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The Farm.

HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

Get together all the manure you can rake and scrape; dig and haul swamp muck; team leached ashes if within reach; buy or exchange for straw all the horse, cow, and pig-dung you can obtain in the adjacent town or village. If a farmer may be forgiven for coveting anything it is MANURE.

Give unremitting attention to Stock; keep them warm; feed them well and with regularity; water them often and sufficiently, clean out stables and ventilate them, suffering no foul odours to linger in or about them; and save fodder by guarding against waste, by using racks, hay and straw cutters, and feeding chopped or ground, instead of whole grain.

Lay plans for the coming season of out-door labour; much may be done by arranging and systematizing labour; as a good packer will get more articles into a box than a careless one, so a good farmer will get more accomplished in a given time than one who goes about things in a helter skelter fashion.

Balance up the affairs of the farm for last year; if you have not kept accurate accounts, make as exact an estimate as you can; and henceforth adopt a system of book-keeping, so as to know with certainty how matters are, and so as to be able to decide on the most profitable courses to take in future.

Help sustain the Farmers Club in your neighbourhood, if there is one; and if no Club exists, make a move among your brother farmers to set one going.

Attend the Annual meeting of your Agricultural Society.

Renew your subscriptions to agricultural and other journals.

Read useful books and papers, ask your friends to subscribe for the ONTARIO FARMER.

CO-OPERATIVE FARMING.

The principle of co-operation, advantageously brought to bear upon some other pursuit and business, has often been discussed in reference to farming, but has never so far as we are aware, been reduced to any practical, successful application.

We learn from our exchanges, that a number of gentlemen resident in Framingham, Mass., who are organized in a club for the advancement of rural interests, recently devoted an evening to a discussion of "Co-operative Farming, its methods and the extent of its Practicability." Attention was mainly turned to one aspect of the subject by the reading of an essay which is so brief, lucid, and terse that we lay it before our readers without material alteration:—

"The high rate of wages in the country, requires the successful farmer to make the most of labor-saving implements, the cheapness of which is of the first importance to agriculture—because,

1. The profits of the farm are not large.
2. Farms here are usually of small area, and are consequently worked upon a limited scale.
3. Most tools are laid aside each year for long periods, and when brought again into use are seldom worked for more than a few hours at a time.
4. Few farmers have the best facilities for storing farm implements and machinery, which rust and decay rapidly destroy.
5. The wear and tear of farm implements is necessarily great, since agricultural ways are not railroad smooth and free from obstruction.
6. Repairs are costly, and money thus invested is usually soon represented by rubbish.

How much then would cheap tools do for the farmer? The amateur hesitates to purchase a full set of implements. They are efficient *but too costly*. What then can the *average* farmer do? Tools of the most approved construction can, and will at no distant day, be brought within his means. This may be done *now*. We must establish what will be called here, for convenience, a farmer's exchange; a depot in which shall be found every implement useful in agriculture. To this exchange the farmer can go and obtain (by the payment of a small sum proportioned to the time he is to use it, and the cost and durability of the implement) any tool in the building. These implements and machines will be sent to the exchange by their owners to be stored when not in use, kept in good condition, and will be loaned to anyone responsible for their safe keeping, and repair when damaged. The tools can be taken from the exchange by their owner, free of charge. Any tool or machine sent to this exchange will be valued by a committee of superintendence, and a rate of charge established for its use. The institution will be responsible to the owners for any damage the tools may sustain—loss by fire, and ordinary wear and tear only excepted, for which latter the owners must be well paid by the charge