

There is one universal practice in farming here that to an Ohio farmer seems entirely uncalled for. I refer to plowing in narrow lands. This is everywhere practiced, even where the land is high and well-drained. To see dry, rolling, well-drained ground plowed in lands of eight, ten or twelve feet in width, looks like a mistake. It is not a natural method of preparing a seed-bed. Although the furrows are not deep, very little grows therein, and the inconvenience of cultivation and harvesting the crop is considerably increased. The custom seems to be a remnant of the old English practice, which a wet soil and moist climate rendered necessary. One can hardly account for its persistent practice where these conditions are not found. It is self-evident that a soil so plowed will not stand drouth as well as one where the surface is more nearly level, and if the land is even slightly rolling the liability of the soil to wash is greatly increased. Old ways and old methods, simply because they are old, are not always the best ways and methods in farming.

For The CANADIAN LIVE STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL:

Manitoba Matters.

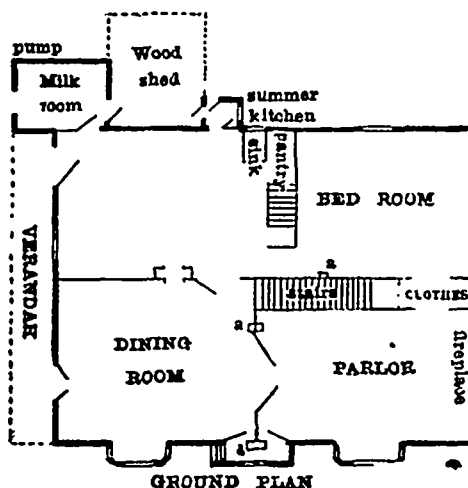
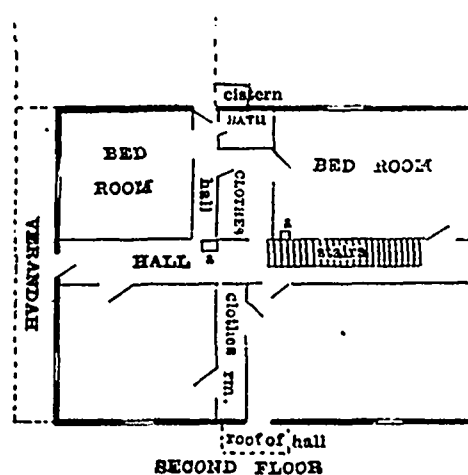
THE SEASON AND ITS SHOWS.
(From Our Own Correspondent.)

This season has taken a new departure. In some parts, with a subsoil that has not been once soaked for four or five years, it began to rain about the middle of June, and in a month six inches of rain had fallen. This was the case at Indian Head, for example, and many parts of Manitou. But right up the centre from Manitoba to Lake Manitoba it scarcely rained till the second week in July, and in consequence much of the crop was light. In the middle of August we had streaks of frost all over, and on the 8th of September a storm of thunder, wind, and rain rarely equalled. Then more nice weather broken by rain, followed by such fine weather for a spell that everyone with help enough got all their grain stacked, and some threshed. Then in the middle of October a heavy fall of wet snow, enough to fill all the sloughs and replenish the springs and soak the earth as has not been the case since 1884. But we have a huge task before us still, and threshing enough to last until long past the new year, with ordinary good weather. If broken weather continues as it is at the date of this writing (October 15th), then threshing must to a considerable extent be deferred until spring. The scarcity of harvest labor has made wages high, and I hear, ordinary hands on the threshing gangs speak of \$35 a month with board as an ordinary figure. But when the land and part of the stacks are thoroughly soaked as they are just now, the workmen get discouraged and leave as the cold weather gets more confirmed. There is a strong likelihood of much grain having to stand over till March for threshing. We had a few car loads of harvest hands from Ontario, but what are they alongside the great areas of wheat and oats, that a man and a boy can sow, and, by working extra horses, cut with a binder?

The yield was cut down in many places by hot winds that devoured one-third of the promised yield on the Dakota side, and shrunk it a good deal here. Nearly all of it is blacked, and we may sum up by saying that we have the largest area, the largest number of bushels, and the lowest average grade yet seen here. There is money in it to a great many, a living to more, and to others, where hail struck, sad discouragement. I saw one man who was offered 85 cents for his whole wheat crop. He is all right. Oats are a good crop, sometimes over 80 bushels an acre. For pasture, garden and field green crops, the reports everywhere are the same, and the choice exhibits at every show, big and little, confirm the report. Let me mention some of our crack exhibits, a good many of which I have handled. I give the weights dressed for competition. Cauliflowers 10 to 15 lbs. Think of a cauliflower 40 inches round, and 23 inches over the crown, in good form; such a one was shown at Portage la Prairie the other day. Winingstadt cabbage, tender and perfect, 17 lbs.; turnips up to 27 lbs.; potatoes by the bushel up to 2 lbs., and we propose to put down at an eastern banquet to the Institute men, potatoes, not one weighing less than 2½ lbs. Onions 22 oz., and citrons up to 17 lbs.

By the way, a fruit merchant shipped from the east the other day in a car of apples for Portage la Prairie, 2 casks of citrons, as a pleasant surprise. They were not worth the cost of hauling up.

Everybody was so busy in good weather that not half the men could get to the shows, and some of the best, such as Portage and Neepawa, have been drowned out with rain and slush and have been dead failures. Virden had a good day, and they had more than half a dozen Shorthorn exhibitors, with two of the best aged bulls in Manitoba, all Scotch Shorthorns of course. There were over 30 mares with their foals inside the ring for the general purpose class, and the same feature comes up more or less at every show. We hope in a few years to raise all the horse-flesh we need, and the quality of the young things shows the benefit of a first-class sire. In fact good horses are too much run upon to give them a fair chance of permanent usefulness, and of turning out of the best class of colts.



A COMFORTABLE COUNTRY HOME.

See article "Comfort in Country Homes."

Besides our own fairs, I have made a run through the State fairs of Iowa and Minnesota. The French sorts of horses are in great favor apparently down there, judging from the efforts of the dealers in that direction, and they certainly do bring in some French sires of very choice quality. But the Clydes, though not numerous, are the only draughts they favor with a separate classification, and the best they show come in through Canada, such as McClaskie, the first prize at last year's Toronto show. The Scotch Shorthorns are equal favorites with Scotch horses. Cupbearer at the top of the list all along, though he has since had to lower his colors at Peoria to a younger and even better Cruikshank bull. Iowa is a great beef-growing state, and three out of four prizes for herds went to Shorthorns. All these prizes went out of the state to professional showmen, who make the circuit of the fairs there with specially prepared herds. Is this the best way to encourage good breeding and feeding in a state or province? Minnesota, with some wide open competitions, also offers prizes for the best herds owned within the state, which to me, seems more

beneficial than the Iowa plan. Let me say here that every one of these fairs would become bankrupt but for the attractions offered by the race track. The dealers and the fast horses are the mainstay of every American fair. Fruit men are in the North-Western states the most progressive and enthusiastic. Next, perhaps, the dairy men, the actual farmers at the tail of the procession. Fancy, five bushels of wheat set down to compete for all the prize money offered by Minnesota, the greatest wheat-growing state of the Union. Looking to the whole case, I think we Manitobians have good reason to pride ourselves both for the attractions we have out of our fairs, and the exhibits we can make, though the hall may be only a log school-house or a tent hired for the day. I am sometimes, perhaps, too candid when telling what I believe to be the truth about the unpleasant side of life here, and therefore you may believe me when I say that the best farmers as a rule to be found in these states are, many of them, Canadians, and that the Canadian North-West, with its mixture of half a dozen nationalities, will not be lost for want of good men.

For The CANADIAN LIVE STOCK AND FARM JOURNAL:

Comfort in Country Homes.

By MISS MARY E. MILLAR.

Before building a house, there are many things to be considered besides the where-with-all; and while the men have all their thoughts employed in the collecting of materials, the women have time to think out plans regarding the style of house and the furnishing of it. Therefore, "steep your plans one year with an equal amount of sisterly advice, and then strain all through a pencil and paper sieve, called 'calculation,' to regulate size and quality."

I know one well-to-do farmer who built a beautiful house in a miserable, low, dull place, when just across the road on the same farm was as fine a building site as any person could wish. Of course when the house went there the barns must follow—all in a mud-hole—just for want of thought. He never saw his mistake until his wife pointed it out to him 30 years later; she saw it all the while, but had no voice or vote in the matter.

In selecting a building site, choose the best spot on your best road, not too much isolated from neighbors; if possible, facing the south on a rise of ground, say about a yard from the road, to allow for a nice lawn in front. This latter will add 10 per cent. to the value of the homestead, and besides, appearances add more to our comfort than we often give them credit for. As an instance, why does Farmer Thrifty whistle a tune as he drives his team up the neat, shady lane, past the well-kept garden and yards, to the barn, after a hard day's work, while his neighbor, Peter Tumbledown, comes sweltering home through the heat with a frown on his face, and instead of a song, a vain wish that he had as fine a place as his neighbor?

See that the soil is such as to allow having a good garden and orchard near the house; that the possible water supply is excellent; that the barns can be placed near by, and yet be convenient for the storing of crops from all over the farm, and then build them on that side of the house where they will be most easily protected from fire, and be least offensive.

The plan of a house requires as much thought as the site and is often inconvenient for the same reason—want of knowledge of a better way. Most people favor the idea of having a small house with a wing, but a plain old-fashioned house can be made pretty and not too barn-like in appearance, by the addition of modern-shaped projecting windows, porch, and a double verandah.

An eight-roomed house would satisfy most house-keepers, but whatever else, be sure it is conveniently arranged, about the kitchen especially. Never, never build a farm house without putting in a good-sized cistern upstairs. It will prove your greatest comfort. In times past we have considered ourselves fortunate in having a good cellar cistern with a pump which half the time requires priming; but a cistern upstairs, with hot and cold water on two flats, and a bathroom! This reminds us of the millenium. These, with the proper arrangement of good and well-laid drain pipes, will give us almost all the advantages of city water works.