

The Canada Farmer

TORONTO, CANADA, APRIL 15, 1875.

Work for April-May.

"These are the times which try men's" backs. The hurry and hard work of the Canadian farm are fairly upon us. Those farmers who have read and profited by our advice to have all things ready and in order, will sail into their work this month in fine style, keeping fairly ahead, and not giving their work a chance to crowd them. On the contrary, Mr. Never-Ready finds at the last minute that his ploughs are rusty or broken, his harrows minus their teeth, his horses sickly and weak, and his work crowding him on every hand. He makes frantic efforts to get even, and vows that next spring shall find every peg in its place; but it will not be so, for it is not in him to do it. He belongs to the class which does not read. He hates to have his memory jogged by pestilent "book-farmers," about the thousand and one things which he ought to have done but has left undone. So he will run through the inevitable gamut of debt, mortgage, foreclosure, and beginning life again.

As we write in this second week of April, a long spell of genial weather has done wonders in dispelling forebodings of a late spring. Not, considering the almost unprecedented amount of snow, can there be said to have occurred the amount of damage from freshets that we anticipated last month. The losses from this source have been greater than usual, but still not so much so as might reasonably have been dreaded. However, we must not flatter ourselves that we have done with frost and snow for good. Before this reaches our readers, we may be growling again about the lateness of spring.

No matter how well-prepared the farmer is, there will be plenty to do on wet days, and days when it is too wet underfoot to allow the teams to be on the land. Harness can be gone over and oiled, implements cleaned and oiled with petroleum, both the wood and iron parts, axes, hoes, and spades can be ground; surface water let off by cutting ditches; fences and gates repaired; seed potatoes sorted; underdraining can be done, and many other things which will suggest themselves to the farmer who is anxious to get ahead of his work.

European reports seem to indicate that the wheat has wintered well, and, so far, American reports have a favorable tenor. This means, unless war or an unfavorable season should occur, low prices for wheat. We again direct our readers' attention to the growing of barley, which, with the rapidly increasing demand for the best qualities in the United States, can scarcely be overproduced here. The best grades will always be in request, and our farmers can grow the best on the continent.

The necessity for using good seed, and taking pains to cleanse it from impurity, is now recognized. While the soil is too wet to be worked is a good opportunity for a final touching up of the seed. Do not go on the land before it is fit to be worked. By ploughing it in too wet a state, damage may be done, the effects of which will be felt for years. Those who fall-ploughed their land intended for spring crops, will now find the benefit of it. Their land after its exposure to the frosts of winter will be in a workable condition much sooner than that which was not fall-ploughed.

Before sowing, seed wheat should be steeped for several hours in a strong pickle made by dissolving a peck of strong coarse salt in 20 gallons of water, and adding thereto one pound of sulphate of copper (blue vitriol). This destroys the spores of smut which may exist on the seed. Seeds which float on the surface of the pickle should be destroyed.

In seeding clover, experience has shown that sowing on the last of the snow is a successful way. The seed finds its way to the ground and the light frosts of early spring work it in. As soon as the ground is settled, an application of about 150 pounds of gypsum to the acre, will promote a rapid growth and protect it from early drouth. Clover does better with barley than with oats, as the latter is apt to lodge and smother the young plants. Ten to fif-

teen pounds per acre, the latter preferably, is the usual amount sown.

For barley, the land can not be made too fine. The crop should be got in as early as possible, but it will be better to wait till the land is in first-class condition, rather than to hustle it in hurriedly. Roll when it is about two inches high.

Oats can be sown on a wetter soil than barley, and will succeed better, and so do peas, than that gram on newly-turned sod.

Potatoes require large quantities of fine, well-rotted manure, well mixed with the soil. Harrow as soon as weeds appear. Look sharply after the Colorado beetle, and hand-pick them before they can multiply themselves. Paris green, mixed with water, is effectual against these pests, but we are not prepared to recommend its use, except where great care is used.

Give old pastures a top-dressing of good farm-yard manure, or a liberal dressing of bone-dust. Scatter seeds over the thin places, and harrow over the whole surface.

Do not turn out stock to pasture too early. By doing so, both stock and pasture may be damaged seriously. It will be better to wait till there is a good bite and the soil has become firm.

The horses and working oxen, whose time of tribulation has come, should now be fed in proportion to the work expected from them. If any mistakes are made in feeding them, let them be on the side of liberality rather than economy. Above all feed them regularly, and then the animals themselves will let you know when your help has neglected to supply them with their usual allowance. See that the harness fits the horses and is soft and pliable, so that their flesh will not be galled, and they crippled for the season.

In-coming cows should be separated from the rest of the herd and well treated. Their food should be liberal and of a sloppy nature. Treat the calves kindly. Give them a warm house and plenty of milk. The same will apply to sheep and lambs, and to farrowing sows. If lice are found to trouble stock, apply some of the remedies mentioned in last month's issue. The high price of pork will cause more farmers to direct their attention to swine-breeding. Let them choose well-bred swine, and not mind paying a good price for a pair of Berkshires, Chester-whites or whatever breed their fancy may choose.

In the orchard there will be grafting to be done. The scions must be cut before the buds begin to swell, and packed away in sand till wanted, as directed last month. When the buds are swelling is the right time to graft. The stone fruits will be ready first. In planting trees, make the hole large enough so that the roots will not be cramped, and do not set them deeper than they were in the nursery row. Wash the trunks of the orchard trees with soft soapsuds or lye, to destroy insects' eggs.

The vegetable garden will call for steady work. Nearly all the garden stuff should be sown this month. Beets, peas, onions, and parsnips will stand considerable frost and may be sown as soon as the ground is in condition.

Currant cuttings may be planted in rows two feet apart and six inches in the row. Raspberries and blackberries should also be set out as soon as the ground is dry. Grape cuttings should be planted in rows, eighteen inches apart, and four inches in the row. Strawberries want setting out as soon as the soil is fit. Newly-planted beds should not be allowed to bear first year. Get ready plenty of mulch for use before dry weather comes.

If you have several hired hands, do not attempt to do too much work yourself. It is obvious that, unless the farmer be an extraordinarily vigorous man, he cannot do as much manual labor as his help, and, in addition, superintend and plan his work. A judicious man will see where his presence and example will infuse life into the exertions of his help. He will reserve himself for an emergency, and, meanwhile, can employ his own time more profitably than in the heavier labors of the farm.

Breeding Horses for England.

The recent decree of the German Government prohibiting the exportation of horses from the Empire, though supposed to be directed against France, in reality will operate more strongly against England. The latter country for many years has imported large numbers of carriage,

draught, and cavalry horses from Germany. One of the sporting papers states that three-fourths of the horses in London have been imported from Germany. The English papers are beginning to enquire what they shall do about it, as not only does England want horses, but France is trying to get 10,000, and Spain 5,000.

In the year 1873, 17,822 horses were imported into England, of the value of £585,868. This would make the average value of each animal to be \$165. At this price, horses cannot be bred profitably in England, except in sections where the land is very cheap, and unfit for other purposes.

We do not see why Dominion farmers should not direct their attention to raising horses for the English market. The difficulties of transit now-a-days are light and decreasing. The shutting-off of the principal source of supply will raise the price indefinitely. At \$165, the present average price, good serviceable carriage and draught horses could be bred here and transported to England, leaving a handsome margin of profit. We commend the subject to the attention of our farmers.

A Bermudian on Canadian Farming.

Any one who wants to buy a farm in the Bermudas can get one cheap by addressing one William Carr there. At least that is the impression we get from a column and a half of abuse of Canadian farming in the *Mark Lane Express*, over that signature.

The writer states that he was asked whether he would advise a young Englishman with two or three thousand pounds to come out to Canada to farm. As an answer, he cites two or three instances of unsuccessful farming in Quebec, and a case of a once "fast captain" who came to New Brunswick with £7,000, and is peddling note paper and lollipops for a living. These cases, he argues, prove that Canada is the worst place on earth, except to lose money in.

He winds up by saying that he spent the closing months of last year in Nova Scotia, and that "no greater contrast can be imagined than between Nova Scotia and these beautiful Bermudian Islands, where frost and snow is never seen by any native who is untravelling; and where bananas, orange trees, palms, and India-rubber trees takes the place of the pine and the birch." And he might have added "where yellow fever and miasmatic diseases of all kinds are constant guests; and where pestilences are so rife that the British garrison has had to be removed more than once to save it from annihilation, to that very Nova Scotia which suits him so badly."

It is true enough that some young Englishmen come out here and fail to succeed. It is also true that many young Englishmen come here and do succeed. Those who fail, generally do so because they persist in locking up all their available capital in improvements which will not pay their cost in a generation.

Canada is not the only place where some young Englishmen fail to succeed. There is not a section of the globe where there are not young Englishmen who have failed to succeed - and nowhere are they so plentiful as in England itself.

"Fast captains" are the last persons to succeed as colonists; and had our New Brunswick lollipop-peddling "Fast Captain" cast his lot in that Tophet in mid-Atlantic, which the *Express* correspondent cracks up so highly, he would assuredly have lost his life as well as his £7,000.

PLEURO-PNEUMONIA was unknown among Australian cattle until 1858. A Mr. Boadle then arrived in Victoria with a cow which he had brought out from England. Soon after her arrival she was found to be suffering from pleuro-pneumonia. Vigorous efforts were made to stamp out the disease. A subscription was raised, large enough to pay for all Boadle's cattle, which were destroyed. The greed of a neighbor, however, rendered all the precautions nugatory. He put some of his cattle in the infected paddocks, and the disease was spread throughout the colonies. Few persons arrive at the dignity of having cost so much money as this to us nameless Antipodean. He is probably the most expensive of all the tough subjects who have gone, or have been taken to Australia. It is estimated that, since 1858, 1,750,000 head of cattle, forty per cent. of the whole number, valued at eight millions sterling, have died of the disease.