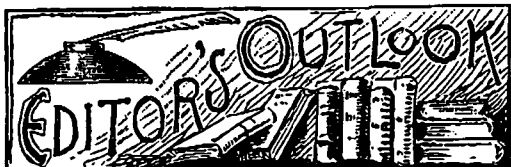




The Measure of Life.

The measure of life is the good deeds done;
There's no other gauge that's true,
Though the head be crowned with frost or sun
And the years be many or few.
He dies too soon, though his years fourscore,
All whose days good deeds reflect;
He lives too long, though brief time his store,
Who outlives his self-respect.



Crop Reports.

Look out for our Crop Reports from Canada and all parts of the world in our next issue. We hope to make it the biggest thing ever undertaken in that line by any newspaper or magazine on this continent.

Binder Twine.

SIX weeks hence we shall see the Self-Binding Harvesters at work in the Province of Ontario, which, with an average crop, will use nearly ten million pounds, or 5,000 tons of twine, equal to about 500 car-loads. Whilst this amount is apparently very large, it is only about one-tenth of that used to harvest the grain crops of the United States.

We have recently seen samples of Binder Twine made at the various factories in the United States, and we are satisfied that that which is being made in Canada, and furnished to Canadian farmers, is fully equal, and in fact, if anything, better than that made in the States, notwithstanding that many people are simple enough to imagine that everything made there must be better.

Most of the Canadian factories are fitted with the latest and most improved machinery, and are in a position to manufacture a twine equal to any in the world.

The Dartmouth Ropework Co. is the only factory in Canada supplied with the necessary machinery for making the Composite Silver Binder Twine—an article that is destined to become a great factor in the Binder Twine trade. Few farmers will buy anything else when it can be furnished at the extremely low price of 10 cents per pound. We have recently seen some of their make of the Composite Silver Brand stand a tensile strain of over 100 pounds—about equal to manila. We cannot recommend farmers too strongly to use this twine, or at least a portion of it, during harvest, not only for its great cheapness, but for its satisfactory work on any machine in adjustment.

A Word to Canvassers.

OUR canvassers would do well to bear in mind that only this month is left them to extend their lists in the competition for the four cash awards of \$50, \$30, \$15, and \$5 offered to those who send us the largest number of subscribers prior to July 1st. Some of the canvassers are very close to each other in point of numbers and a vigorous canvass this month will help them materially in the way of winning one of the cash awards. It only requires a little extra exertion to obtain new subscribers. We have received numerous letters this year from subscribers who refer to the ILLUSTRATED in the kindest and most flattering manner possible. We have selected a few of these for publication in this issue and we ask our canvassers to draw the attention of their friends to them. If they do this we feel sure they will have no difficulty in rapidly extending their lists, as no better evidence could be forthcoming regarding the merits of any newspaper or magazine than that of those who subscribe for it. If any of our readers, who have not yet canvassed for us, desire to do so we will be glad to send them a supply of sample copies for distribution

among their friends and if they commence the work of canvassing at once and push it vigorously during the month they may yet stand a good chance of earning a cash award. Remember we do not ask any one to canvass for nothing. For every new subscriber a premium is given, and, as a matter of course, the premium increases in value with the number of subscribers sent in. All we ask for the ILLUSTRATED is fifty cents a year and it has been conceded, as the letters from our subscribers will shew, that for the money, it is the cheapest and best magazine published on this continent. We give full value for the money and therefore we can confidently ask every reader of the ILLUSTRATED to help us in increasing the subscription list. If each of our subscribers would only get his neighbor to subscribe it would double our list and that would be no small gain. Surely this is not too much to ask. We hope to see the subscriptions rolling in this month, now that the election excitement is over. Don't disappoint us.

WHILE reading over the essays on "Good House-keeping" by our lady readers we were much struck with the great importance placed upon good cooking. It is an accepted axiom that a man's best qualities come to the surface after he has enjoyed a good dinner. There is apparently but a thin barrier between the physical nature and the soul. The man, or woman, who ministers to all the various and delicate senses of the former with a perfect dinner, places the latter in a most favorable atmosphere for expansion. When a man is well and artistically fed he will plot no murders, no villainy, no usury, no oppression. On the other hand, how many sins has poor cooking to answer for! How many crimes have been committed in the name of dyspepsia! In the language of the political writer "we pause for a reply."

As usual about this time the managers and directors of our Exhibition Associations are busy with the preliminary arrangements for the coming Fairs. It is already known that every effort is to be put forth to make this year's Toronto Exhibition superior in every respect to any of its predecessors. The manager has been given *carte blanche* in the matter of special attractions and he is on the lookout for the very best available. The Prize List, copies of which can be obtained from the manager, Mr. Hill, shews that the money to be awarded is ahead of former years, the increase in the prizes for Live Stock alone being over \$600. An Industrial Exhibition Association has been organized in Winnipeg, Man., with the object of holding an annual exhibition in that enterprising western city on the same lines as the popular Toronto exhibition.

THE crop prospects in Manitoba appear to be most promising. Farmers during the past two months have been busy seeding and have put in more grain than ever before in the history of the Province. Mr. Greenway, Premier of Manitoba, who was interviewed in Ottawa the other day, stated that there will be about 800,000 acres of wheat, and some of the newspapers published in the West say there will be more. The average yield of wheat in Manitoba for five years has been over 20 bushels per acre, so that we may confidently expect a large output this year. During May there were genial rains, and on one occasion a snowfall, which have done much good. The land is now thoroughly saturated, and as, during the latter end of the month, there was warm weather, vegetation is well advanced and the general impression is that there will be a magnificent harvest. It is to be hoped so. The prospects in Manitoba are in striking contrast with Dakota and Minnesota where on account of the excessively dry weather prayers were offered in the churches for such weather as would conduce to favorable crops.

THAT the Experimental Farms throughout the Dominion are of invaluable service to the agricultural community is being every year more forcibly demonstrated. The very best men obtainable are chosen for the different departments of agricultural investigation so that the experiments may be con-

ducted on the most approved and scientific principles. It is not too much, therefore, to say that a new profession—that of agricultural science—has now been established, which opens a new field for the intelligent and observing farmer boy. The pay is good compared with the early remuneration in other professions and industries, and the chances for building up a reputation and making discoveries are quite as great, if not greater, than in almost any other branch of science. It is not difficult to secure the proper training for this profession. We have our agricultural college where a course could be taken, and upon its completion a course at one of the European universities that give elaborate attention to the sciences pertaining to agriculture, would equip a young man, so far as teaching by others can do so. The position and future that then await him depend upon his own abilities and his capacity to advance. There is no royal road to learning; it must be pursued step by step, but the reward at the end is sure.

A BULLETIN issued by the Ontario Bureau of Industries last month states that the fall wheat crop presents a very uneven condition throughout the province. Some fields are exceptionally fine and others unusually poor in appearance in the same township and even on the same farm, according to the soil, cultivation and physical aspect of the country. Hence it is extremely difficult to make an accurate report upon the outlook of the crop. Throughout the west seeding was driven late into the fall on account of the drouth, and the average was somewhat reduced thereby. When winter set in the crop had hardly made sufficient headway to stand the alternate freezing and thawing of the mild winter which followed, with insufficient snow to protect the young plants. On this account the crop suffered more or less from winter-killing, and in the extreme west it is very uneven and poor. Considering all these unfavorable conditions, however, the crop may in other portions of the Province be said to have wintered better than was expected, but the night frosts and cold, dry northerly winds and rains, commencing in February and continuing late into the spring, played havoc with the crop and greatly reduced its vitality and retarded its growth. On low, loamy soils the condition of the crop is very unpromising on account of the frost's action, being patchy and delicate; but on light, rich loams where well under-drained, and especially where protected by bush or the lay of the land, and where the crop was got in early and the land well prepared, it generally presents a very fine appearance. This is particularly the case in Norfolk, Welland, Huron, Brant and some other counties, while the worst reports come from Essex, Kent, Lambton, Lincoln and Halton. In these latter counties, Essex and Lambton especially, it is probable that a considerable portion of the wheat land will be plowed up and seeded anew. Many farmers are harrowing spring wheat into the bare patches amongst the fall wheat. Little or no damage is reported from worms or insects of any kind. The recent rains appear to have improved the outlook, although the crop is still backward, and with a favorable season there is reason to anticipate a fair, although not a large harvest. The condition of winter rye is generally satisfactory. The condition of clover is not very satisfactory, being very similar to that of fall wheat. The seed appears to have made a very good "catch" but the light snowfall during the winter afforded little protection to the roots, and much damage has also been caused by alternate freezing and thawing, especially on old meadows and where the land was low and poorly drained. But on high and sandy soils the new clover presents a more encouraging appearance, and is reported as looking very well in many cases and promising a good crop under favorable conditions. The majority of correspondents, more especially those in the eastern part of the province, report vegetation as rather backward. The reports concerning orchards are on the whole favorable. With reference to spring work the bulletin states that oats and peas continue in favor, and there will be a considerably enlarged area of spring wheat sown throughout the province, several correspondents mentioning Goose wheat as being much in favor at present. On the other hand, barley will be grown to a much smaller extent than in former years, many correspondents putting the area at two-thirds or one-half of last year's, while a few claim that there will be as much sown as ever.