

1875.

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THE CANADA FARMER.

ESTABLISHED IN 1864.

A large monthly paper, clearly printed and well filled with an immense variety of Editorials, Correspondence, and Extracts from other Journals, on

AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE,

AND

RURAL AFFAIRS.

The Best Paper for a Canadian Farmer to Read, and also the Cheapest.

The conductors of THE CANADA FARMER will continue to labor earnestly for the following ends:—

To arouse attention, by frank and temperate discussion, to all questions, scientific, commercial, legislative, or otherwise, specially affecting the farming interests.

To stimulate the agriculturists of our country to adopt an improved system of husbandry, by blending the lessons of modern science with the practical experience of the Canadian farmer.

To bring under the attention of our farmers all improvements at home and abroad, worthy of adoption, affecting the management of Field Crops—the Barn Yard—the Stable—the Dairy—the Orchard—the Poultry Yard—the Apiary—the Kitchen Garden—and the Flower Garden, and to excite an interest in the progress of Rural Architecture and Landscape Gardening, and all that concerns the domestic economy of the Farm House.

To mark and report all improvements in Agricultural Machinery, foster new inventions, and promote the adoption of all labor-saving machines, in the work of the farm and garden.

To keep prominently under attention all that specially concerns the Dairy Farmer and the Grazier—the best breeds of Cattle—the best systems of feeding—the most approved processes of cheese and butter making—the best mode of packing—and the best markets to sell in.

To keep prominently in view whatever is specially interesting to the Sheep-raiser and wool grower—the breeds best adapted to our climate—the best system of winter and summer management—and the varying prospects of the wool market.

To afford the farmers of Canada an ever-open medium for addressing their brother agriculturists throughout the Dominion, suggesting matters of common interest and advantage, and eliciting information or advice on practical questions of difficulty or doubt.

To report concisely the proceedings at agricultural shows, fairs, and sales throughout the Provinces, note the condition and progress of the herds and flocks of prominent stock breeders, and record the importation of thoroughbred stock from abroad.

To watch and report carefully and promptly the actual state and probable prospects of the produce markets at home and abroad, and specially promote all movements designed to secure the best prices in the best markets for Canadian farm produce.

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A limited number of advertisements are inserted at twenty cents per line for each insertion. There are twelve lines in one inch of space. Advertisements under ten lines are charged as ten line advertisements.

THE CANADA FARMER will continue to be supplied to Agricultural Societies, News Agents, and others, in quantities at Club Rates.

Any one is at liberty to get up a club on his own responsibility, and those desiring to do so, should send at once for a circular showing the terms. Parties subscribing (in a club or otherwise) before the 1st January, 1875, will have the paper sent to them up to the 31st December, 1875, on payment of a year's subscription. Each club paper shall be addressed separately, and may be for any Post-office. Parties getting up clubs will be supplied with specimen copies gratis, on application.

Remittances may be sent by P. O. Money Order, Bank Draft, Registered Letters, or by Express, at our risk.

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CANVASSING AGENTS WANTED.—First-class men, of good address, steady, and pushing, to canvass for the CANADA FARMER. Address, stating employment, previous engagements, age and references, Publishers of the CANADA FARMER, Toronto.

Secretaries of Agricultural Societies throughout the country will confer a favor by sending us the date and place for holding the Agricultural Shows for 1875. We shall also be glad to receive notices of Agricultural meetings, sales of stock, and other items of information suited to these columns.

The Agricultural matter published in the WEEKLY GLOBE is entirely different from that which appears in THE CANADA FARMER. The Editorial staff of THE CANADA FARMER is quite distinct from that of THE GLOBE.

The Canada Farmer

TORONTO, CANADA, FEBRUARY 15, 1874.

Work for the Month.

This is usually considered to be a season for leisure and social enjoyment among Canadian farmers, but there is no reason for considering the comparative rest from labor as an enforced one. A pushing, energetic man can always find plenty to do. This is the time of year when the plans for the ensuing summer's campaign should be carefully conned over and matured. A few hours' consideration now may save days and weeks of hard labor and vexation.

During the latter part of January the snow was so deep as to interfere with many of the necessary farm operations. There are therefore, now, rails to be cut, fences fixed, the wood-pile to be replenished, and timber to be cut for lumber, which in ordinary seasons might have been much more forward. The wood for the summer's firing should be drawn now. If implements have been left in the open, go and bring them in, even at the eleventh hour; look over them carefully, and clean and oil such parts as may have rusted from exposure. If you have no shed for your implements, build one now. It will pay well to do it.

Seed can be selected now at leisure. If this, perhaps the most important work on the farm, be left till sowing time, it will assuredly be neglected in the press of business. Remember how the famous Wykoff Winter wheat was improved by careful selection. The originator of that variety discovered accidentally, while throwing his wheat from side to side of the barn to dry it, that the grains which rolled the farthest were the plumpest and soundest grains. In a few years, by practising this, his seed was in request everywhere. Nothing will pay better than thus selecting seed grain.

It will be bad policy to leave any hauling undone for a day after the opportunity offers. The manure should be taken to its final destination and spread. Do not leave it in heaps where dumped, as rain will carry the soluble parts into the earth where piled, robbing the manure of its riches and making the one place too rich.

Those farmers who have a kit of carpenter's tools will now find a chance to make them pay. There are boxes, implements, and a thousand-and-one things to be repaired. "A stitch in time saves nine," and so does a nail or screw. A little practice will give any one some degree of deftness in the use of tools, and, as soon as this is acquired, delight is taken in the work, which would repay the cost of the tools; and every time the tools are used money is saved. Farmers should encourage their boys to attain expertness in this direction.

Stock has been well sheltered through the winter of course, and well fed. They must not be allowed to run down now. Every pound lost now is so much money gone for good. Where hay runs short, straw cut and steamed and mixed with meal or bran will keep them going. Straw alone will not do it. Treat the milch cows kindly and liberally. Such as are coming in should be separated from other stock. Do not keep on milking till near calving time. By doing so both the cow and her calf are robbed. Give your young stock good care, and see that the stronger animals do not get all the feed.

Look carefully to your horses as the treacherous dampness of Spring approaches. See that their stables are comfortable, well-lighted and ventilated. Their feed should be increased as the days get longer and their work more laborious. Look to their feet and see that they are scientifically shod. Breeding mares want extra care. Colts should be "gentled" now, made familiar with man, and induced to understand that they are not going to be hurt.

Early lambs will be coming in. The ewes will want the closest attention and the most humane care. The other sheep can be let out to pick up what they can find.

In the orchard and garden there is much that can be done. Pruning may be done on mild days when the wood is not frozen; but do not prune too severely. Look carefully for depredations of mice and rabbits. Girdling may be prevented by placing pieces of wood around the trunks of trees, and tying with wire; or bandages may be put round. The snow should be trampled firmly for several feet around the trees, to prevent mice burrowing and playing mischief under the surface. The manure for the garden should be collected and piled for distribution before rains set in. Manure for prospective hot-beds should be kept in small heaps to prevent fermentation.

Painting is a thing which every farmer can do for himself. If he does not like to mix his colors himself, and we recommend him not to do so, he can buy them ready made, of better quality and cheaper than he can mix them. There are now no flies or dust to vex the soul of the painter. All wood-work that is exposed to the air will well repay the cost of painting.

The heavy snows must have sorely tried all weak roofs. The snow should be removed from all flat or weak roofs after every storm. Get a piece of board three or four feet long, to the four corners of which fasten short ropes—to which short ropes fasten long ones. Throw the long rope over the building from which the snow is to be removed. Then drag over the board, move a pace aside and drag it back, and so on.

There is one thing which is timely now as at all times. If you have a neighbor who does not take the CANADA FARMER, and you wish to do him and us a service, tell him exactly what you think of our paper, which, we flatter ourselves, will be the means of securing a new subscriber.

The Emigration of English Farm-Laborers.

"Westward the tide of empire rolls its way" was literally a poetical prophecy; for year by year our countrymen, since that was sung, have been finding their way into the far wilds of America and to Canada in numbers so great that even the fertile imagination of the poet could scarcely have conceived the magnitude. Not a few of those wanderers have found the home of their adoption not so good as the one they left behind them—no better than as a stepmother in comparison with a mother, but the greater proportion have reason to be thankful that they improved their condition on the other side of the Atlantic. But before they accomplished the better position they have attained in the Western States and in the Dominion, they had to set their shoulders to the wheel after a far more vigorous fashion than they would have chosen to exert in this country.

Thus saith the London Farmer, and, in admitting so frankly that "the greater proportion (of emigrants) have reason to be thankful" that they left their homes, it atones for much sneering at, and talking against, farm-laborers' emigration. Our English cotemporary says that these successful men "had to set their shoulders to the wheel after a far more vigorous fashion than they would have chosen to exert" at home. It is admitted by everybody who is acquainted with the two countries that, in our stimulating air,—we are speaking of the Dominion only, where malarious diseases are no more rife than they are in England itself—men can do a given amount of work with less fatigue than in the depressing climate of Britain. This being granted, we contend that the world and the men themselves are the better off by just so much as their shoulders have been more vigorously set to the wheel.

It is all very fine for the Farmer to talk about men in a state of semi-starvation, "choosing" to put more vigor in their motions. They can not do it; and, if the ruddy-visaged, well-fed, portly farmers of Old England were put on the rations that they make their men exist upon, they would soon discover the fact.

In answer to what we have said about semi-starvation, there will be trotted out, as an average specimen of his