



Retaining Moisture in the Soil.

For crops that are sown in June it is greatly important that moisture be retained in the soil. If the land has to be plowed late in May or in June, it may be a difficult matter to retain plenty of moisture in the same. In such instances make a free use of the roller and harrow. Let the land be rolled, if possible, the evening of the day that it has been plowed. Then let it be harrowed soon after. The stiffer the soil the greater the necessity for treating it thus. And if it is to lie some little time before seed is planted, let it be harrowed again. Take two pieces of soil and plow them on the same day. Let one of them go without rolling and harrowing, and treat the other as indicated, and what will be the difference? Why, the one piece of land will lose all its moisture, or nearly all of it, in the absence of rain, and the other piece will increase its moisture. It arrests and holds that moisture which comes up from below. These different ways of treating the land may mean the difference between marked success and complete failure in the crop that follows.

The Maiden Month.

The month of June, the maiden month, should bring balm to every wound and healing to every sore. While everybody enjoys it, who should enjoy it so much as the farmer? The crops have been planted, the supplies for the season are fast growing onward and upward, and, though these want some attention, the anxiety of the spring-time is gone, and it is admissible to take a day for conference on things pertaining to the farm. Let there be a picnic here and there, and let it be attended. It will take only a day or two at the most. It may be made a day of relaxation and a day of interchange of profitable thought. If suitable speakers are secured, much good seed may be sown on such occasions. The young folks of the farm, however, will get the most out of those public gatherings. Let them have the chance. The work of to-morrow will then be all

the easier because of the rest of to-day. And life will have more of June in it because of the pleasant little outing. These social gatherings in the woodland or in the public hall are all too few; we ought to have more of them. The summer meeting of the farmers' institute may partake of the picnic character, and it may well be held in June.

Don't Forget the Fodder Corn.

The season of 1895 will not soon be forgotten by the farmers in some sections of the country. At least, it should not soon be forgotten by them. The prices paid for hay were abnormally high, at a time when the prices of grain were so low, and more especially when the finished product was so cheap in nearly every line. From five to ten acres of fodder corn, last season, would have made a great difference in the revenue of many a farmer. And it would have made a great difference in the condition in which his stock went out into the fields a month ago. Lean stock and lean purses go together; hence those who want to avoid both conditions named should use every effort to grow food. But it cannot be said that every effort has been used to grow food where no fodder corn has been planted. It can be grown in any part of the province, and it should be so grown. If the season should prove unusually good for hay, that is a product that will keep, and the corn can be used in its stead. The grower of live stock should never allow himself to be taken off his guard in the matter of food production, for when the supplies of food are scant and the prices of stock and stock products are low he labors at a tremendous disadvantage. Be wary, then, farmers, and don't allow yourselves to be thus caught napping if you can avoid it.

The Turnip Crop.

The turnip crop of Ontario is one of its best crops. It was thought at one time that corn ensilage would drive it to the wall; at least, it was so thought by some persons. But of that realization there is not much likelihood now. It