

The Farm.

Health on the Farm.

Farming is generally considered to be one of the most healthy occupations. People in the cities in search of health usually flock to the country, where the pure air, fresh breezes, and wholesome foods are believed to be health producing.

However, the condition of things in the country should be more conducive to health than conditions in the city, but very often they are not. If those living in rural districts observed the laws governing sanitary conditions to the same extent that they are observed in the cities the country would be a regular paradise of health.

One of the chief sources of disease in the country is to be found in the water. Frequently wells, from which the water used for drinking purposes is taken, are near some polluting source that makes the water anything but healthy.

Surface Drains.

We do not know what sort of a season we will have this year, whether it will be wet or dry; but it is a good idea when ploughing the corn ground to keep the drains open. Some farmers think it wasteful to open a drain that will occupy the space of a row of corn, and so they plough the entire field level and fill up the furrows.

When the fall from a low spot is rapid and the land washes badly, a wide, shallow ditch should be opened and sowed to red-top and timothy. The strip should be wide enough to make about two swaths with a mower, then the grass and weeds can be kept down without difficulty and a tough sod made.

One farmer of my acquaintance has a shallow ravine running through his land, and for several years the water passing down this ravine cut and gullied it out so badly that he could not drive across it. A few years ago he ploughed, scraped and harrowed it smooth immediately after the spring rains were over, then sodded it with blue grass. Then sods were cut four inches wide and twelve long, and were placed about a foot apart and pressed well down into the mellow soil with the foot. Then

a strip ten feet in width was sown thickly with redtop and the whole rolled down with a heavy roller. By autumn the hollow was matted with a tough sod that the water ran over without marking, and it is smooth to this day. He kept it mowed smooth the first year, and every year since, until September when the blue grass is allowed to grow. The redtop has disappeared, being run out by the blue grass.—(Fred Grundy in Farm and Fireside.

Ventilation of the Barn.

The ventilation of barns is something that is never too carefully considered when planned. There should be an abundance of fresh air, and at the same time sufficient heat. The method of ventilation by open doors and windows is unsatisfactory in cold weather. The fresh air and heat are not equally distributed in the stable. In my opinion the best method of ventilation is to have flues from the stable, running up through the haymow and through the roof. These flues should start about one foot from the stable floor; should be located, if possible, in the cleaning alleys.

Another method is to use the hay chutes for ventilators. They are built three feet square from the floor of the stable up through the haymow and then through the roof, terminating in a cupola on the ridge. There should be doors on one or two sides of the chute, one above the other, so that the hay may be easily pitched into the chutes; these doors should always be kept closed when the chutes are not used for carrying hay below. The chutes should, of course, always be left empty, and the draft can be regulated by the doors near the stable floor. The chutes should be made from dressed and matched lumber and be smooth inside. The advantage of using the hay chutes for ventilating is the saving of space and material. They draw very well on account of being so large.

The fresh air should be let into the stable through flues under the stable floor, leading from the outside and terminating in a perpendicular angle in or near the manger of the cattle. There should be one fresh-air flue terminating in the partition between each two cows. These flues should be 4x6 inches, made of common boards. The inlet of the fresh-air flues should be provided with an elbow at the outside of the building, to prevent wind from blowing directly into it.—(A. G. Loftness in Farm, Stock and Home.

The Making of the Canadian West.

The publisher (William Briggs, Toronto) reports very encouraging advance orders for Mr. MacBeth's new book, "The Making of the Canadian West." Through unforeseen delays he does not now expect to place it on the market until about the first of May. The value of the book will be greatly enhanced by numerous portraits and illustrations. Among the former are those of Schultz, Riel, Lepine, Ross, Sutherland, Norquay, Gunn, Francis, Bannantyne, Greenway, Gabriel Dumont, the Indian chiefs Poundmaker, Big Bear and Crowfoot, General's Middleton and Strange, Colonels Otter, Williams, and Osborne Smith, Major Steele, Archbishop Tache, Revs. Primate Machray, Dr. Young and Dr. Black, Hon. Edgar Dewdney, Premier Haultain, and others whose names are writ large in the annals of the West. There will also be some illustrations of great historic interest and value. The book altogether promises to be exceptionally interesting to the reader and a most important contribution to Canadian literature.

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