

Directions for Farm Management.

The comfort and prosperity of farm establishments will be greatly promoted by enforcing a regular routine of work, in which each hired servant have their assigned places by strict attention to hours of labour, by permitting no idlers of any description to loiter about the farm, to divert the attention of those employed from their work—and by the performance of every operation in the proper season. There is much coarse work to be done on most farms in British America, but this is not sufficient reason that any of this work should be done carelessly or in a slovenly manner, either at the fences, in the fields, in the farm-yards, or farm-buildings. We know from experience, that these regulations can only be enforced, by the strictest personal attention of the farmer, to see that those employed by him perform their duty properly. It would also be expedient that the farmer should habituate himself to keep regular accounts of all his affairs, the expenses and produce of his crops &c., &c. By this means the farmer will always be aware of the state of his affairs, and will be able at any time to satisfy himself whether any particular branch of his industry is profitable or the reverse, and whether his affairs and circumstances are improving or otherwise. With respect to the arrangement and management of a farm we beg to submit the following excellent rules from Sir John Sinclair's Code of Agriculture:—

1. The farmer ought to rise early, and see that others do so. In the winter season, breakfast should be taken by candle light, for by this means an hour is gained, which many farmers indolently lose, though six hours so lost are nearly equal to the working part of a winter day. This is a material object, where a number of servants are employed. It is also particularly necessary for farmers to insist on the punctual performance of their orders.

2. The whole farm should be regularly inspected, and not only every field examined, but every beast seen at the least once a day, either by the farmer or by some sufficiently intelligent servant.

3. In considerable farms, it is of the utmost consequence to have servants specially appropriated for each of the most important departments of labour; for there is often a great loss of time where persons are frequently changing their employments. Besides when the division of labour is introduced, work is executed, not only more expeditiously, but also much better, in consequence of the same hands being constantly employed in some particular department.—For that purpose, the ploughmen ought never to be employed in manual labour, but regularly kept at work with their horses, when a rather will admit of it.

4. To arrange the operation of ploughing, according to the soils cultivated, is an object of essential importance. On many farms there are fields which are soon rendered unfit for ploughing, either by much rain, or by severe drought. In such cases the prudent farmer, before the wet season commences, should plough such land as is in the greatest danger of being injured by too much wet; and before the dry period of the year sets in, he should till such land as is in the great-

est danger of being rendered unfit for ploughing by too much drought. On farms where these rules are attended to, there is almost always some land in a proper condition to be ploughed; and there is seldom, any necessity, either for delaying the work, or for performing it improperly.

5. Every means should be thought of to diminish labour, or to increase its power.—For instance by proper management, five horses may perform as much labour as six, according to the usual mode of employing them. When driving dung from the farm-yard, three carts may be used, one always filling in the yard—one going to the field, and a third returning. By extending the same management to other farm operations, a considerable saving of labour may be effected.

6. Every farmer should have a book for inserting all those useful hints which are so frequently occurring in conversation, in books, or in the practical management of a farm. Loose pieces of paper are apt to be mislaid or lost."

The above rules might be very beneficially adopted in British America. Very great advantage would be gained by strict attention to have each particular work done in the proper season, so as not to interfere with other work. Without observing this rule in this country, where the seasons are so short, the farmer cannot have all his work done in proper time, or in the best manner. Every operation will be hurried, and badly executed.

Ploughing.

The object of ploughing is to delve and turn over the soil in ridges, to destroy the surface vegetation, by burying it under ground, where it rots, and forms a kind of manure; to bury the dung spread on the land; to form furrows for different purposes; and generally speaking, to break up the hard mass of land, and prepare it for the action of the harrow and other instruments. To constitute good ploughing, there are certain requisites necessary, namely—a skilful ploughman, a steady team of horses or oxen, and a properly constructed implement.—Together with all this, the land must be nearly level, clear of all obstructions, and drained sufficiently. Where this is not the case, good, and neat work, cannot be executed.

Mr. Fynlayson in his Treatise on the Plough, gives the following description of an experienced ploughman:—

"Nothing can be more beautiful commodiously laid off, and neatly ploughed.—There is even none of man's handy-works that can please the eye more, and at the same time show more of its unrulid accuracy, than a lawn which presents ridges of the same width, with furrow-slices running in straight equi-distant lines; and that, too, with such minute exactness, as scarcely to be equalled by the gardener.

It is not the man who makes the greatest to do with the horses who opens his ridges best, but more commonly he who goes steadily and directly forward himself, and keeps such a command by the reins, as to prevent their deviating far from the right path, yet without laying too much stress on their precision, or checking them suddenly

from one side to the other; and he who can take a straight furrow at first, and continue so to the last, even on a ridge of fifteen feet, will finish with one, two, or three bouts less, than one who is all along undoing and over-doing, and that too, independently of the case to himself and his team, and the preference of the work in every respect.

If broad-cast ridges are of unequal breadth, bent, or zig-zag, the work cannot be uniform, and in the turnings much time is lost, and harm done to the land which is ploughed; and with crooked drills there is a loss of ground, an unequal distribution of manure, if such has been applied, and hoeings cannot be so effectually done where they are far distant, or done at all, without saddening the mould, and injuring the crop, where they are narrower.

In fine, the grand criterion of ease and proficiency is, that of the ploughman's walking between the stilts, and in the furrow, with a free step, and erect body—for thus he is more convenient for himself, has the horses and the plough better at command, and increases not the friction by his weight, for thus he cannot go, excepting the horses and the plough are properly adjusted, and proceeding with the least possible obstruction, and thus, too, he is more graceful to look on, than when wriggling with one foot foremost or moving as if part of his muscles were under the domination of violent spasmodic contraction.

It would perhaps be impossible to give anything like a system of rule, for the most proper and convenient make, size, weight, turn, &c., of a plough for all the varieties of soil, or of diversity to be met with even in the same ridge; neither shall I make the attempt, but a few rules may be laid down, and observed as axioms in all ordinary circumstances, viz:

1. The horses should be yoked as near to the plough as possible, without too much confining or preventing them from taking a free step.

2. When at work they should be kept going on at a good pace.

3. The chains or traces should, from where they are suspended over the backs of the horses, point in a direction leading through the muzzle, to the centre of the cutting surface of the coulter and shear.

4. The implement, when taking the form of the dimensions required, should stand upright, and glide onward in the line of progression, without swerving in any particular way.

5. The ploughman should walk with his body upright, and without using his force to one point, or showing appearance of inclination.

The unteamed and swiftest, or most forward horse, should be put in the furrow, and only bound back to the right or off trace of the land-horse, at or near where the back band joins it, at such length, when stretched at the width required, as to prevent his end of the beam, or double trase, from being before the other. And further, the heads of the two should be connected together by a small rope or chain, at the distance wanted, giving the furrow-horse power over the other; that is to say, if tender-mouthed, it must be fixed well upon his head, and in the rings of the bit or curb of the other, so that he may have the power of the head over that of the mouth of the land-horse."

Ploughing is a most important operation, and on its being well executed, depends, in a great measure, the goodness of the farmers' crops. Indeed it is impossible any good system of farming can be carried on unless the land is constantly well and carefully ploughed.