

Happy people, we thought, possessing such a country, and happy country possessing such a people.

THE FARM.

At the approach of that hour—noontide, which brings a satisfaction to every toiler on the farm such as the fritterer of life never knows, we reached the farm. Lo! yonder is a field of hay composed of the most magnificent mixed grasses, vying with each other in the luxuriance of their growth. The clovers, however, attest their claims as the foremost foragers for those hidden elements of richness that lie deep within the soil. Notably prominent was the large red. This variety the grasses had with one consent appointed to rule over them, and what is strange, very many farmers will not sow this splendid caterer at all.

Some hay was up in well made cocks, some had just fallen by the mower, which at a little distance in the intervening space was followed by the revolving tedder, and stout yeomen following the rake, which had already commenced its work, were putting it up. With ruddy countenances and modest mien three of the sons of our city host were manning the horse working in the hay, feeling happier, without a doubt, than though engaged in trolling amid the Thousand Islands or vainly seeking for contentment amid the unrealities of some sea-shore watering place. It seems the principles of family government are the same the world over and through all time, in the metropolitan city as in the solitary country place: "Train a child up in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

The hay is cut when the clover is just nicely in bloom. The mower runs smartly from early morning until noon. About mid-forenoon the tedder follows until its work is done, the operator finishing before getting dinner. Then the rake draws it together followed by a sufficient force to have it all in cock the same day. One load thus cured is worth two dried in the ordinary slip-shod fashion, for feeding purposes.

The farm lies in the form of a rectangle, gradually ascending toward the rear, and consists of but three fields and a piece of woodland, ten acres in extent, which is being thinned and sown to mixed grasses with a view to permanent pasture. Flourishing maples line the highway in front and the drive to the dwelling. The lane, beautifully gravelled, leads up one side to the buildings, which are half way back and on the same side. A lane then leads from these across the centre of the farm to the bush, which is on the other side, forward, but not extending to the road. From this lane a nice neat driveway, unfenced, leads through the centre of the two fields in the rear, with open ditches at the sides. So little value does Mr. Rennie place upon fencing material of the established order, that he has quite taken away a number of the original fences, retaining for use only the best of the rails, and using the remainder for firewood. The fences mainly consist of cedar post and stake with rails laid straight, and are very perfect in their construction. We saw miles of this style of fencing during our day's drive through Markham and Scarboro', which adds very much to the beauty of the country. If the growing scarcity of rails but lead farmers generally to adopt a partial system of soiling, the almost universal wail over the decay of our fencing material will, we think with Mr. Rennie, be turned into rejoicing.

The outbuildings are plain and of the less recent order, and are kept neat and clean and tidy, well covered with paint on the outside, and the stables with whitewash within. The barns are in the form of three sides of a square, thus enclosing save in the east front,

a yard piled with rich manure to the depth of several feet. Every implement was in its place and in perfect working order. The grounds around the buildings are being nicely graveled, which adds very much to the comfort of all concerned in a time of wet upon a clay farm. This gravel is drawn at times when other farm work is not urgent.

THE GARDEN

comprises about two acres, and is this year tended by one of Mr. Rennie's sons. It is kept faultlessly clean and contains a great variety of produce. In one plot were thirteen different varieties of potatoes, grown mainly for show purposes, but in some instances by way of testing. They are not hilled much, but the soil is frequently stirred about them.

Another plot contained surplus bulbs left over from spring stock, as gladioluses, etc., which at the proper season must make a magnificent show.

Seventy-five different varieties of roses grew in the places assigned them, many of which were coming into bloom. Other plots contained new varieties of wheat and grasses, which were being tested.

It is a cardinal principle with Mr. Rennie to make each of his distinctive operations to pay its way. This garden, besides beautifying the place, is a source of considerable revenue. The prize roots and tubers raised within it have latterly won many of the rewards at the Toronto Industrial Exhibition, and have done excellent service in foreign lands by drawing attention to the capabilities of our country.

The nicely whitewashed picket fence is planted within with Norway spruce. The pickets will be supplanted with wire, which in a few brief years will be hidden by the trees, which very soon form a perfect windbreak. These are also being planted around the smaller enclosures.

Mr. Rennie imports those trees from Europe in immense numbers, and retails them at from two to three dollars per hundred when from 15 to 20 inches high. They are perfectly hardy, resist well the action of snow-drifts, and will grow well in almost any soil. It is better to plant them on an ordinary ridge made with the plough, well tilled previously, and which will drain. For two or three years the ground should be stirred in the spring around them and cleaned, and then mulched with manure. They may be planted three feet apart.

THE STOCK.

As Mr. Rennie is aiming principally at growing farm seeds, he only keeps cows enough to supply the wants of the farm, and horses to enable him to work the land, with the exception of colts, of which there are three or four of different ages, very good animals of the Clydesdale type.

More attention, however, is to be given to the breeding of horses, as no less than three Clyde mares and a stallion, all pedigreed and of high individual merit, have just been ordered for the seed farm from Scotland.

But the principles of good farming are the same everywhere, with such modifications as suit the locality. Stock-keeping is essential to success, even in the management of the "Seed Farm." For several years from 28 to 30 head of cattle have been fattened and from 50 to 60 head of sheep, mainly from the produce of the farm. They are bought in the fall and sold in the spring for export. Hitherto this has paid well, although the roots eaten have been charged at \$50 per acre. This year, as there was but one cent per pound between the buying and the selling price, Mr. Rennie has some doubts about the direct return. To ensure a profit there should be a difference of two cents per pound between the buying and selling prices.

For a time the farm had been rented, and as is usually the case, was coming to grief, when four years ago Mr. Rennie took it in hand, and to-day we do not hesitate to pronounce it one of the richest farms in Ontario.

THE CROPS.

These were very luxuriant, and faultlessly clean. A war which knows no truce is constantly being waged against weeds, which are rapidly disappearing.

The spring wheat, oats, peas, etc., were abundantly rank, with no traces of excessive overgrowth. The mangolus were strong and well ahead, with the exception of a few drills, which had been left unsown the evening of the drilling, contrary to the usual practice. A heavy shower falling in the night hindered the sowing of them for two or three days, which will just make a difference of nearly one-half in the crop. No sluggard need hope to farm successfully.

The meadows consist of alsike, large red, small red, and white Dutch clovers, timothy, perennial rye grass, Italian rye grass, and meadow fescue. About twenty-four pounds are sown to the acre.

Mr. Rennie never allows work on the farm to drive him, everything is done as nearly as possible at the right time, which is one great secret of the financial success which attends his enterprises.

ROTATION.

The rotation practiced is a five years one. The first crop on breaking sod is some kind of grain, the second, roots, accompanied by heavy manuring, and that class of subsoiling which leaves the subsoil where it is most serviceable—below. Then follows wheat, etc., on which grass is sown. The second year of hay, the aftermath, usually consisting of luxuriant clover, is ploughed under.

UNDERDRAINING.

The soil consists of pretty stiff clay with a stiffer subsoil to the depth of three feet, below which sand and water are frequently found. In the mains are used six, five, and four inch tile; in the laterals, two inch, but those two-and-a-half inches would be favored. To drain such soil perfectly, the laterals should not be more than twenty-eight feet apart, and in springy ground fourteen feet. About half an acre or less of the spring wheat had been a good deal injured by the clogging of a drain, which had been caused by some growth, as of the fibres of a mangold root, which had penetrated the joints and grown upwards in the drain, and was washed into a dam by the influx of water in early spring. Mr. Rennie has not been able as yet to dispense altogether with surface ditches. In the natural depressions an open furrow is left. This but tends to strengthen our opinion previously held, that in some very hard clay soils we shall never be altogether able to dispense with a few open furrows, however well the land is under-drained, that is, at ordinary distances, notwithstanding the expressed opinion of scientific writers to the contrary. We shall be glad if it turns out that we are mistaken, as we bewail the loss of the fertilizing matters that are borne away in open furrows. They not only rob the land of its fatness, but break the machines and sorely try the temper of the reapers.

THE ELEVATOR DITCHING MACHINE.

Although the fame of Mr. Rennie as a reliable seedsman is already borne through many lands; although as a farmer he was considered sufficiently model to entitle him to a silver medal, it is as the inventor of the elevator ditching machine that he will longest be remembered. We have no doubt that long years hence when posterity shall assign to every man his proper position, as assuredly it will, the name of Wm.