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THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS.

The wise men of our Agricultural College, in considering the effects of different influences on farm crops, give the first place to the weather. It is held to be a more potent agency than manuring, cultivation, or even the soil itself. We think there is no doubt that this is the correct view especially when account is taken of large averages. Taking a soil of fair natural fertility, almost everything depends on temperature, rainfall and sunshine. These are elements for good or ill most difficult to govern or control, and consequently farmers are never sure of a good crop, no matter how rich the soil is, or how well it is cultivated, drained, or manured. Of course the more carefully these latter conditions are attended to, the greater is the probability in their favour, and no farmer can afford to neglect them.

But how inadequate they are, after all, must be obvious to anyone who carefully observes the condition of things the present season. The winter, both in Ontario and in the Northern States was most unfavourable for the fall wheat, and it is perhaps under the mark to say that thirty five per cent of the crop was destroyed. Nor have the spring months done much to improve the prospect. Low temperature and a heavy rainfall have had on the whole a very injurious effect, and a careful estimate places the yield for the coming harvest 180,000,000 bushels under that of the last one. Yet this gloomy prospect does not appear to have caused any strong upward tendency in prices. The reason is, that in other parts of the world the reports are much more encouraging. In Great Britain, Belgium, Germany, Hungary and Russia the wheat gives promise of a good average yield, and in India and New Zealand there is a large surplus available for export. Should, therefore, the European harvest realize present expectations, it is not improbable that in 1883 as in 1876-7, a short crop in America may have low prices for its accompaniment.

Then as to spring crops. The excess of rain has not only seriously interfered with seeding operations, but on all low-lying lands such crops as peas and barley have been badly damaged. We hear of many farmers in the western counties of the Province who, up to the middle of June, had not finished their seeding; and the corn area especially is comparatively a limited one.

But if the weather has wrought much mischief to the grain crops, it has had just the opposite effect on meadows. The yield of clover and timothy this year will be far above an average; and this seems to be the farmer's only compensation for the injurious effects of weather on his grain crops. Certainly the present outlook is not cheering.

PRIVATE DAIRY VERSUS CREAMERY.

It is not a little strange that, after all said and written on the creamery system of butter-making, farmers are so slow to adopt it. There are not at the outside more than fifteen creameries in Ontario at the present time, and the work they are doing is almost unknown. The truth is, that with this as with many other things, men are very conservative; they are slow to abandon a system hoary with age for a new-fangled notion

concerning which they have not sufficient knowledge to form any positive opinions. As to the factory system in cheese-making, there are few so unacquainted with its advantages as to keep up the old private process. The farmer of to-day no more thinks of setting his wife the task of making a twenty-pound cheese on alternate days than that of driving the spinning wheel and the loom to manufacture the family clothing. The factory system is more economical, a better quality of cheese is assured, and there is a great saving of labour in the household. An immense increase has taken place in the quantity and value of the cheese product of Ontario during the past twenty-five years. Now, what reason is there to doubt that under the creamery system the same good results would be obtained in butter production? Let us suppose that there are twenty farmers in a neighbourhood, each managing a private dairy. The capital invested in utensils is a considerable sum to begin with. Two or three hours of one person's time is taken up daily in churning and preparing the butter for market, and half a day per week on the average is required for marketing. Furthermore, there are twenty different varieties of butter—the majority, quite likely, very inferior for want of proper appliances, or perhaps for want of proper information. With one creamery, all the twenty farmers might have their butter manufactured by one superintendent and three hired helps, even supposing each farmer had an average of thirty cows. The capital required to establish it would be less than one-half that required for the twenty private dairies. The butter would be of uniform quality, and equal, it is but reasonable to assume, to the best product of the private dairies. It would be marketed economically and command the highest prices, and so each of the twenty farmers would be an individual gainer, to say nothing of the relief from labour and vexation that must come to each of the twenty farmers' wives.

FARMERS' BOOK-KEEPING.

MR. EDITOR.—In reading an interesting number of your valuable magazine a few days ago I noticed an article from one of your correspondents that drew my attention particularly. It was a description of farmers' book-keeping. Ever since I commenced to farm I have been trying to find out a convenient mode of keeping a daybook and diary together, but have never seen a more convenient way published than the one I have referred to as published in the RURAL CANADIAN. It is just a little different from my own method, which I will briefly give you to publish if you think it worth while. I take a large-sized daybook and keep accounts and cash transactions on the left-hand page as the book lies open and the diary on the opposite. On the page of accounts I have it as follows in different entries:—

Date.	Running account.	Paid.	Due.
Cash Dr. to A. B., \$10.....			10.00
" Cr. by B. to E. C.		5.00	
not cash			
D. F. Dr. to cash, \$7.00.....	7.00		
not cash			
H. Y. to pork, \$50.00.....	50.00		50.00
not cash			
Bought from F. G., goods \$25	25.00		

If the above should serve as a hint for any beginner to take up and improve on, I will be very well satisfied. A person could have no trouble in finding out and noting at the bottom of the page the amount of cash on hand or amount of accounts standing, either Dr. or Cr., and so carry it along from page to page. The page on the right-hand side can be used for the diary according to the disposition or requirements of the proprietor.—Yours truly,

Upper St. field, May 23, 1883.

THE WHEAT CROP ABROAD.

Reports on the condition of the wheat crop in other countries are varying and contradictory. In Great Britain and on the continent of Europe the latest accounts are favourable for an average yield; but both in Great Britain and France the area is less than usual, and in Germany the plant was injured by winter weather. More encouraging reports are received from Hungary and the Russian Provinces on the Black Sea. The crop in India is said to be a good average, and there is a fair surplus for export. In Australia it is much below an average, one report putting the yield at 4 bushels per acre. In New Zealand an excellent harvest has been reaped, and it is stated that the surplus for export will be fully 5,000,000 bushels.

The May report of the Department of Agriculture at Washington estimates the product of fall wheat in the United States, based on its condition on the first of the month, at 77,000,000 bushels less than last year's crop. The Ohio report makes an estimated shortage for ten of the principal fall wheat States of nearly 107,000,000. In Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan it was badly hurt by winter weather, and extensive areas have been ploughed up or re-sown with spring grains. Later accounts indicate an improvement in the condition of the crops in these and other States of the Union; but however favourable the weather may be, there does not appear to be any reason for hope that the harvest will approach last year's in the total product.—Bureau of Industries' Report.

FARMERS AND DRAINAGE.

There are a few general principles that ought to be borne in mind in draining.

A ditch will drain directly fifty feet each way, and when the slope is three feet or more in a hundred feet it will indirectly drain one-third of the land beyond this fifty feet.

If the grade of a drain is doubled per 100 feet the carrying capacity is increased one-third.

For drains not more than 500 feet long a 2-inch tile will drain five acres. Drains more than 500 feet long should not be laid with a 2-inch tile. A 3-inch tile will drain five acres, and should not be of greater length than 1,000 feet.

A 4-inch tile will drain twelve acres.

A 5-inch, twenty acres.

A 6-inch, forty acres.

A 7-inch, sixty acres.

Of course, these are the rules, and are supposed to be three feet in depth and on a grade of three inches to the hundred feet, which may be taken as an average.

To further assist in calculating drains it may be stated that in twenty-four hours one and a half inches of water falls, and that on an acre 70,000 gallons will fall in this time, and one-half of this amount is used by plants and carried off by evaporation, so that 35,000 gallons of unnecessary water per acre would be required to pass through at least a part of the main drain.

AGRICULTURAL AND ARTS ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO.

The 35th Provincial Exhibition will be held at the City of Guelph, Ontario, under the management of the Council of Agriculture for Ontario, from the 24th to the 29th of September next.

Also the first Fat Stock Show, under the joint auspices of the Council of Agriculture and the Toronto Electoral Division Agricultural Society, will be held in the City of Toronto, on the 14th and 15th of December next.

HENRY WADE,

Sec. Agricultural and Arts Assoc'n.