spring, the heavy weight of snow smothering it out owing to the want of air. With fewer fields there is a great saving in land, as fences, especially the old zig-zag worm fence, are too often a place where foul weeds mature and seed, and are a harbor for all sorts of rubbish. I know that it is not possible to have all our farms laid out in long-shaped fields, for some places are so broken and cut up by creeks, ravines, springy places and other obstacles, that it would be somewhat difficult to do so, but on most farms long-shaped fields can be laid out and worked to the best advantage. In sections where the land is all arable, four fields will be enough on a one hundred acre farm. When wheat, root or pasture land has to be fenced off a portable or movable fence can be used. Fencing is a costly material, which is becoming more scarce. Fence repairing is an annual outlay. The fewer of them there are the less cost will there be.

GATES. — Another time-saving convenience is to have a gate into every field. Since hinges and gate hardware have become so cheap, the cost of making and swinging gates is very little. The material for making a substantial field-gate wide enough for the binder, including lumber, hinges, nails, etc., will be about one dollar and a quarter. A couple of men could make half a dozen in a day. Use neither bolts (except hinge bolts) nor mortise, but 3½ inch wire nails. Hemlock lumber makes a strong, rough farm gate that will last twenty years. The most important part of a gate is to have it swing true, easy and free. This can only be accomplished by firmly planting the post on which the gate is swung. Choose a good solid cedar, fourteen inches through at the butt end, and dig the post hole at least four feet deep. Instead of filling in with earth or clay, get some small stones, punch them in firmly with the point of a crowbar around the post until they come within six inches of the surface. This I have found to be the best way of holding the swing post secure. But if the land is soft and stones are scarce and there is danger of the posts sagging, dig a trench between them, ten inches deep, fit in a small cedar log; have the top of the log a couple of inches below the surface so that it will not cause the waggon to jolt in passing through the gateway. Opening fences or taking down bars to get in and out fields, is or should be a thing of the past. There is nothing gives more satisfaction, and helps to push on the field work quicker than having a true swinging gate into every field.

The aim of every farmer is to have clean fields, free from every obstruction. Unsightly stone heaps are a nuisance and should be moved to the side fences. Too many trees in the fields and around the fences are not much better. They are but great big weeds, sapping the best of the sterngth for rods out of the land. Fence elms especially with their far-reaching root growth and wide-spreading tops are greedy feeders. How often we see fields which are surrounded by rows of natural or planted trees, yielding very little crops on the head lands, especially on the shaded side. Granting that a well-kept lane with a row of sugar and soft maples looks well at almost any season of the year, especially in the fall when the foliage changes and there is a blending in leaf color of red, yellow and green, yet the most of our fence rows need thinning out. He would be worse than a vandal who would cut everything in sight, but avoiding such extremes thinning out can be profitably practised, leaving here and there a straight maple or ash.

Going to Michigan.

In one of our American exchanges we note that Mr. J. J. Ferguson, B.S.A., Smith's Falls, Ont., has been appointed an instructor at the Michigan Agricultural College in connection with the dairy school department. Since he was graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College a few years ago Mr. Ferguson has been giving some special attention to the bacon hog question, and has spent considerable time as an institute worker in Ontario and in the Maritime Provinces. Though the information we have at hand does not give particulars as to Mr. Ferguson's duties in his new position we have no doubt but that he will acquit himself well.

What Makes Crops Run to Straw.

It is very important that nitrogen should be available at the right time and not at the wrong time to the growing crop. If the nitrogen in the field becomes soluble and available as late say as July in Canada it promotes the growth of the roots, stalks and leaves when the energy of the plants, if for grain crop, should be directed towards making seeds. The time when nitrogen should be available, and is worth most to cereal crops, is when the plants are young and getting their growth.

By the availability of nitrogen the growth of the roots, stems and leaves is greatly promoted, and the formation of the buds and flowers and seeds is slightly retarded. Everybody knows that if you have land particularly rich with farmyard manure, or other decaying vegetable material, in a wet season, the crops of grain do not ripen readily but keep on growing straw at the wrong time. That, in my opinion, was the main cause of the failure in the crops of wheat in the Maritime Provinces last year. The application of farmyard manure in the spring followed by a wet season had a tendency to make the straw grow too late and prevented the heads from filling with seeds.—*Prof. Robertson on Seed Selection.*

Books and Bulletins Received.

A Primer of Forestry. Part I.—The Forest. Published by the Division of Forestry, United States Department of Agriculture.

Report of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station for 1898.

Experimental Exports of Butter, 1897. By Henry E. Alvard, Chief of Dairy Division, United States Department of Agriculture.

Black Leg in the United States, and the Distribution of Vaccine by the Bureau of Animal Industry. By United States Department of Agriculture.

Report of the Department of Agriculture of Ontario for 1897. Volumes I. and II., bound in cloth and for use in libraries, etc.

Annual Report of the State Board of Agriculture, Rhode Island, for 1898.

There is a famous restaurant in the town of Robinson Crusoe, near Paris, where rustic dining huts are built far up on the limbs of each tree. For fifty years or more men and women have made excursions to this place and eaten in the trees like squirrels. One of the trees is three-storied, the dining rooms and kitchens being connected by stairways. A waiter is stationed on each floor, and the food hauled up to him by means of a basket and rope. It is a novel experience to be eating away above the world in this fashion.

Exhibition Number

Some More Press Comments

The superb agricultural paper known as FARMING, this year begins its seventeenth year of publication and its third year as a weekly. Canada's wealth of agricultural opportunity is reflected brilliantly in the handsome pages of this periodical, than which no agricultural organ better performs its mission. FARMING is thoroughly entitled to the grand and growing support it receives from the Canadian husbandman.—*Stratford Herald.*

An English Opinion

Of the Canadian agricultural weeklies, FARMING is as practical and valuable as any, and its "Exhibition Number," of September 5th, to hand this week is a credit alike to proprietors and editor. The particular number in question—which consists of sixty-four pages, well illustrated, and in a beautifully colored wrapper—is issued in connection with the annual Toronto Fair, which is without doubt one of the largest and best fairs, if not both the largest and the best, in America. The annual subscription to FARMING is one dollar (4s. 2d.), and the offices are Toronto, Canada.—*English Rural World.*

His Work Appreciated.

The following resolution, passed at a recent meeting of the Advisory Board of the Ontario Agricultural College, is very commendatory of Mr. Rennie's work as superintendent of the College Farm during the past six years:

"Moved by Mr. Jeffs and seconded by Mr. Donaldson, that this Advisory Board of the Agricultural College hereby express its appreciation of the work done at the Ontario Experimental Farm, by Mr. Wm. Rennie, as farm manager during the past six years, and their pleasure at the marked improvement shown in all sections of the department under his charge; and wish for himself and his family, on his separation from the farm and college, continued good health and prosperity for many years to come."