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The Month.



SEPTEMBER

is one of the pleasantest months of the year. As June is a delightful compound of spring and summer, so September is an agreeable mixture of summer and autumn. We have mid-day heat, but it is tempered by cool nights. Indeed, some time this month, Jack Frost may be expected to appear on the scene, committing his first depredations on our melon, tomato, and grape vines, blanching the corn leaves, and putting the first faint hues of loveliness on the forest leaves. Summer will soon abdicate the throne, and after a brief October interregnum, Winter will be crowned king. On all the beauty and life of nature may now be clearly read the inevitable doom, "PASSING AWAY."

The mean temperatures for September, at the prominent Canadian points enumerated during the previous months of the year, are as follows. —

Stratford.....	53° 69'
Hamilton.....	55° 00'
Barris.....	54° 31'
Toronto.....	56° 29'
Belleville.....	56° 29'
Montreal.....	61° 46'
Quebec.....	51 40
St John N B.....	55° 56'
Hallfax.....	53° 00'

It has been well remarked that "when autumn days come Nature, like a retired merchant, changes its manner from thrift and bustling industry to languid leisure and ostentatious luxury." But the farmer cannot yet play the retired merchant, though the air is deliciously restful, and the scenery suggestive of repose. The hurry of harvest is over, but not until winter fairly sets in can the busy farmer think of holiday. Chief among the duties of this month is the sowing of fall wheat. This crop is not now so

widely grown as it formerly was, owing to the many uncertainties and disappointments that have attended it of late years. It is a question worth considering, whether it is not falling too much into disuse. In view of the superior quality and higher value of winter wheat, is it not wise to sow it, even though some risk is run of failure? The loss of seed is all that is hazarded, for the preparation of the ground is so much clear gain even if it is found needful ultimately to sow spring wheat. If our farms had not been so absurdly cleared of everything in the shape of a green tree if protective belts of timber had been left at proper intervals, one great cause of the failure of this important crop would never have existed. In the unsheltered condition of our grain fields, and our exposure to drought in summer, and bleak winds in winter we are suffering the pains and penalties resulting from the wholesale and inconsiderate destruction of our forests. By all means have the patch of winter wheat. And if there be a field so situated as to be a protected nook, shielded by the woods from bleak, wintry winds, let that be devoted to this crop. It will pay to put land in the best order for fall wheat. It should be well enriched and made as mellow as possible. The best of seed should be got, carefully cleaned from all admixture of weeds or other grains, brined to destroy smut, and put in with a drill *by all means*. All grain crops do best drilled in, and it is time broadcast sowing were altogether abandoned, but there is no crop that shows the advantage of the drill as does fall wheat. If the land is to be seeded down with timothy, it is better to defer that operation a fortnight later, than to sow the grass seed with the wheat. Clover seeding should be attended to as early as possible the ensuing spring. Fall ploughing is an operation that should not be neglected, and after the seeding for winter crops is finished should be continued as long as the state of the weather will permit.

Various other farm operations are in order this month. Not the least important is the care of fattening animals. It is a great mistake to defer feeding them for the butcher too late in the season. They improve in condition, if well fed, much more quickly in early fall than when winter sets in. This applies especially to hogs. They should be penned early, their styes kept scrupulously clean, and their food given regularly and abundantly. "Never," says the *Illustrated Register*, "keep them waiting for food, never let them squeal off their flesh." When we have the usual downpour of fall rain, September is a good month for butter-making. The winter supply should now be laid down, if it has not been already done. Corn must be harvested this month, and properly cured, the stalks will make excellent winter fodder. This is a source of fodder supply which is too little thought of by the generality of Canadian farmers. Many odd jobs lie in wait to occupy spare

days and hours at this time of year. Meadows may be top-dressed, if there be well-rotted manure to do it with. Happy is the farmer who, notwithstanding the demands of the turnip field and fall wheat patch, has choice dung to spare for the meadow. It protects the grass crowns, and affords a cherishing mulch, while it stimulates an early and vigorous growth, when spring comes. Grabbing up bushes and briars, exterminating thistles to be found here and there in pastures, rooting out mulloins and other weeds that disfigure the fence corners and road-sides, draining swamps, if the weather be sufficiently dry, clearing stones off pasture lots and fallows, preparing root cellars for being stored, picking out weeds from among turnips, to prevent their going to seed, fixing up cattle-sheds, repairing fences, are not these "chores" enough to show that there need not be an idle minute on the farm, betwixt this and the setting in of winter?

September is the month during which most of the Agricultural Exhibitions are held. It should never be deemed lost time, wasted money, or mere holiday-keeping to attend these. Much useful information may be obtained at such places, that is, provided those who go keep their eyes and ears open. "Eyes and no eyes," might be the title of a descriptive account of the manner in which two classes of persons, the observant and unobservant, demean themselves at shows. An enquiring mind will find enough to engage its best attention, and waken its fullest energies on such occasions, while a dull, sleepy mind will go and come like a door on its hinges. These exhibitions do much to keep the spirit of improvement alive, and are well worthy of encouragement and patronage from all.

Beyond the pleasant work of in-gathering, and the ceaseless fight with weeds, there is not much to do in the garden this month. Strawberry plants may be set out, and with careful tillage, weeding and watering, will yield moderately next spring. Land for new gardens or orchards may be got ready for spring operations by thorough ploughing, manuring, and mellowing. We prefer to plant both fruit and shade trees in the spring, though fall-planting has its advocates.

The apiary will need some attention in September. By the middle of the month the honey harvest will be quite over, and all surplus boxes not yet removed should now be taken off. Late or small swarms should be put together. One strong stock is better than two or three weak ones. Generally speaking, it is poor policy to feed bees, but if it must be done, now is the time, instead of disturbing them in winter. Watch against robbing, and if there are signs of it, contract the entrance to the hive, so that only a bee or two can pass at a time. Queenless stocks should either be joined to others, or supplied with queens. Look out sharply for the moth-miller.