

THE ONTARIO FARMER,

A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

Agriculture, Horticulture, Country Life, Emigration, and the Mechanic Arts.

VOL. III.

HAMILTON, JUNE, 1871.

No. 6.

The Farm.

HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

It has been well observed, that "in no month of the year, are the prose and poetry of farm life more mingled, than in the present." The bright sunshine, the blooming flowers, the verdant fields and forests, the chirping insects, the singing birds, and the "little busy bees," combine to form a scene in which activity and beauty are harmoniously blended. It is nature teaching man to labour cheerfully,—to let work and gladness go hand in hand. All can appreciate the poetry of pleasant fields and pretty flowers, but it is rather prosaic to plant potatoes and hoe corn. Now begins the fight with weeds, and a stern fight it often is. Nevertheless it is a battle in which there must be no cowardly shirking, and in prosecuting which, the farmer needs many of the qualities of the true soldier. Corn, whether for green fodder, or a crop of ears, may still be planted. Indeed, it is hardly advisable in this climate to put corn into ground before the beginning of June. Our Farmers should grow more of this valuable cereal. Millet may also be sown early this month, and is useful both for green forage and for curing the same as hay. It is not even now too late to get a fair crop of mangolds, and carrots, if these have not yet been sown. Better put them in late than be scant of roots for winter feeding. The middle of this month is the time for getting in turnip seed, and we earnestly counsel all our readers by all means to grow a patch of these valuable esculents. No farming is worthy the name

which does not include in its regular course, turnip growing. Choose the best bit of ground at command, and if you can get it, sow superphosphate, at the rate of about 200 pounds to the acre, before drilling in your turnip seed. It will hasten the growth of the young plants, and increase the crop amazingly. Manure-making is always seasonable, and should not be lost sight of, anytime in the year. Husband cattle droppings, poultry dung, privy ordure, kitchen refuse, weeds from the garden, and compost ail with swamp muck, or ordinary soil. Let no fertilizing material go to waste. Barns and sheds will soon be needed for storing away hay and grain. Let them be in good order before the hurry of haying and harvesting comes on. Look after the tools that will then be needed. The mowing and reaping machine should be carefully overhauled, and scythes, cradles, rakes, &c., provided and put in working order. This ought to be a busy month in the dairy. June butter is generally considered the best produced during the year. Let it be carefully made, and it will command the highest price going. Or if it be preferred to keep it until winter, which may be done very well with care, it will fetch a much better price than without doubt. The strictest cleanliness needs to be observed in all dairy operations. Richer pastures do not grow than are to be found in Canada, and by skillful manufacture, our butter and cheese may challenge the world. Sheep washing and shearing will demand attention early this month. Some farmers do this job too soon. It should be left until we have settled warm weather. The loss of their winter over-coats all of a