

The rotation of crops in each field is not what I would have liked it to have been, for the clover killing or not catching obliged me to deviate from my plan.

The idea with which I commenced to ascertain the cost of each crop was that I would see which crop paid the best and stop raising those crops which paid the worst; but in ten years' calculations and experience I have failed to realize that idea, yet it has not been without great value to me. It has brought me to this conclusion, that on a soil like this a mixed husbandry is the most profitable, as a judicious rotation of crops is the least exhausting on the soil, and I have never seen a season in Canada but was favourable for some crop; and when a field shows me a loss in raising a crop, and the season has been favourable for that crop, then I resort to experiments to raise the fertility of that field. I find, moreover, that the price of all crops fluctuates very much both as regards the cost of production and the selling value. It has also brought me to another conclusion, that I consider hay, *not wheat*, the king of crops; for when I can get this soil to raise a good crop of hay, a good crop of grain is certain to follow, providing the season is favourable for that crop.

It also shows very plainly the difference between a farmer and manufacturer or mechanic. A manufacturer may make a machine or commodity at a certain cost, and to-morrow he may make another at the same cost; not so with the farmer, he has only one experiment a year; and if he can raise a bushel of grain this year at a certain cost, he may bring his operations as near as possible another year to the former one, and it may cost him double or only half. Now, then, the great problem to solve is the cause of that difference and its remedy. Let any one try a few such experiments, and will they dare to say a farmer needs no brains? Farming furnishes ample work for the greatest intellect. The greatest difficulty I see with regard to farming in our beloved Canada, is that they put out much muscle work with too little brain work attached to it. In my opinion the Legislature, and men of high standing in Ontario, deal unfairly with the farmer. Take for instance the Assessment Law, which assesses town property at 60c in the dollar for county purposes, and country property at 100 cents. Again, take the University of Toronto; it is a grand and noble institution, but is the agricultural student on equal footing? While in other departments there are many scholarships, there is no scholarship for an agricultural student; and what is the effect? While the other students can be counted by the hundreds, the agricultural students only number from one to three. Did our Government establish agricultural colleges on such a basis, that every young man who desires it could there obtain the best theory along with the best practice on farming, it would aid Canada to

take her position amongst the nations of the earth. One word with regard to ascertaining cost of crops raised. The account increases in value and interest to me every year; but if there were twelve farmers who would keep the same account of cost it would be twelve times as valuable to me; and if we met once a year to compare notes, would it not be interesting to see who could raise the largest crops with the least amount of cost? I have shown my calculations to many farmers, but never seen one who kept such an account.

I have spent now nearly twenty-eight years, the happiest days of my life, on a farm in Canada, and I love farming so much that it is a daily pleasure for me to attend to its daily duties. Would that I could so write as to inspire with the same feelings of delight in the farm our hundreds of farmers' sons, who are seeking and panting for something in which they may find more happiness than in a farmer's home. I was not always a farmer; from the time I was seven years old till I was seventeen I was an assistant in the sale of intoxicating liquer, and my blood thrills with horror when I contemplate that period of my life, as it was ten years of the most miserable part of my existence.

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Destruction of Birds.

To the Editor.

SIR,—The wanton and wholesale destruction of useful insectivorous birds has become so serious an evil that it is highly important, for those especially who feel an interest in agriculture, to take measures for the better enforcement of the laws enacted for the protection of these "farmers' friends." A number of influential gentlemen in this neighbourhood have accordingly agreed to prosecute vigorously all who infringe the law, and have signed the following notice:—

"NOTICE AGAINST WILFUL TRESPASS, AND SHOOTING GAME AND SMALL BIRDS OUT OF SEASON.

"Adverting to Acts now in force for the better preservation of game and small birds in Ontario, which Acts we each of us duly respect and appreciate, and taking into consideration that both game and small birds are gradually disappearing in this section of the country, we, the undersigned, each of us individually, jointly and collectively, hereby give notice to any person or persons who may be found on any of our lands or lots of land, shooting or otherwise destroying game or small birds 'out of season,' such person or persons, if detected, will by us be held guilty of *wilful trespass*, and such person or persons will be brought before one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the

offence, and he or they so trespassing will be held accountable for any damage he or they may be known to commit, either to our fences or our crops, &c."

In submitting the above notice for publication, at the request of the parties whose names are so numerous recorded thereon, I would gladly endeavour to speak a few words in favour of those useful small birds.

The farmer who allows any person to kill the small birds about his place is sadly wanting in generous feeling and sound judgment, and if he permits those birds to be destroyed because they deprive him of a few of his cherries or green peas, he, to use the vulgar phrase, "saves at the spigot and loses at the bung." Careful experiments have shown that every robin consumes, during the spring, summer, and autumn, fifteen pounds of worms. Think of that, every farmer who complains of the robin or any other small bird, for all eat in proportion. And only fancy, these thousand small birds that surround your homes eat annually fifteen thousand pounds of worms and other insects!

Now, taking into account the vast good they do the farmer, independent of their sweet melody, who is the well-thinking man with a generous mind that would permit the so called sportsman, or the boy with the murderous gun, to destroy them, and particularly out of season? Even the poor black crow, now so common amongst us he is the harbinger of spring, and is useful in his way. It is not to be denied that he pulls up a great deal of corn, and gives a deal of trouble, but he does it not for mischief, but in his efforts to assist the farmer. Every one knows the injury done to corn and other crops by the wireworm and cutworm; it is in pursuit of these grubs that crows and blackbirds pull up the young plants, at whose roots instinct teaches them that their prey lies; and it will be found that the fields most haunted by crows are most infested by the grub and the worm. This I mention to show the real habits of the crow, and I think we should meet with greater loss without his company.

The following statement shows that robins, crows and blackbirds are not the only consumers of worms: A distinguished American naturalist mentions in his remarks respecting small birds, that, "one morning, he saw the branches of a favourite tree overrun by many hundreds of coarse, hairy black and red caterpillars, often seen on willows, that he was on the point of going out to remove them, when he saw a male catbird light among and begin to eat them, occasionally flying away with some for its young. The bird continued this all day; by the same hour on the next day there were no caterpillars to be seen on the tree; the catbird had cleared it."

So of other birds, and the million of pounds of grubs and worms eaten by birds