

The Daughter's Portion.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—I read with much interest the letter of January 21st, and I think it would be only just and right, when the girls have worked with the boys to make and pay for a home, to have a portion with their brothers. I knew a case where a family of boys and girls grew up on a farm. The girls worked just as hard and longer hours than their brothers, for while they were busy at household work, after being out in the fields all day, the boys were smoking and lounging, or off visiting. When the father took sick, and he found he could not get better, he asked the doctor to make his will. The doctor told me that he left all his property to the boys, and when he tried to show him how unjust it was, he left each of the girls five dollars. Not enough, the doctor said, to buy them a good dress. I know of many homes where the daughters work very hard indoors and out, early and late, and when their youth and vigor is over, it is hard if they do not have a share in what they have earned. In your issue of February 25th, Hired Man expresses his views on the subject. I feel sorry for him in being so unfortunate as to meet with such a poor class of girls. The young lady that was playing the piano at breakfast time was not a lay-a-bed. I don't think "Hired Man" could have been thinking about his business when eating his supper in the kitchen. No doubt, he had the chores and other work to do after supper, while the young men of high degree that were taking tea with the young ladies had their day's work done. If "Hired Man" had been a visitor it would have been very rude and unkind to have put him in the kitchen to eat alone. There is a fitness, dear sir, in time and place. I have noticed that nearly always when the girls are deficient housekeepers, it is the mother's fault. They are either foolishly fond of them, and wish to save them from the hard work of their girlhood, or they are those very particular persons who think nothing is done right unless they do it, or unless it is done just in their way—strong, wiry women who have never been laid aside with illness and have never felt the need of help, and will not allow their daughters to exercise any individuality. I think "Hired Man's" experience is the exception, not the rule, of Canadian farmers' daughters. The fact that young men of high degree sought their company proves that there must be something good about them. Cheer up, "Hired Man," you no doubt have your ideal girl, and if you qualify yourself to be the husband and helpmeet of such a girl, when the time comes for you to propose marriage you may be spared the G. B. York Co. HELPONABIT.

About Plowing.

I read with interest Senator Frost's article in the "Advocate" in reference to the plow. It would be well if we could encourage our boys to take more interest in doing good plowing; every year it is getting worse. How seldom do we see an evenly plowed or a nicely drilled field? What is more helpful to the appearance of a field of hoe crop than to see it nicely ridged up, straight, and even in depth and width? Now, the fault does not always lie with the man behind the plow. The father or the boss should see that the plow is in proper working condition. This is where the great secret lies. I have seen boys sent out to work with a plow that no man could do good work with, and the boy will become discouraged and will abuse the horses and throw things around in general. The plow should always be kept inside when not in use, and a little oil should be rubbed on the mouldboard to prevent rust; then see that the share-point is sharp enough, also the colter. This is the most particular part; one should be very careful to have it set so that it is running in line with the furrow. If it is running into land or out it is impossible to hold the plow in its proper way. I find that there are few blacksmiths that can sharpen a colter properly. The colter should be set from 1 to 1½ inches up from point, and with such a slant that all weeds, stubbles, etc., will work to the top. Then as to the horses: I find a great many use the ordinary leather lines. They never should be used while plowing. One cannot hold the horses to their proper place with them. I never saw a good plowman use them. Rope lines are much lighter. The horses should be tied to each other's hame-rings, at a proper distance apart, and also so that both horses will be even together. Sometimes one line will be a little shorter than the other, owing to the nature of the horse. It is well to put the fast horse in the furrow; it is easier to control him there. When starting into a field one should use four stakes, for sod field or stubble. First run the plow tilted a little to one side, and about three inches deep, making a slight mark. A light furrow mark should be made at each end of the field, about five or six yards from the fence, to be used as a mark to let the plow in and out by; then the head land will be easily finished. Start your land about six or more yards from side of field, making a mark as for head land; then the next two should be from four to five inches deep, and placed so as to meet coverings, the first completely; then the next should gradually get deeper, until of the depth required. This will prevent a high center

in your ridge. Then at the finish, say the last two rounds, hold a little shallow, so as not to have a deep furrow. For red ground run a light furrow each way, then turn same back again; by this way you have cut all the soil. In plowing a sod field never turn a furrow up to the fence, or you cannot get close enough the next time to bring it back, hence it is left, and will produce dirt and weeds. There are some practical things along this and other lines, that with all the science introduced would not be well to be forgotten. A. STEVENSON.

[Note.—The "Farmer's Advocate" would suggest that Farmers' Institutes generally take up the subject of plowing, and by conducting plowing matches they will be giving a most useful object lesson on this most neglected subject.—Editor.]

Rural Mail Delivery in Michigan.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—In recent issues of your valuable paper I have noticed letters discussing the question of rural mail delivery. I am glad to see the interest the country is beginning to take in it, because until the people are enthusiastic about it we will not get it. No Government will grant a measure of that kind without first being petitioned in some way, so I would suggest that we keep the ball rolling, as the saying is, and try to induce them to give us rural mail delivery, and not sit down and say, "The country is not ready for it." Our country is what we make it. I have seen



Callant Chattan.

Winner of first prize in four-year-old Clydesdale class, Spring Stallion Show, Toronto, 1904, and reserve for sweepstakes. Imported and exhibited by J. B. Hogate, Sarnia, Ont., and sold to Messrs. J. W. Cowie and J. W. Graham, Markham Village, Ont., for \$2,500.

something of the working of rural delivery this winter in a trip I made up through the northern part of the State of Michigan. No doubt, as many know, that part of the country is a lumbering district; it is not as thickly settled as it is here; it is rough, and the roads are not to be compared with ours, yet they have their rural mail delivery, and I was told that the postman had not missed one trip so far this winter. Do you wonder if I say that it made me feel as though we were a little in the background?

When you consider that people living in the old County of Middlesex, within four or five miles of London, only receive their mail three times a week, and have to walk a mile for it at that, I think it is high time we had a change; at least, a daily mail.

The mail carrier in the State of Michigan is required to make a trip of 25 to 27 miles per day, leaving the mail in boxes at every person's gate along his route, and parties living on side lines have their boxes at the corners on the main route, thus getting the mail within easy reach, and saving the postman extra driving. He also carries post stamps, which makes it very convenient for posting letters, etc., thus largely increasing the amount of postage used in rural districts, which along with the amount saved in maintaining small post offices, and in paying men for carrying the mail to them, would go a long way to pay for keeping up rural mail delivery.

Middlesex Co.

THOS. S. SCOTT.

Treating Smutty Oats.

Many enquiries have been made by Ontario farmers regarding the treatment of smut in oats. Experiments have been conducted at the Ontario Agricultural College in order to ascertain the most effectual remedies which can be used for this pest. Two varieties of oats were selected in the spring of 1902, and again in the spring of 1903, and uniform samples from each variety were submitted to special treatments, with the object of killing the spores of smut adhering to the grain. The various treatments were as follows:

1. Hot Water.—The grain was placed in a bag, which was then immersed in water at about 115° F. Soon afterwards it was placed in water which was kept at a temperature between 130° and 135° F. The grain was occasionally stirred, and was allowed to remain in the water for a period of fifteen minutes. It was then spread out on a clean floor to dry, where it was stirred occasionally.

2. Bluestone.—For No. 2 treatment, a strong solution was made by dissolving one pound of copper sulphate (bluestone) in one gallon of water, and then immersing the oats in a solution for a period of five minutes.

3. Bluestone, for Twelve Hours.—In this treatment the bluestone solution was made by dissolving one pound of bluestone in 25 gallons of water, and the oats were immersed in this solution for a period of twelve hours.

4. Sprinkling.—This solution was made by dissolving one pound of bluestone in ten gallons of water, which was used for sprinkling over the oats until they were thoroughly moistened after being carefully stirred.

5. Potassium Sulphide Solution.—This treatment consisted in soaking the seed for two hours in a solution made by dissolving 8 pounds of potassium sulphide in 50 gallons of water.

6. This was the formalin (formaldehyde) treatment. The solution of formalin used for the immersion process was made by pouring one-half pint of the formalin into 21 gallons of water, and the seed oats were immersed in the solution for twenty minutes.

7. No. 7 solution consisted of one-half pint of formalin poured into five gallons of water. The oats were then sprinkled with this solution and carefully stirred until the grain was thoroughly moistened.

8. One sample of oats of each variety was left untreated, in order that the influence of the various treatments might be observed.

Eight lots of oats of each variety were, therefore, used for this experiment. After the treatments had been completed a few hours, the oats were carefully sown on separate plots. When the oats were coming into head they were examined frequently, and all smutted heads were removed and carefully counted from day to day. The following table gives the total percentage of smutted heads of oats from each treatment:

Treatments.	Percentage of Crop Smutted.
1.—Hot water0
2.—Bluestone (5 minutes)	1.3
3.—Bluestone (12 hours)3
4.—Bluestone (sprinkled)	1.4
5.—Potassium sulphide (2 hours)	1.7
6.—Formalin (20 minutes)0
7.—Formalin (sprinkled)0
8.—Untreated	4.7

The smut in oats very frequently causes a great reduction in the yield of grain. The treatments with hot water, formalin, and immersion in bluestone for twelve hours have given the best results at the college. The formalin is a clear liquid, which can be obtained from almost any drug store. The treatment with formalin is easily performed, comparatively cheap, and very effectual.

Ont. Agr. College.

C. A. ZAVITZ.