

to make it shut, if the hay-rack or cart-body gets away and needs a new top-rail or bed-piece, he either lets it go until necessity compels him to tinker it up, or hire his next neighbour—who is handy with tools—to repair it. This want of ability to keep his farm tools and buildings in order keeps him continually in a fret, entails a heavy bill of expense yearly, and too often paves the way to failure. Every farm should have a roomy workshop well supplied with the common tools, and the boys should be encouraged to handle them, instead of being shouted at and scolded if they take a saw or auger in hand, for from boys are poor or good farmers made. Simply being able to draw a straight furrow, or to sow or plant in good season, does not constitute a good farmer; he must be what the theatre people call a "general utility man"—handy with the hammer and nails and not wholly unused to the saw, the square and compass, the plumb and twenty-four inch rule.—*Bedford Journal*.

HIRING FARM HELP.

Where a farmer hires a man for a definite term of service, and for a definite rate of wages, to do a specified kind of work, the contract is express. But where the farmer simply requests the man to work for him, and nothing is said about the time, or pay, or where the relation of the employer and employe is formed without a full and definite understanding, the contract is implied, and its lacking terms or conditions must be supplied by law. A contract of hiring for one year or less, need not be in writing. If for more than a year, it is not binding unless in writing, and either party can terminate the agreement at pleasure.

EXPRESS CONTRACTS.—Where the hiring is for a definite time, both parties are bound by it until the time expires. The employer must furnish work, and the employe must labour to the end. If the master discharges the workman without legal cause before the time expires, the workman will be entitled to his wages up to the time of his discharge, and also such damages as he has suffered by being thrown out of his job. These damages will probably be the amount of the wages up to the end of the time of hiring, less what the workman has earned or might have earned at other employment. If the workman leaves without legal cause before his time is up, the great weight of authority is that he is not entitled to any compensation for the time that he has worked, though several highly respectable Courts have held that under such circumstances he has the right to the wages due him up to the time of leaving, less the damages occasioned to his employer by his leaving.—*H. A. Haigh, of Michigan, in American Agriculturist for September*.

AUTUMN CARE OF MEADOW LAND.

Meadows should not be closely grazed at any time, and especially not in the fall. They need to have fertilizing materials added to instead of taken from the soil. Young animals are much more injurious than mature ones, while full-grown stock that are being fattened, and are fed rich grain rations, may by their droppings add materially to the fertility of the soil. Young-growing stock withhold a large share of the potash, phosphoric acid, and nitrogen of the food to build up their bodies, leaving the manure comparatively poor. On the other hand mature fattening animals need very little of these three chief elements of soil fertility. Aside from the loss of plant-food, the close feeding of stock on meadow land does mechanical damage. If the soil is soft, the feet of the animals injure it, and the close grazing pulls much of the grass up by the roots. Meadows, like winter grains, are injured by freezing and

thawing, and the plants need to be in a vigorous condition in late fall, with a good growth of aftermath for protection from the frosts, winds, etc. Well-rotted manure applied to the meadows as a top-dressing, will strengthen the plants and insure a fine crop the next season. This application is best when made soon after the hay is removed. Later in the season much of the soluble material is washed out of the soil by the fall rains. Quick-acting manures should be used in the growing season, otherwise loss is sustained. Take good care of the meadows, for they suffer greatly if abused. They are easily and often injured by animals in late autumn. *Dr. Halsted, of N. J., in American Agriculturist for September*.

WHY WE PLOUGH IN AUTUMN.

On this subject a practical farmer writes: Close observation for more than two scores of years, teaches us that maximum crops are more uniformly secured upon the ground that is ploughed in Autumn or early winter. Even a casual observer is aware that fineness and firmness of soil are essential to quick germination of small seeds, and the healthy growth and the perfect maturity of the plant. These two mechanical conditions of the soil differ so widely from each other as to render it extremely difficult to secure one except at the expense of the other. This is accomplished more perfectly by fall ploughing, where the seed is to be sown or planted in early spring-time, and we deem it of the utmost importance that all crops be started early. Again, scientific men tell us that "Matter must somewhere in its course become soluble before it can be taken up and appropriated by the plant." Be that as it may, we are reasonably sure that mere plant food is developed from soil ploughed in the fall and fully exposed to the winter's frosts and drenching rains of spring-time, and the beneficial effects sometimes extend over a whole course of cropping. The intelligent reader will call to mind instances where a good catch of grass was secured by reason of these conditions, and abundant crops produced for a series of years, when with spring ploughing the results would have been the opposite. There are some exceptions to this rule, but it will apply to a wide range of tillage land.

MAKING ROADS.

With the press of farm work over, as it will be soon, we may expect road-making to engage attention in a great many districts. There is just one word of caution applicable now, but it is doubtful if it will be heeded. It is this: Don't pile the fresh earth from the road sides on the beaten track; don't draw mud from the ditches into the roadway. The best thing that can be done with the roads at this time of year is to clean them of stones, fill in mud holes with stones or gravel, and for the rest wait until spring, except as the best material be used when work is attempted. Nothing is more absurd, when considered as an improvement, than the usual way of piling fresh earth upon the road-way just in season to receive the fall rains, and make an unending stretch of mud until freezing weather, and the roughest possible course during winter.—*The Husbandman*.

We are not as careful of our pastures as we might be in most parts of the country. There is work in cutting the weeds, but it often will be work for which a large return will be made. So, too, it often pays well for the time taken to run over parts of a pasture that have become "patchy" with rank grass or grass mixed with weeds, getting the machine high.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

GRATED cheese is sometimes sent to the table heaped in cone shape on a china plate, and is eaten with unwonted relish.

APPLE CHEESE.—To each pound of pulp add two ounces of butter, the juice and rind of half a lemon, the yolks of two eggs and white of one; boil again gently until it thickens. This makes a delicious filling for tartlets or open tarts.

To make cloth waterproof, in ten gallons of water dissolve two pounds and four ounces of alum. Dissolve the same quantity of sugar of lead in the same quantity of water, then mix the two together. Pour off the clear liquor, immerse the cloth in it for an hour, take it out, dry it in the shade, wash in clear water and dry again.

The following is a good way to mix whitewash so it will not rub off: Mix up a half pailful of lime and water ready to put on the wall; then take one quarter pint of flour, mix it up with water; then pour on it boiling water, sufficient quantity to thicken it; pour while hot into the whitewash; stir it altogether and it is ready for use.

MILK porridge can be varied so that an invalid will not tire of it soon. Put a dozen raisins in about two cups of milk, boil for five minutes; they will flavour it agreeably, though they are not intended to be eaten. A little nutmeg can be added, or the white of an egg beaten light may be stirred in, just after the milk is taken from the stove.

CROUP can generally be greatly alleviated, if not cured very speedily, if the following remedy is applied promptly: Take a knife, and grate and shave off in small particles, about a teaspoonful of alum; then mix it with twice its quantity of sugar to make it palatable, and administer it as soon as possible. Almost instantaneous relief will follow.

MEADOW hemlock is said to be the hemlock which Socrates drank; it kills by intense action on the nerves, producing complete insensibility and palsey of the arms and legs, and is a most dangerous drug, except in skillful hands. In August it is found in every field, by the sea shore and near mountain tops, in full bloom, and ladies and children gather its large clusters of tiny white flowers in quantities, without the least idea of their poisonous qualities. The water hemlock, or cow bane, resembles parsnips, and has been eaten for them with deadly effect.

MINIMIZE as we may the progressive contamination of an inclosed inhabited space, the contamination is still progressive, and, without renewal of the air, in a few hours you will reach the boundary beyond which lies impaired health. Open your windows, pull up your window-blinds, turn up your mattresses and bedclothes, and every morning let the products of the night be swept out by the incoming current of fresh air. Then, all through the day remember to have a small chink open at the top of your windows; or, better still, raise the lower sash, close the opening beneath with a piece of wood fitting closely, and so the air will enter at the junction of the sashes and pass upward without draught. The secret of ventilation without draught is a little and constantly. Once permit the air to become close and stuffy, and the moment you endeavour to remedy this result of carelessness, a cold draught will rush in and the fear of injury will cause you to stop it. The mere fact of living in a close atmosphere begets a shivery, susceptible condition of body, which is intolerant of the slightest sensation of chill. If you accustom yourself or your children to fresh air, you become robust, your lungs play freely, the vital heat is sustained, and even a draught becomes exhilarating.