

Drive the Work.

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—Although one of the most important and busiest seasons of a Canadian farmer's life is just past, it may not be amiss, by way of a reminder, to urge the carrying out of the familiar old adage, "Drive the work, lest the work drive you."

I believe it is true that all men are, in one way or another, seeking happiness and pleasure, and the man who delights in his profession or business may find pleasure in its legitimate and proper pursuit. This is none the less true of him who loves the good old time-honoured occupation of tiller of the soil. But to follow the pursuit of agriculture with any degree of comfort, the farmer must "take time by the forelock," and keep well ahead. This cannot be done by making good resolves for the present, and then going at things with a rush without properly doing anything that is done. It must be the result of mature calculations for the future, and these carried out with indomitable energy and perseverance.

Perhaps there are few countries in which the farmer is required to do his work in so short a time as this Canada of ours. A week lost in the commencement seems to be difficult to regain, and spring follows winter so suddenly, that it is absolutely necessary that the farmer should have his plans well matured, and all things in readiness, and when the proper time arrives, up and at it with a will.

One cannot, without some experience, properly appreciate the difference in the life of the farmer where his work is well ahead, and when it is dragging behind. In the latter case, Time, which waits for none, seems to travel at a double-quick pace, and before one job is off his hands, two or three others are crowding on him for attention. He is continually working at a disadvantage, on account of not taking the work at the proper time. Who has not seen the farmer, whose work has somehow got behind, with his summer fallow needing to be ploughed, his roots requiring to be weeded, and his hay suffering for want of attention. All cannot be done at once, and yet to neglect any, is ruinous in that direction. A farmer in such a condition is likely to murmur and complain of the weather, likely to be cross and surly if you call on him on any business which may hinder him for a short time. He is really in a state of worry and perplexity, and can take no pleasure in his labour. This ought not to be, and may, in a great measure, be prevented. Let the farmer not attempt more than he can accomplish well, and in season. Let him start in time, and keep up to time, and his life will be more what a farmer's life should be—one of comparative peacefulness, quiet and pleasure.

FARMER JOHN.

TAN BARK.—A correspondent over the signature "Coast," writes:—"Would you please inform me if old tan bark, as commonly thrown out of tanneries, can be used in any shape as a manure; either by using at once, or waiting till more rotten? Any quantity can usually be had, and if it could be used as a manure, would be quite a boon. The popular idea seems to be that it cannot." Tan bark is very slow to decompose, probably owing to the presence of tannin, which is a powerful antiseptic, and to the effect of which leather owes its indestructible quality. It may therefore be regarded as of little manurial value. It is, however, useful as an absorbent of ammonia and soluble manures, and also makes an excellent mulch. The same correspondent makes an enquiry about a well, the water of which is very unpleasant. If he has not done so already, let him try the effect of thoroughly cleaning it out.

ADVERTISEMENTS FOR THE CANADA FARMER should in every case be sent in to the office of publication not later than the 7th of each month. Particular attention to this notice is requested, as advertisements received after the above date will be too late for insertion.

The Canada Farmer.

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Notes on the Weather.

The past month of May has been very changeable, and although the weather has been favourable for getting in spring crops, it has not been sufficiently warm for a long enough time after germination had started to advance vegetation rapidly, so that the crops, grass especially, look much behind what they were at this time (June 1) last year. No untimely frosts have occurred since fruit trees blossomed, which was during the third week of May; but the temperature went below freezing on one or two days in the early part of the month. From the 15th to the 22nd we had a week of cold, cloudy, ungenial weather, succeeding a week of high temperature, which put a check to the rapid advance of vegetation just at its commencement. This was followed by a week of cold, showery weather.

The temperature has ranged from 30° on the 2nd, the lowest, to 75° on the 11th, the highest.

There have been but two perfectly clear days, fifteen partially clear, on three of which there were thunder storms, fourteen cloudy days, and fifteen days on which rain has fallen, but the quantity of rain has been much below what we had during the month last

year. The soil is dry, and the crops greatly need copious rains, which have fallen this week in some places, but not generally over the country, and more heat is needed to bring them forward to the advanced point at which they were at this time last season. A few hot days in June will bring up the grass and spring grain rapidly.

The prevailing winds have been from the N.W. and E.

In another part of the paper will be found some particulars about the crop prospects, so far as can be ascertained at this early period.

Genteel vs. Manual Occupations.

Those who read Mr. Winan's article in the GLOBE of April 20th and May 7th, on the causes and consequences of the present great depression in commercial circles, resulting from overtrading, will see how small the prospect is or can be of any young man who enters into mercantile pursuits being able to make even both ends meet.

Yet there are many, too many sons of well to do farmers, who are every year hurrying to the city, where they enter some of the numerous class of cheap commercial colleges now so common, and after going through a few months' probation in one of them, think they are fit to enter the arena of competition with men who have spent a lifetime in mercantile business, and who, with all the advantage of a close knowledge of materials and an extended experience, yet find it a difficult struggle to hold their own, so closely has overtrading cut down profits.

The result, as might be expected, is that not only does the unlucky wight find himself distanced in the race, and fast drifting into the insolvent court, but he also drags down with him his father, brothers, or such of his friends as have been coaxed into backing his paper; and thus it comes that so many once well-to-do families have to sell off their cherished homestead, their stock and furniture, and emigrate to the Western States, where, under the protection of a homestead law, they can begin anew in a more humble way than they would like to do among those old associates with whom they have hitherto held their heads so high. The large importations of goods, and the difficulty among importers of getting them off their hands, has no doubt led many of the agents and touters of wholesale houses to induce young men of but small capital to enter on the business of keeping store in some country village with goods bought on credit, but which the wily agent well knew would have to be paid for if only he could get the incipient merchant's friends or relatives to virtually mortgage their property to his employers by endorsing their customers' note.

For a while things would go on swimmingly with the young country merchant. He would get plenty of customers, while his