

They are right no doubt, but they never can be made to realize that they have been merely the victims of their own day dreams. They lay the blame of their disappointments on the shoulders of others and whine piteously over their miserable lot. They unquestionably do have a hard time of it. Lazy and helpless men are terribly out of place in a busy bustling community of thrifty pioneers. There are always so many of these ne'er-do-weels in every frontier town that they are not often treated with much consideration. Their pretensions to superiority are laughed at and disregarded by the little Democracies of the west, where they find that honest industry and sterling worth are the only passports to real and lasting success. Here they find themselves worse off than they were in England, where their pretensions met with some recognition to say the least of it. They learn to hate the country and hate the people. Their one ambition is to get back to the life of semi-dependence they left in England.

Of course they have suffered a bitter disappointment, and it is not surprising that they should desire to wreak their vengeance on the country and the people.

A man of this class has recently been heard from in the English newspapers. His pet aversion is Manitoba, where hundreds of prosperous settlers will doubtless be inclined to laugh over his statements when they are done being astonished at his facts (?). He says:—

“As to the cold, the simple facts are these: One hears in this country that, owing to the dryness of the atmosphere, &c., it is very little felt. There is some truth in this, and on calm days I must say that it made little difference to one's feelings how low the thermometer fell. But, unfortunately, it is very seldom calm, or anything like it, and flesh and blood cannot stand the wind at those low temperatures. The best way to form an opinion of it (next to going there yourself) is to bear in mind that the winter outdoor dress consists of a buffalo coat of tremendous weight, very warm underclothing, a fur cap pulled well down over the ears, woollen mitts without fingers covered by another pair made of deer hide, and several pairs of warm socks or stockings, with mocassins. Boots cannot be worn without getting one's feet frozen. The lowest actual temperature that we observed was 33 degs. below zero, but we had no registering minimum thermometer, and no doubt it was considerably colder during the nights. We constantly had it below zero in our bedrooms in the morning. Once it was 16 degs. below, and yet ours was one of the best kind of houses in the country.”

It must be remembered that he gives all these as solemn facts, and here is more of the same kind:—

“The food on which most of the settlers subsist is wretched in the extreme—salt pork, the very remembrance of which makes me feel sick, being the principal item. The discomforts and privations of Manitoba are, in short, so great, the work so hard, and the results obtained so utterly miserable, that I cannot understand any

disinterested person, who knows anything of the country, saying a good word for it. A man may, perhaps, get a bare existence there. As to growing rich at farming, it is utterly absurd to think of it.”

His closing sentence is characteristic:—

“I trust you will use all your influence still further to check the already decreasing emigration to this unprofitable and wretched country.”

Of course people in Manitoba will laugh heartily over the publication of such ravings, but for all that such cranks as these really do something towards checking the influx of English capital.

MARE AND FOAL.

At this season of the year many foals of various classes are being dropped on farms throughout Canada. Of course many of the best brood mares in this country are allowed to devote the whole summer to the suckling of their foals, but besides these there are many upon farms where the “spring's work” must be done whether the foals thrive or not, and too often the brood mare is made to do a pretty liberal share of the work incident to seeding and harvesting. Of course where the farmer can afford to do so it pays better to let the mare run idle until after the foal is weaned, but if the mare must be worked the farmer should take care to manage in such a way as to inflict the least possible injury on the youngster.

To begin with, the mare should not be worked up to a date closer than ten days or a fortnight previous to the time at which she is expected to foal. She should then be turned into a smooth grassy paddock by herself, provided the weather be quite warm, or into a clean roomy box, well lighted, littered, and ventilated. She should never be tied up when near foaling time, and care should be taken that she shall not be unnecessarily excited nor fatigued. If it be necessary that the mare should be worked she might be put in harness about two weeks after foaling. A too common custom prevailing among our farmers is that of allowing the foal to follow the mare all day in the scorching sun, fretting himself and worrying his dam at every turn. When the mare stops to rest the colt takes advantage of the opportunity thus offered to fill his stomach with fevered and unwholesome milk, so that betwixt actual overwork and a feverish unhealthy diet the little fellow suffers pretty severely. It is much better that the youngster should be shut up in a light, airy loose box, and if there happens to be another colt to keep him company it will be all the better for both. The mare should be allowed to suckle him as often as once every two hours, and in the meantime a quart of cow's milk brought to natural heat may be fed in the forenoon and afternoon with profit. Of course the dam must be generously fed as long as she is performing this double work, and the greatest care should be taken that she is neither over-heated nor over-fatigued. If kept at slow work and liberally supplied with rich green

food the mare will be none the worse of earning a few dollars for her master while suckling her foal, and if the latter be liberally supplied with milk at just the right temperature and good succulent grasses and nourishing food when his stomach is ready to receive it, he ought not to suffer, especially if he can be kept from fretting.

The worst thing perhaps that happens to a foal in this country is being allowed to follow his dam ten or fifteen miles to town and back over a hard, dusty road in the broiling mid-day sun. One such journey would injure the foal more than a whole summer of management such as we have indicated. The preferable way, however, is to have a brood mare devote her whole strength and all her energies to the production and care of her offspring.

EXPERIMENTAL AGRICULTURE.

No Ontario farmer of any intelligence will question the usefulness of the Ontario Agricultural College and Experimental Farm; but the question may well be asked, “Are our farmers making the most of it?” Assuming that they carefully study out the histories and descriptions of the experiments which take place at the Ontario Farm and do their best to master the practical lessons taught by these, it is still not clear that they make the best use of the lessons thus learned. These experiments, if they are not followed by other experiments by the farmers, for whose benefit they are made, amount comparatively to but little, but if they were taken simply as a guide or outline designed to suggest to the farmer a line of tests to be made on his own place, then it might be said that the good seed that is being sown by Prof. Brown is taking root in such a way that it cannot fail to bring forth an abundant harvest in the shape of practical results.

The Experimental Farm, good in its way, can after all only represent one kind of soil, one altitude, and a mere unit as to climatic conditions. In his experiments Prof. Brown can deal only with what he has at hand. He describes the soil, the manure, the seed, and the mode of treatment, and then gives the result. This is very useful to a farmer whose farm is like that adjoining the Ontario College as to soil, climate, and altitude, supposing just such a farm could be found, but its usefulness should not stop at that. Farmers in other parts of the province, adopting the line of procedure mapped out at the Experimental Farm should apply to their own farms as much of the experiment as they think likely to be useful, and then vary the remainder of the treatment in such a way as they may deem wise or desirable under the conditions with which they are surrounded.

And the work should not stop here. The farmer should give the result of his application of the experiments (whether success or failure) to his brother farmers through the press, so that while they may profit by his experience he may learn much that is valuable from their suggestions. Let one or two men of means and intelligence break the ice in this direction and