

THE FARMER'S GARDEN.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE STORMONT FARMERS' INSTITUTE BY MR. JOHN CROIL,
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I MAKE no apology for being on your platform to-day other than to say I am asked, as a director of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario, to make a few remarks on gardening as connected with farming. We think they should go hand-in-hand. A good farmer is a poor gardener, so it is often said, but why should it be so? The thorough farmer is, of all others, the best qualified to be the best gardener. One reason for this idea is, we think, the belief that there is no money in the pursuit. Cheaper, you say, to buy vegetables than to raise them. But do you buy them? The farmer's table, as a rule, isn't half as well supplied with vegetables as the town man's. We don't advocate, in all cases, a large garden. The size of it will be best regulated by the facilities you have of disposing of the surplus after the wants of your family have been supplied. Let it be situated convenient to the dwelling. Your wives and daughters will, in all likelihood, have more to do with it than you. Don't tell them you will plough or dig it for them

AS SOON AS ALL YOUR CROP IS IN.

Your wives should make the house too hot for their liege lords till you get this done. If possible, let there be no trees to shade your garden. Plant seeds of the best kinds and of the best quality you can find as soon as the ground is in good working order, and not sooner. Don't wait for the moon; I think this is an old-fashioned idea. "He that observeth the wind shall not sow." I think the same may be said of the moon. It is economy to use the best known kind of seeds at any reasonable price. Last spring I had some of Burpee's New Express Cabbage; it matured about the time some were thinking

of planting, and sold readily for eight cents a head, not large ones either; while large heads of the late kinds were sold freely at from two to three cents a head.

FIGHT THE WEEDS.

You are sure to have them; kill them in infancy. If you have not learned the truth of the Bible words, "Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to you," you will before the season is far advanced. Supply yourself with the best tools. None better than I know of for keeping down the weeds than the Dutch or flat hoe. Use it as soon as you can see the seed rows, and use it often. A lively man will go over a good-sized garden with it in a day. A wheel cultivator works well in mellow soil. I prefer the hoe in stiffer soil. Sowing in beds, I think an old-fashioned system and a waste of time. Run your line the length of the garden with the assistance of a smart boy—better if the man is smart too; you will be surprised how much ground you will plant in a day.

GIVE YOUR GARDEN ACRE EQUAL CARE,

and I think it will pay you as well, or better than any of the others. I claim to be one of yourselves, having for the last forty years employed all my time in your profession, and gardening as well. We are often advised to profit by our failures as well as our successes. I have had a goodly share of the former, and hope I in some measure learned wisdom from them. Let me give you a few figures from my own experience. This last year my garden occupied a space of measured ground 2,478 square yards, a little over half an acre. Besides having a bountiful supply for household use, I sold off this: