

June on the Farm.

This month retains much of the pleasantness of the "Merrie Month of May," more especially in its first week, before the heat of the mid-day sun in midsummer makes us prefer the shade to the open fields and meadows. But even in its hottest days, the labor of the country is pleasant in the early morning—the hours when the plowman is out a-fallowing from the early dawn and does his day's work while it is yet morning; and when the mower, before mowing machines were introduced, cut down his half acre of heavy grass, while it was dripping with dew.

There is plenty of work to be done this month. June is a busy season with the farmer. In it he may be said to begin his season's fight with weeds, but the drilling of crops has given him a great advantage in this labor. The cultivator and the horse-plow do the work effectually, with little manual labor. He can easily prevent the seeding of weeds; this is a great object—"One year's seeding, ten year's weeding."

The planting of corn should be completed by the middle of the month. This crop is valued highly by farmers of the States, particularly of the West. In our country it does not hold so important a place in agriculture. We find, with our soil, climate and modes of culture, other crops, as barley and peas, more remunerative. We should not, however, omit corn from the list of our farm products. It is very valuable for feeding stock, if for no other purpose. For cutting green, let it be sown in drills, that air, light and heat will have freer access to the growing plants, and they will be richer in nutritive properties. Western corn is generally planted as a forage crop, but others prefer the smaller, sweet varieties, as of better quality, though the bulk of food is less.

Turnips should be sown by or before the middle of the month. We are glad to see that the culture of this very valuable root is every year becoming more general. A great obstacle to success in turnip growing is the fly. A light sprinkling of lime or wood ashes as the plants first appear, is recommended as a preventative of its ravages; that may do on a small scale. The best remedy is to force the plants on to the rough leaf as early as possible; this is done by the application of some stimulating fertilizer. For this purpose we have found guano of great service; and the application of superphosphate, 200 pounds to the acre, is said to have an effect equal to the guano.

Sheep washing and shearing, when not done earlier, are to be attended to as early in the month as the weather is favorable; but it is of great importance that the work be not done where the cold might lead to dangerous diseases. The sudden change from wearing a warm covering of wool to nakedness, is very trying.

Clover seed is the first crop saved this month. It has become a considerable item in our farm products. This year it has been a very profitable crop. Since January last over 6,000 bushels of clover seed have been shipped from Ontario to Britain, averaging \$7 per bushel, and amounting to nearly half a million of dollars. The great demand is owing to a short crop in Europe, and the price has gone up there to \$8.50.

Pastures now are in their prime in Canada; as May in Britain is the butter month for quality as well as quantity, so is June in our later climate. Even now, when pastures are at their best, the farmer will find it to his advantage to have some green food to cut for his cattle. Pastures, if heavily stocked, soon become bare when cattle feed on them only, and it is not well that grass land should ever be bare. Fall rye, and after that, oats

and peas mixed, are excellent soiling crops, to be followed by clover and then corn. If cows are bloated from eating clover unwilted, a good remedy is charcoal given in water, an average sized teacup for a cow—more or less according to the age and size of the animal.

What of the Markets?

Our market is England. We have an extensive territory of fertile soil, teaming with partially developed wealth, and capable of supplying tens of millions with food and employment. We have breadstuffs to sell, and the people of Great Britain want breadstuffs and meat, and are able and willing to pay remunerative prices. The demand goes on from year to year increasing. Her agriculture is steadily increasing; but her population and wealth increase in a still greater ratio than the products of her fields. We need entertain no dread of an overstocked market for our meat.

We have before us the returns, from the English Board of Trade, of the imports and exports of agricultural products for the first quarter of 1876. A mere glance over its columns demonstrates the purchasing capacity of England, and the advantages of sending our surplus products direct to that market in which the purchasers are customers and the payment is sterling money. The increase in the importation of live animals will be seen from the following table.

	Three months Ended Mar. 31, 1874.	Three months Ended Mar. 31, 1875.	Three months Ended Mar. 31, 1876.
Oxen and Bulls	15,814	24,811	29,855
Cows	5,148	5,617	8,746
Calves	4,178	3,417	3,891
Sheep and lambs	125,923	159,905	203,380
Swine	7,343	7,343	5,001

These figures show the constantly increasing demand for live animals for food, and this will be still more apparent from the second table—the cost of the imported animals—given below.

	Three months Ended Mar. 31, 1874.	Three months Ended Mar. 31, 1875.	Three months Ended Mar. 31, 1876.
Oxen and Bulls	£304,073	£556,183	£643,530
Cows	100,562	108,302	166,838
Sheep and Lambs	281,065	346,152	418,841
Calves	20,026	18,587	15,545
Swine	94,111	21,561	17,398

Referring to these returns, the *Farmer*, England, remarks:—It is clear, from the figures, that our imports of live animals for food are increasing enormously, and that this increase is, in spite of the growing tendency, to be severe in the examination and restriction of imported stock.

We pass on from the imported live animals to the imports of dead meat, and we find also a large increase over the same period of the previous year. The imports of bacon had increased from 793,013 cwt. to 880,884; of salted beef from 70,393 cwt. to 79,175; and of beef, fresh or slightly salted, from 17,066 cwt. to 24,084 cwt.

We perceive also, from the returns, that the demand for tinned meat, instead of increasing, has decreased, showing that Englishmen require to have their beef in the joint or steak, whether imported living or slaughtered, a fact in favor of our exportation. Australia is too far from the market to furnish the supplies fresh. From Canada the transit is shorter than from any other country that can supply the market with meat; and in feeding beef for shipment to England, and in making more cheese of the best quality, the Canada farmer will, for the future, realize his greatest profits.

Flax Growing in America.

The culture of flax, though becoming more general in Canada than it was before, is still very little known in many parts of the country. It is, we see, numbered among the agricultural products of parts of the Huron District, and some few flax mills are erected, and, we doubt not, when the

profits of flax growing are better known it will not be confined to a few localities. Knowing the advantages of a diversity of crops, as far as suitable to soil and climate, and having known from experience the profits of this one, we would be much pleased to find that Canada were as favorably known for flax among her textile fabrics as she is now for barley among the cereal products of her fertile fields.

To form some reliable estimate of the profits to be derived from a flax crop we refer to the United States Agricultural Report: "Ten bushels of seed and six hundred pounds of fibre are good average crops. But frequently as many as twenty bushels of seed are grown on the fertile lands of Illinois." Twice the average here given may, we believe, be raised with proper tillage. The average is not more than half equal to the best crops, as the majority return a very light yield. We have, besides, the testimony of our own experience, flax having been a part of our rotation in farming for some years. Less than one thousand pounds of fibre we would not call a good crop. But let us take the average:—600 lbs. fibre at 22c. per lb., amount, \$132; Seed, 10 bush. at \$1.60 per bushel, \$16.00. Total value for an average acre of flax, \$148. From this is to be deducted the cost of labor and seed, and after the deduction the farmer who has yet to make his first experiment in growing flax in Canada, will see sufficient encouragement for making a trial.

Russia exports flax in large quantities to Scotland, and there has been a steadily increasing demand for the American, and a growing of it for home manufacture. The great Scotch flax merchants, Messrs. Miller and Fleming, say that samples of Ohio flax shown them is better and cheaper than the flax of the North of Europe; and would take at once \$100,000 worth of it. They annually use 5,000 tons of flax and 3,000 tons of tow.

The growing of flax has been objected to from its being an exhausting crop, but it is not more exhausting than wheat, and we always found it an excellent crop to sow clover and grass seeds, the ground being in such good tilth.

We always sowed late in April or early in May, but American agricultural writers say it should not be sown until the time the soil is in condition for corn. Our advice to any one thinking of sowing flax is to include it now in their intended course of crops for the next season, and in the fall to plow the ground, thus taking the first step for its cultivation.

A great benefit that we would expect from a more general growth of flax would be from the greater use of the seed in stock feeding. There is no other cattle-food so beneficial as flax-seed (or lintseed as it is more generally called), whether in meal or cake. Fibre, oil expressed from the seed, and oil-cake from which the oil has been taken, all these have ready markets at good prices.

What is to "Buy in the Cheapest Markets."

In an article entitled "Trade and Commerce," in the *Telegraph*, St. John's, N. B., we meet the following significant paragraph:

"Whether the fact that a large part of the stock (breadstuffs) is unsound will help to keep up the price of good flour, remains to be seen. There are some enquiries from the United States whether unsound flour can be sold here. We have endeavored to warn consumers in respect to this matter, but probably the cheapness will in some cases be considered rather than quality."

This is one instance of the devices of our neighbors over the line to undersell our people in our own market, and we regret to say that in their