

## Seasonable Hints.

The present fall thus far has been unprecedentedly auspicious for farmers, and it may not be out of place in reviewing the many advantages it has afforded them in every way, to undergo a process of self-examination, and find out how far and in what direction these advantages have been practically utilized. Perhaps the ordeal can be conducted with greater facility by suggesting a few of the many things that ought to be accomplished, and then asking the question—"Have I attended to this?"

First then as to Manure, which is *par excellence* the farmer's floating capital, and without a proper accumulation and disbursement of which his trade would be comparatively gone. Manure-making should be prosecuted with vigor. So long as the weather is at all favorable, and time at all permits, every spare hour should be occupied in collecting muck, pond-mud, sods, leaves, ditch-scrappings, and, in short, all kinds of organic deposits, to be mixed with soil, thrown in the hog pen, under cattle, or on the regular manure heap. And every particle already laid up should be studiously guarded against the actions of sun and rain for the effects of both are the same. The one stimulates chemical agencies, and a loss of strength is sustained through the quantity and quality of the gases given off; the other weakens the heap by leaching.

Next, as to sheds. How are your sheds arranged for sheep and other young stock? Each of these should be at least from twenty to twenty-four feet wide, erected on low posts and opening into a yard on the sunny side, protected from sharp winds by other buildings, or a high fence. The beasts would thus have an opportunity of taking fresh air and enjoying themselves both in it and the sunning it, and could likewise seek shelter at pleasure.

Cellars under houses, and all permanently constructed out-door pits for root-storage, should be thoroughly cleansed, and their interiors, especially that of the former, well whitewashed to purify them from any foul or noxious gases that may have accumulated from former deposits, and render them more fitting for the reception and proper preservation of the new crop. There is much greater loss from the neglect of such precautions as these than most farmers have any idea of. Too often the pits or cellars are blamed when they are not to blame at all. It is their condition, their filthiness that causes the mischief. By way of experiment, or as an illustration of this, let any one place, say a can of preserved plums or raspberries, in each of two cellars similar in every respect, but let the one be properly purified as above, and the other remain without any attempt at its cleansing—and see which can will preserve longest.

Next, as to out-buildings in general. Now is the time to make upon them any repairs they may need. Are shingles loose, or off altogether? Nail them fast. Are hinges broken, door-latches useless, weather-boards flapping with the wind, gates damaged, &c., &c.? You will not have a better opportunity to repair and render them all secure than during the fine fall. Put it off until winter is upon you, and what with cattle all housed and requiring attendance, your time will be too much occupied to devote it to these minor matters.

Before we close this article there is a hint or two which might prove serviceable in reference to the winter-feeding and care of cattle. See that your buildings are not too close, but thoroughly ventilated. The food too should be served out daily four or five times. "An awful work, you say?" Well undoubtedly it is, but it pays. By feeding as often as this and little at a time, every portion of the food is consumed and none wasted. Consequently it will go much farther and do much better service than if you were to feed but twice or thrice with gorges each time. See also that the food is properly varied. Animals, like human beings, have their likes and dislikes. Of

course there are certain kinds of food they like much better than others. But no matter how well any kind is relished, a beast becomes surfeited with it if fed constantly; and just as soon as the surfeit arises the appetite is impaired, and the nourishment or fattening process is checked. Food in such a case is a loss. Vary the feed then and follow the plan stated. Give often, but little at a time, and change frequently, and you may rely on a speedily fattened animal. For horses and neat stock place lumps of rock salt in their mangers, which they can lick to their heart's content as the system demands it. Clean your stock occasionally, we mean their skins. You need not smile. This course promotes health and facilitates fattening. Experience has proved it, and the force of proof has been such that the most prominent cattle breeders and feeders in England have now adopted the process. In feeding hogs, you will save considerably by sprinkling a mixture of lime and ashes occasionally over the pen floor, for even pigs, much as they love to wallow in their own mire and inhale their own stench, will improve rapidly under this treatment.

## More "Dodging."

We recently took occasion to lay before our readers some of the dodges practised by unscrupulous exhibitors of cattle in the English show ring. It would appear however that stock men are not the only transgressors in this respect. In reading our foreign exchanges we have often been struck with the accounts given of the immense size and faultless proportions of the "specimen roots" exhibited at some of the leading fairs, and we now learn that the manner in which these "evidences of what may be done by skillful farming, not the results of *nurture*," are cultivated, is somewhat as follows: (1) Holes dug in the earth are filled with compost; the plants, raised in flower-pots, are placed in them at a distance of a yard apart; these pots receive great attention throughout the summer; the result is "magnificent agricultural" (?) roots. (2) A few perches of suitable land are selected (very often newly-broken-up old pasture); this plot of ground receives nursery treatment, and the plants are allowed a space not compatible on a large scale even in farming of the highest order—roots thus cultivated are exhibited as specimens of what? (3) A strip in a field is chosen, a few ridges receive an increased quantity of farm-yard manure, extra artificial is used, and the plants on these selected ridges are "set out" at a much greater distance than the rest of the field; liquid manure is sometimes supplied to them during the period of growth, and roots "for competition" are taken from these pampered specimens of what? (4) Roots culled from the root-quarters of two or three farms and shown by one exhibitor as specimens of what? "By these modes of procedure," says the *Oxford Journal (Eng.)*, from which our information is chiefly derived, "the farmer who draws his roots for exhibition from a business-like area finds himself outdone; deceptions are practised upon the public, those who have a 'peep behind the scenes' are disgusted; and those who receive prizes for roots so cultivated and shown as specimens of agricultural roots, obtain those prizes under false pretences."

## The Russian Mennonites in Manitoba.

Letter from Jacob Y. Shantz.

The following letter from Mr. Jacob Y. Shantz, of Berlin, addressed to Mr. Samuel Reesor, of Markham, appeared in the *Economist* of that place. It will doubtless be read with interest:

RED RIVER, Oct. 29, 1874.—As I am now on my way home (Berlin, Ont.), and have been amongst the Russian brethren, I will tell you a little of their circumstances and how they managed to get up warm houses so soon. On the part of the reserve on which they are located, there is considerable wooded land, consisting of small tamaracks and poplars, so that

most of them build houses of timber and long grass, which is plentiful there. The poorer classes took long poles and put them up in a roof like way and covered with grass, tied to the poles crosswise on the pole or rafters, which makes a good roof down to the ground. They then took small logs and built up under that roof about seven feet high and plastered inside and outside with clay. Those who cannot afford boards, lay poles on the post for e. things, then lay on a little hay and plaster on the top of that with clay mortar. The floor is also made of clay mortar, with sand on the top of the clay, which mixes and makes it almost like sandstone. Some of the wealthier ones built up houses square with logs, but all the roofs and most of the gable ends are made with grass. Those living on the west side of the Red River, have no timber for building, they built with boards and scantling; some have nice little frame houses boarded inside and outside, with layers of thick paper between, which are not yet finished. Thus they have built in various ways according to their means and opportunities. What astonishes me is, that they all have warm rooms, finished or nearly so, also warm stables similarly built for the cattle, and such large hay stacks. Even some that have no cattle yet have hay, as they have hopes of getting them. Some were only three and others four weeks on their places, as some remained three weeks in the sheds, before they selected a place. Their families remain in the sheds all winter. They have built up outside with sod, and boarded inside and made a hay roof over the top of the other, so that they have perfectly warm rooms. It seems sad to meet some of them in such simple houses, without a floor, table, or bedstead, eating dry bread and drinking coffee or tea—i. e. many meals—most of them have potatoes and milk, and some of them pork, so that we have good meals sometimes, but often nothing but bread and coffee; but on the other side, it is cheering when they say, "Oh, we are so satisfied, here we have good land, such nice lumber and grass to build with, and are so healthy that we can all work;" others would say, "we eat so much, the appetite is so good, it costs so much." Few complain; nearly all are well pleased with the country and climate so far. The weather has been very nice during the past five weeks, there was no rain, and the roads are dry and fine as can be. We were with the settlements on both sides of the river, and do not believe the horses shoes got wet during the whole time. Yesterday afternoon it snowed a little on the Red River, about 150 miles from Winnipeg. The snow, as we are coming down, is one and a half inches on the deck of the boat this morning, but not so cold as yesterday, and the snow is nearly melting. We are near Grand Forks now. Yours truly,

JACOB Y. SHANTZ.

## A Very Useful Table.

The following table, computed from actual experience, will be found very useful in calculating the weight of loads, &c.—or the weight of any of the articles mentioned, in bulk. It shows the weight per cubic foot. All that is necessary, therefore, is to measure the bulk; ascertain the number of cubic feet in it; multiply this by the weight per foot, and divide by 2,000, when you have the weight in tons.

SUBSTANCE.	WEIGHT PER CUBIC FOOT.
Cast Iron.....	450 lbs.
Water.....	62 1/2 "
White pine, seasoned, about.....	25 "
White oak.....	50 "
Loose earth.....	95 "
Common soil, compact.....	125 "
Clay, about.....	135 "
Clay, with stones.....	160 "
Brick.....	125 "

The following shows the bulk of a ton of different substances:—

Sand.....	28 cubic feet to the ton.
Earth, compact.....	15 " or 32 ft. when loose.
Clay.....	17 " "
Half rotted manure, solid.....	36 " If coarse, about 50.
Timothy hay, moderately pressed.....	500 "
Clover, about.....	750 "

All that is necessary, therefore, in order to ascertain the quantity you have on hand in tons is to take the measurements as above, and if hay, divide by 500 or 750 as the case may be; if manure, by 36, &c., &c.

PLEURO IN FIFE.—At a meeting of Fife-shire Local Authority held recently, it was reported that pleuro-pneumonia had broken out at six different farms in five parishes.