

# THE CANADA FARMER.

VOL. XII.—No. 10.  
PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

TORONTO, CANADA, OCTOBER 15, 1875.

{ \$1.00 Per Annum.  
{ SINGLE COPIES TEN CENTS.

## The Field.

### Leaves from Farming Experience.—No. 1.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER:—I have had an experience of forty-three years farming in Canada, raising grain, feeding cattle, making cheese and butter, and I have taken notes of everything as it was done, for the use of my grand children. I improved the land from the woods, and drained it. I began with clearing 15 acres the first year, now there are about 180 acres arable, mostly drained, stumps and stumps out, and about 100 not arable. Every thing was carefully attended, food measured or weighed, milk weighed twice daily, cheese weighed, and all marked for years in a book. A number of letters will be required to explain my method. My remarks will be taken as addressed from a grandfather to a grandson about whose welfare he is anxious.

#### Errors in Choosing Employment.

First, I will try to point out some errors that young men are apt to fall into in choosing employment, to gain their bread, or to be able to live. Many choose to be salesmen in a store, because it is cleanly, and appears an easy life; and, if a little better educated, he turns schoolmaster. Those employments are poorly paid and also laborious. Young men seldom stay long in one place, being subject to the whim and caprice of their employers. Few salesmen ever have a store of their own, and very few are able to pay their debts. It is a life of great anxiety and care. There is not work for one-fourth of them. A good mechanic can get work in any civilized country and be as well respected as any man. Clergymen, doctors and lawyers, if first-class, will succeed in getting wealth and honor, but the work is hard, requiring many years of training. But there are only few first-class men of any profession, and third or fourth-class men are seldom in a comfortable state.

#### Managing Help

There are but few men so blessed by providence as to be able to turn themselves to any occupation that comes in their way, with success. I know of no business that needs such varied information as that of the farmer. He will do but little if he does not hire help. You will find 100 per cent of difference in the way you go about it, or between saying to your men, "go and do it," and "come with me and do it." You must remain and see it done. It is vain to expect any one will do as well in the absence of his employer as in his presence. I have hired many men, some very good, but commonly they have little skill, and will try your patience sorely. You need to know how to do everything yourself, and you should know what a day's work is.

#### Ploughing.

When ploughing, the furrow is commonly six inches deep and nine inches wide. That is sometimes called the standard furrow. When well done, the two faces measure equal, or six inches each. When a field is ploughed with that size of furrow, the horses will travel eleven miles ploughing an acre. I expected that quantity ploughed daily. Some get one and a quarter acres done. Others scarcely half an acre daily. Some have the horses tied back that they cannot go ahead. The custom in Scotland was to have a small line fastened to the outside of each bridle, which the ploughman guided the horses by. Another line tied the bridles together between the horses, keeping their heads about three feet apart. Some men used a small rod of wood which kept the horses' heads apart, and right before them. It is cruel to tie horses' heads back. I have seen them so cramped that their mouths were drawn back near the breast. No farmer should allow it. The horses are kept fretful, they do

little work and do not thrive, and their owners do not thrive either.

#### Some Rich, some Poor.

Some farmers have plenty; others are in trouble a few years, then have to hire out, weary, broken-hearted men, complaining of bad luck. Old age and poverty are a sad pair, and when joined with sickness are to be avoided by every man.

When you get a dollar, or any implement of industry, make it the means of getting more not for its own sake, but for the privilege of supplying your own wants, and assisting the needy. When you get an animal of your own, see that you provide a proper lodging for it, free of bad smell, nearly frost proof, such as you would feel no hardship to sleep in yourself. The smell of ammonia in stables is poisonous, and is the cause of many diseases. When many cattle die with a man, he may be certain something is wrong about his management. With proper attention to feed, protection and training, the value of stock of all kinds might be doubled in Canada, as I hope to show you.

JOHN ROBERTSON

#### Bell's Corners, Ont.

#### Log-Drains.

As a rule, tile drains are the cheapest everywhere that tiles can be obtained, and we by no means recommend the use of log drains where stone can be got. But in parts where the timber is of little value, tiles very dear, and stone not handy, good serviceable drains may be constructed with logs, as depicted in the engravings, which we copy from the *American Agriculturist*. The ditches are dried in the usual manner, and the logs are placed in the bottom in such a way as to leave a water channel between them. In fig. 2 the bottom log is split, and each half is laid closely against the side of the ditch, so that the current can not wear it down, and cause the earth to fall in. The side logs are kept in place by the pressure of the top log.

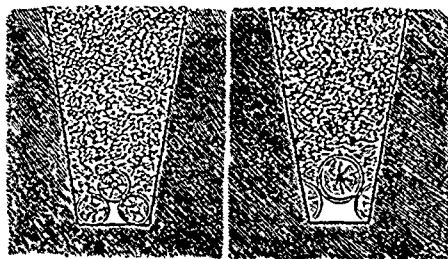


Fig. 1.—Drain of Whole. Fig. 2.—Of Split Logs.

Brush is laid upon the logs and trodden down, and earth is thrown upon it, until the ditch is full. Such drains may be expected to last several years, after which it will pay to make more permanent ones.

#### The Value of Muck.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER:—I beg to enquire of you as to the value of muck as a fertilizer. I have probably 15,000 loads, the accumulations of many years in a large mill-pond, and I have taken the liberty of sending a small quantity with the request that you will kindly give me your opinion of it. I have also nearly a thousand loads of leached ashes, and I am under the impression that I have somewhere read that the two mixed in certain proportions make a valuable manure. A reply, in the next CANADA FARMER number, if possible, stating what crops and soils (mine is a clay-loam) it is best adapted to, &c., will greatly oblige, as I shall get out a large quantity this fall if your answer is favorable.

Hayward's Falls, Ont.

O. C. HAYWARD.

To answer shortly—a few deposits of muck are valuable, many deposits are good for a little, many more good for nothing.

The value of muck depends entirely on the composition of it, and on the composition of the land to which it is

applied. A great deal of muck is composed of the decay for ages of low forms of vegetation, as mosses and ferns, that possessed very few fertilizing elements in the first place, and have lost what little they had. Much land too, already has enough vegetable matter in it, while some other land has nearly none. The latter class of land will be benefitted by the application of a good quality of muck.

In the case of our correspondent, the muck has been formed by the decay of aquatic vegetation. This kind of muck is deficient in salts, and for use by itself is of very small account. But it can be mixed with other things and so manipulated as to pay handsomely for the trouble. And again, it is quite probable that the pond, from the bottom of which the muck is to be obtained, has been the receptacle for years of the surface drainage of the adjacent land. If it has, the muck is probably extremely valuable of itself. Judging from the sample sent, we should think this is the case. The right way would be to experiment with it, by different methods, this year, and defer hauling a large quantity till it is known by actual test in which direction it is chiefly valuable. Any other method of treating it would be purely empirical, and might result in an annoying loss of time and trouble.

Muck is frequently applied as a top-dressing to grass lands, and with paying results. To be of value it must be pulverized finely, as in lumps it is useless, or indeed worse than useless. And it is questionable whether the good effects of the application of muck to grass are not frequently due to the mulching which the grass thus gets, rather than to the value of the muck as a fertilizer.

The wood ashes mentioned by our correspondent are just the thing to mix with the muck, as they will neutralize the acids present in it and the potash will convert the insoluble into soluble parts. The muck must be dry and then the two thoroughly mixed together, and turned over occasionally. The right proportion of each to be mixed together can not be told except by actual test. If the ashes are hard wood ashes, probably one of ashes to eight of muck would be a good proportion to start with. If soft-wood ashes, try one to six of muck.

Muck is of great value as an absorbent. If used in the farm-yard, a layer of muck should be placed at the bottom, and on it the farm-yard manure. When thoroughly trodden, put another layer of muck, and so on. Mixed with plaster, by which the ammonia is fixed, this forms a fertilizer that cannot be beaten.

#### Good Things about Rye.

It will grow and produce fine crops far north of the degree of latitude where wheat will fail. It is, indeed, one of the most hardy crops that is cultivated. In regions where fall-sown wheat is almost sure to be killed, fall-sown rye is almost sure to survive and do well. Throughout the prairie region of Illinois, very little wheat went through last winter without injury, but rye came out all right and generally produced good crops. In many places where wheat was ploughed up last spring, rye yielded twenty-five or thirty bushels to the acre.

Rye will grow and produce very fair crops on soils so poor that little else will yield enough to pay for harvesting. It delights in dry, sandy soils, and will yield a good return for the labor and seed on land that will produce little but white beans. There are many thousands of acres of land in different parts of the west that yield hardly anything, that would produce paying crops of rye if it was sowed. Southeast of this city, rye is grown on land that will produce no paying crop of any of the other grains.

Rye is one of the best grains to sow where it is desired to seed the land down to timothy, clover or other grasses. It has little foliage as compared with oats and wheat, and accordingly does not shade the ground as much. It allows sufficient sunshine to reach the soil to cause the young