes, if so planted, and at 3 1/2 feet apart, enough to poison two men."

[We have referred to this matter briefly. It is necessary that farmers, who have not themselves the opportunity for much scientific study, should be guarded in taking up every new idea brought before them. Careful study of all things pertaining to their interests is our duty. As. T. Ed.]

Jottings in our News Room.

The work of surveying goes on favorably in the West by all accounts.

The Truro and Amherst Railway will be opened on the 1st of September.

St. Johns, N. B., though settled as recently as 1783, chiefly by Loyalists from the States, contains about 40,000 inhabitants, and is a place of much enterprise and wealth.

The grain, root, and fruit crops throughout Nova Scotia are reported to be in excellent condition, and an abundant return is anticipated.

A writer in the *New York Observer*, speaking of the Genesee Valley, says:—No part of the valley bears the marks of high cultivation that I had always associated with this fertile region. It is really painful to see one crop—the Canada thistle—growing here so luxuriantly. It is not only allowed to occupy the highway, but there are many broad fields in which the wheat and the thistle are contending for the occupancy of the ground, and in many cases the latter has gained the victory.

An order has been issued excluding Russian cattle from England on account of the prevalence of the rinderpest in the Russian empire.

The Maine lumbermen predict that five years hence, at the present rate of destruction, the forests of that State will be wholly cleared of timber. The lumber crop this year is estimated at 7,000,000,000 feet. Of this amount the Penobscot lumbermen cut 225,000,000, and the Kennebec men over 100,000,000.

It is proposed to form a Scotch settlement in the county of Victoria, N.B., for which purpose land is selected, and fifty families are to come out in the spring.

Agriculture.

CANADIAN THISTLES.

SIR—In driving about the country, I have had a good opportunity of witnessing the different methods of killing Canadian thistles. I have seen none succeed but the plan of not allowing them to form a top at all during six weeks. No plant can live long without a top in warm weather. Usually, during haying and harvesting, the thistles get quite a growth in the fallows. They take breath, and this gives new life to the root, so that it continues healthy until the time of sowing the wheat. During the hurry of haying and harvesting the cultivator should be run lightly through them, say three or four inches deep, sufficiently often to prevent the top from ever seeing the daylight. This is the point. Never let the top above the ground in any part of the field. If the cultivator be set too deeply, the portion of the root attached to the top is likely to take root again. Many try to kill the thistles without any distinct idea as to how they are going to do it. They plough them, let them grow up again, and so on until the grain is sown, and, when harvest comes, there comes a thick crop of thistles. They do like a boy trying to drown a young pup—hold it under the water till nearly dead, then raise it out to see if it is still alive, then dip it under again for a short time, then out again, and finally concludes that it is the hardest thing in the world to drown a young pup. Most people do the same by allowing a head to come out here and there before the root is dead. Many farmers despise bookmen and theory, and think no one knows anything of the processes of nature and farming but themselves, forgetting that theory and practice should go together. No doubt there is, now and then, a foolish article written about farming, and the farmer therefore concludes that everything written on the subject is nonsense, and will not give due consideration to any advice on it, no matter how good. Men the world over are apt to think they know more about the business they follow than any one can tell them. Professional pride is of as natural growth as Canadian thistles.

I am very much pleased with the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*. J. L., M. D. Richmond Hill, Aug. 8, 1872.

[The remarks of our esteemed correspondent have the invaluable quality of good common sense, expressed in a plain, intelligible manner. We append two items from our exchanges that must be of interest to farmers. The law relating to allowing those weeds to grow to the injury of their neighbours is very stringent. For their own sakes, as well as that of

others, farmers should do all they can to exterminate them. The law, if strictly enforced in all places, would be productive of great evil, for in some parts of the country the land would not be worth the labour. This is particularly the case in some of the light, rocky land back of Kingston. The editor of the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* is prosecuting an experiment for the entire extermination of them, that he hopes will be successful. He has applied to the Department of Agriculture to assist him in the undertaking, but his application has been unsuccessful. There could be nothing of greater benefit to farmers and to the country at large, and it is the duty of the Ministry to give every encouragement to such an undertaking.—As. T. Ed.]

THISTLES.—Great complaints are made by some farmers against others for permitting the spread of Canada thistles, and the carelessness of certain parties who should use efforts to exterminate the nuisance before going to seed. There is a law making it compulsory upon parties to cut down the thistles growing upon their premises or within a certain distance of them, and we trust that it will be enforced. We have heard of one farmer who actually sold his farm because his neighbours permitted the thistle to go to seed to such an extent that farming was no longer profitable in that neighbourhood.

THISTLES.—A case of considerable importance to farmers was tried at Lucan last Monday, before J. McIlhargey, Esq., J.P. The action was brought by a Mrs. Hogan against one John Toohey, for allowing Canada thistles to go to seed on the farm which he occupies and which he leases from her. The charge was proved, but, as it was the first time the law was put in force in that section of the country, the magistrate mitigated the fine to \$2 and \$5.50 costs. Farmers will do well to bear in mind that they render themselves liable to fine if they allow Canada thistles to come to full blow on their farms; and whether they are owners or occupiers it makes no difference, for the law seeks to prevent the spread of the noxious weed.

CLOVER AND TIMOTHY.

It is chiefly on account of our variety of heavy plants that we seldom suffer very greatly from bad seasons; for a season that is unpropitious for one kind is often just the one for the perfection of the other. It will always be an argument in favor of mixed varieties.—It is often said that there is no use in these mixtures; have either all clover or all timothy, or all of one kind of grass whatever it may be; but though it may be granted that if the season be favorable for one kind, it would be best to have all of that one kind; yet as we cannot anticipate the seasons, it is best to have a variety. It is like paying something for insurance. We do not get quite as good as we might, but we are more certain to get a good average than we should otherwise be.

We note that some papers, especially Eastern ones, are agitating the wisdom of having clover and timothy sown each by itself, and not together as now. We shall still advocate the old way, in the light of this year's experience.—*Forney's Weekly Press*.

FRESH FROM THE GARDEN.

Dwellers in towns and cities, who have to procure their vegetables from the green grocer, or else from the gardener's wagon, know not the benefits derived from having a garden at home, where they can get everything fresh when needed.

Many say they can buy vegetables cheaper than to raise them. So they can, but it is at the expense of freshness and crispness. The longer time peas are pulled before being used, the more is their delicate taste lost. Tender salad plants wilt and part with their fine flavor when not freshly cut; and this is especially true of such kinds of garden stuff as are used in their green or unripe state. The most of what we get from the grocery or from the wagon has been gathered the afternoon before, and brought in during the morning. When hawked about the streets half a day through the hot sun, or exposed on the sidewalk in front of a small grocery, the quality of such vegetables is very inferior. In the case very often with extremely early vegetables, they are shipped from southern parts, and are many hours on the journey before reaching the consumer. Is such stuff fit for food for any one that enjoys the pleasures of good living?

The moral of all this is to cultivate your own garden, however small it may be, if you desire

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