

holes through them, one for the wire, and about the same size, and two holes five-eighths or three-fourths of an inch; then two steel levers eighteen inches long, tapered at one end to fit the last named holes; let the rollers come against the end post (which must be well braced with a heavy prop running from the top of it to the bottom of the next post), the wire just through them; then with the levers applied you can draw so tight as to take any little kink or crook out. If the ground is level and the fence straight, one set of rollers is sufficient for three hundred yards. The wire should be tightened once in a while in hot weather, but slackened in extremely cold weather. No. 6 wire runs about nine feet to the pound, and here costs six cents per pound.

For pigs, hogs or sheep, put more wires, say seven or eight; this is the number some of my neighbours use, but I think it is a waste of time and money. One of my neighbours has a wire fence along the turnpike that has been standing seventeen years; posts sixteen feet apart, and No. 7 wire, which is lighter, and yet it is available. The posts I use are about four by five inches at bottom, tapered up to about two and a half by three and a half at the top. I think there is no neater fence on the farm.—*Cor. Country Gentleman.*

Sugar Making.

To the Editor.

Sir,—In these days of invention to save labour, and farmers' help growing dearer every year, most of the sugar makers in this part of the country have of late years done away with the old-fashioned kettles and back logs, in place of which we generally find a comfortable sugar house, arch, heaters, pans, dry wood, and all the paraphernalia of advanced times, doing the work cheaper, quicker, and better.

In connection with this process, I have for a number of years adopted a plan which, in gathering sap, saves labour and time, and at the same time ensures the emptying of every bucket, even by a "greenhorn" sugar maker, and only requires these things to show at once its simplicity and efficiency.

Make two holes in the bucket to hang by, as nearly opposite as possible, paint a black stripe an inch or two in width, extending about half way round the bucket, so that the centre of the stripe will be about underneath one of the holes. In this way, when the bucket is hung, the stripe must be against the tree or directly from it. When you tap, hang all the buckets with the same side out, turning the buckets every time you gather.

Many steps are often lost in making sure that every bucket has been emptied, and very often some are missed, causing sour sap, buckets to run over, &c., which is obviated by this method, as a missed bucket can be detected as far off as the stripe can be seen.

An article in your very valuable paper on "Mode of making sugar in Ontario," would be very acceptable.

READER.

Greenholmsville, Quebec.

Early Spring Seeding

All experience goes to prove that early spring seeding is—nine times out of ten—the best. Our seasons are very short, even when the utmost advantage is taken by sowing in good time. We do not advocate putting seed into the ground until the land is in good order to receive it; nor do we advise getting on the land before it is fit to bear the team; but we do advocate driving hard for an early spring seeding.

To be able to contend efficiently with such hard work the teams must be in good heart and grain fed. It will not answer our purpose to begin to feed just as you begin to work them very hard. The team must have time to gather flesh and strength before the excessive hard work begins. One bushel of grain so fed before work begins will do more towards making up a team than two bushels will afterwards.

Another great cause of delay often occurs from not having procured seed beforehand, and consequently having to run about to hunt it up afterwards. All seed required should be procured before work in earnest sets in. "No doubt this precept is good," some one may say, "but seed costs money, and cash must be paid for it, and when capital is not abundant, this looking ahead is rather difficult work." All this may be true, but that does not diminish the necessity of procuring seed before spring work. Where this is not done, very great loss must arise; and, moreover, the repeated occurrence of this delay and consequent loss may account for that scarcity of capital complained of. Let us just reckon the loss and delay that probably will arise from having to hunt for seed just when it is wanted to be sown. It is perfectly notorious that the loss of one or two days may cause the loss of four or five days of a season; or, in other words, having to run after seed just when wanted, may lose the best time for sowing, and sure to lose the time required to go for it. Then, most probably, in the hurry you are obliged to be content with seed of an inferior quality. Now the time thus lost is certainly two or three days, which at \$3 a day team and man, are say \$8. The comparatively inferior quality of seed will make up, on a farm of 100 acres, at least fifty cents an acre at harvest in quantity, or say \$25. We may add another 25c. per acre for deteriorated quality of the sample, which is little enough to allow. Then the chance of bad weather in harvest by one week's delay in spring may, and very often does, throw the crop two weeks behind, bringing it into September, when the probability of bad weather is greatly increased. We will put down the loss on this score at the low figure of \$12 50; and we now find, reckoning at this very low average, that we have \$8 for loss of time, \$25 for probable loss in sample over the whole farm, \$25 for probable loss in quantity, \$12 50 for loss from harvesting in bad season instead of good, and \$10 for probable loss in quality of fodder—or a total of \$80 50 almost certain loss from not being provided with seed in good time. This sum amounts perhaps to nearly the value of the seed sown, and here is an excellent illustration of the probable reason why capital is deficient wherewith to purchase seed at the right time. Similar losses in other departments will fully account for capital being deficient throughout the whole range of the business.

The remedy is foresight and care. A constant leak of this kind pervading any business, will keep it down in spite of all exertions to prevent it.

The estimate of loss we have set down does not indeed at all adequately exhibit the amount of loss that in a hundred ways must arise from being behind-hand with work on the farm. We would again impress on the farmer the importance of looking well ahead and being prepared for the season in advance. His motto should be that of the soldier—"Ready, Aye Ready."

Muck and its Uses.

Every one knows what muck is, and the expression, "wet as muck," is as common as the article itself. Its general material is vegetable matter, which has been accumulating for wages in wet lands, where, unless in very dry seasons, it is deluged in water. In some localities we have seen it in nearly a decomposed state, and so free from vegetable fibre that an exposure to the atmosphere for a short time would reduce it to a powder. In other cases the vegetable fibre remains in so good preservation, owing to the constant moisture it retains, that time and the action of strong solvents like frost, or agents applied for its amelioration, become necessary to fit it for economical uses in husbandry.

Muck, in its natural state, is highly charged with acids. This is the natural result of its constantly lying in cold, stagnant water. Until this acid is disengaged, it is of but little use for agricultural purposes—alkali becomes necessary to effect the object; so we find exposure to the atmosphere improves it, but too slowly to meet the ready wants of the farmer. Mixing ashes or lime more readily accomplishes the object, and they are either of them, whether used in connection with muck or otherwise, very beneficial to the soil. Mixed with barn-yard manure, it is invaluable for top-dressing, the alkaline qualities of the manure setting forth the acid of the muck and aiding the atmosphere in decomposing the vegetable matter. Coal ashes, immense quantities of which are now thrown away, although they possess but a small amount of alkali, may be thrown in the muck heap to great advantage as a disintegrating agent. Soapsuds, where they cannot be made to apply to plants directly, are excellent for the muck bed.

Its value as a manure is very conclusive when applied as a top-dressing, from its speedy action and long continuance. For tree food there is nothing better. It possesses the two-fold properties of keeping the soil open and loose for the young roots, and furnishes just the food a young tree needs. In the garden, for all kinds of vegetables, we have never seen its equal. Radishes grow freely, clear and tender; when vines such as cucumbers and melons are planted on it, they succeed admirably. In short, it is the manure for all crops. What a pity that, with its abundance, so much of it is allowed to waste away, breeding disease in our swamps! —*Cor. Country Gentleman.*