

of May last year, it being "feeling" day there. I went to Salt Market Square, where the farm laborers were congregated, both men and women, and I found very many of them were ready to come to Canada, provided places were secured for them. Such a class of farm help is the kind we require—well-trained fellows as a rule, that know their business. Such labor will earn a remunerative wage to the farmer who uses intelligence and business methods in his farm operations, uses his hired help as he would wish to be treated himself. For instance, if you employ a married man, build a comfortable home for him, give him some inducement to work for you, don't impose on him, and he and his family will doubtless give you good results, and make farm life more profitable, besides giving a greater amount of pleasure to the farmer and his family.

Huntingdon, Que.

W. F. STEPHEN.

Balance Emigration with Immigration.

That the problem of farm help in Ontario has become a very live as well as embarrassing one, all farmers will admit. In the region where I live the scarcity, and in many instances the utter absence of farm help has compelled many farmers of my acquaintance to change, radically, their former methods by almost wholly relinquishing the growing of cereals and reducing the tillage of the soil to the minimum. This of itself may not be unmixed evil. Many farmers have left the greater part of their farms seeded to grass, and larger areas are used for grazing purposes. These methods, though for the time being compulsory, will be the means of perpetuating and increasing the fertility of the farms. In years gone by we heard a good deal said and written (and truly, too) about the drudgery and lack of recreation on the farm, and, besides, the remuneration to the farmer was not commensurate with what could be obtained for the same industry, skill and perseverance in other occupations or in the professions; this led the young people to leave the roof-tree and farm for the workshop. But in these days of more and better labor-saving machinery on the farm, the better methods in conducting our farm operations, with more facilities to keep in touch with the outside world in the way of education and recreation, and last, but not least, more adequate returns for the labor and capital expended, we hear but little of the exodus from the farm by the youth for other and more alluring occupations. With these changed conditions, we will have to look for some other source for this want that now exists. Speaking from my own experience and observation, one, if not the principal cause, is emigration to the Canadian Northwest, Michigan, the Dakotas, and other places. Since the opening up of our Canadian Northwest many young men and women have followed the advice of the late Horace Greeley, "Go West, young man." Aye, and more than the young man has gone. Many farmers with small holdings, others with large families, have sold their farms to their neighbors, to go West, expecting to better their conditions. This selling to neighbors has intensified the scarcity of labor, as the purchaser increased the area of his farm, but there was less labor available to till it.

I have endeavored to show that emigration is one of the causes of labor scarcity in Ontario, and would suggest immigration as its antidote. It is true something has been done along this line, particularly the past season, but with the vast public works and enterprises going on, the labor brought in all has been swallowed up and but little has found its way to the farm. I think the statement is correct that there are still a plethora of young men and women who have been brought up on the soil in Great Britain—the most desirable class of immigrants for the Ontario farms. They are accustomed to the work on the farm, and if the methods of Great Britain are not precisely the same as Canadian methods, they soon become accustomed to our ways, and are very soon experienced workmen. So, I should say, by all means let our Government, in their immigration policy, continue to induce this class of settlers to come to our shores with greater volume in the future than in the past, and this difficulty will be relieved, if not wholly done away with.

JAS. TOLTON.

Bruce Co., Ont.

It's No Fairy Tale

THAT "WANT AND FOR SALE" ADS. IN THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE PAY THE ADVERTISER. WE'VE BEEN TOLD THIS BY THOSE WHO HAVE TRIED IT. WHAT BETTER PROOF COULD WE HAVE?

Harvesting Buckwheat.

The harvesting of buckwheat requires some nicety of touch; for, like oats—only more so—it does not ripen its seed uniformly. The succession of blooming and ripening is so long that first-formed seeds may be ready to shed while those following on are still green.

The only plan, however, is to examine the crop carefully from time to time, and reap when there is the greatest attainable quantity of ripe and bold seeds. And with crops of this peculiar ripening it should always be borne in mind that the earliest seeds are far the best, so that it is better to lose two of the later than one of the earlier. The crop may be reaped or mown, cut with machinery or otherwise. The fashion used to be to pull it, but that plan would not suit us nowadays. It was held by our forefathers that pulling did not shake out so much seed as reaping. But the cradle scythe always was a popular plan, and if you have only a little to cut, there is no better plan for you to pursue to-day. If, however, weather comes on hot it is better to mow early in the morning and in the evening, the same as we take beans when overripe. The dew and damp of morn or eve then saves shedding of the seed to a considerable extent. If buckwheat is reaped before the last stage of ripening, as most of our other crops are, there is too great a loss in the secondary and later ripening grains.

The crop may either be sheafed and shocked like wheat, or be left in cocks or bunches like peas. In the former plan no moving is needed till carting-in takes place, but in the latter the wads may require turning a time or two—particularly if rain falls. But throughout the process the less moving the better, so long as the straw is got quite dry, as the more moving the more shedding. There is liable to be heating in stack, too; in fact, is sure to be, if leading is conducted before the crop is ready. Patience is a virtue here, as in haymaking. Some farmers put a layer or two of brush or straw in the stack to give air and save fermentation. As with other crops that do not ripen uniformly or regularly, buckwheat needs extra care in carting and stacking, as well as in the reaping.—[J. W. R., in Massachusetts Plowman.

Treatment of Young Clover.

At a time of year when the young clover plant is passing through, perhaps, the most critical period of its existence, it might not be out of place to say a few words regarding its proper care and treatment. When we consider that clover, owing to its value both as a fertilizing and a fodder crop, is, perhaps, the most important factor in the ordinary farm rotation, we can hardly help wondering why the average man pays so little attention to it. It is the opinion of a great many farmers that, beyond sowing the seed in the spring, there is little else for them to do, that all the rest depends upon nature, whether the final outcome be good or bad. It is true that weather conditions have considerable to do in the matter, but if the farmer has a fairly good soil, and will take the trouble to assist nature in every way possible, a good stand of clover may be obtained, even under unfavorable conditions.

I will endeavor to point out a few things which conduce to successful clover growing. In cutting the nurse crop one should always keep an eye on the young clover. In some places the clover will be strong and rank; in others, where the grain is badly lodged, it may be thin and weak or may be completely smothered out; in other places where the grain is thin and poor the clover may be the same. We need not worry about the former, as the good clover will pull through, anyway; also the spots which have been shaded and smothered by the heavy grain will usually come on all right after the grain is cut, as the ground is generally in good condition where the grain is down. It is frequently surprising how quickly clover will begin to show where none could be seen a short time before. Then, again, owing to the richness of the soil on these spots, the young plants will stool out a great deal, so it is only with the last-named areas that the farmer need concern himself to any extent, the places where both grain and clover are thin and poor.

The cause of these poor spots is that the soil in these places is generally lacking in the principal fertilizing ingredients—nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash—and as the clover plant requires large amounts of the last-named ingredient (potash) to make a successful growth, the lack of it will often be found the cause of the weak stand on these spots. If the clover in these places is left to the mercies of the seasons, there will be very little of it left in the spring; so here is at least one place where the farmer can assist nature. They should be given a liberal coating of either farmyard manure or some good commercial fertilizer containing a large percentage of potash. If farmyard manure is used, it should be spread evenly and not too thickly over the surface, taking care not to leave any lumps or clods of straw manure, which might smother the delicate young plants. A manure spreader is the best for this purpose, as it is possible with this to spread the manure much more evenly than by hand. The idea of this top dressing is to give the young plants a good start before winter, and

in every case they will readily respond to the treatment.

Another point where some make a great mistake is in pasturing their young clover in the fall. If there is any danger of the plants becoming far enough advanced to form heads, it would pay far better to take a mowing machine and run over the field, setting the machine to cut as high as possible so as not to injure the crown of the young plants. The dividing board should be removed so as not to leave the cut clover in bunches, but spread evenly over the field. The advantages of this over pasturing is that the plants are all cut off at a uniform height, not below the crown, as would happen in some cases if pastured, especially were horses allowed on it. Mowing cleans the ground of weeds which may have sprung up since cutting the grain. It leaves the young clover tops, weeds and stubble upon the ground as a mulch which will protect the young plants during the winter.

By keeping stock off, the roots, and likewise the soil, are saved from injury by tramping, especially during wet weather. If a young clover plant is packed down and baked into the hard clay there isn't much prospect of it ever being much use either as a fertilizer or for hay. Perhaps I should have mentioned that the cutting should not be done later than September, as plants require that much time to regain sufficient growth for winter protection. When these few precautions have been followed I have never failed to see a uniformly good stand of clover.

Elgin Co., Ont.

A. McKENNEY.

[Note.—A light dressing of ashes is an excellent thing for the poor spots in the clover field, and application of them in this way will pay many fold better than trading them for soap.—Editor.]

Thick and Thin Seeding.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

The fact that plants yield more largely when they are furnished with abundant room, and that the thin seeding of a crop, up to certain limits, yields a better harvest than any thicker seeding, is no new discovery. We read of it in the works of the most ancient writers upon agriculture, and early historians record facts illustrating the advantages of sowing thinly, and of the extraordinary yields of grain from single seeds. Nevertheless, the subject is as fresh as ever, and we see every year good farmers wasting large amounts of seed and sacrificing large portions of their crops. We have recently seen a piece of oats sown with one bushel per acre, which yielded a better crop than a neighboring field sown with three bushels per acre. A few years ago a ten-acre field was divided into five portions and sowed with wheat, at the rate of one bushel, five pecks, six pecks, seven pecks, and two bushels per acre, respectively. There was no perceptible difference in the soil of the field, nor any in the manuring, preparation or sowing. At harvest time there was a very perceptible difference in the yield, however, the thinnest-sowed portion being by far the best of the field, and the thickest portion the worst. In the thinnest-sowed portion the wheat had stooled out considerably, and the heads were much longer than where two bushels had been sown.

At a certain meeting some time ago, a noted seed-grower read a paper upon thin sowing and selection of seed, illustrative of his experiments in raising "pedigree" wheat. He exhibited a single plant of wheat from a single seed planted alone, which bore 94 stems, one of barley bearing 110 stems, and one of oats with 87 stems. He stated that a crop of wheat sown with single seed, nine inches apart each way, produced 108 bushels per acre. His plan of selecting seed was to take the most perfect grains from the largest head of the plant with most stalks, and plant them so that the grain from each head occupied a row by itself, and each grain being 12 inches apart in the row. This plan was repeated yearly, taking each year the best grain produced. By this course, in several years he had succeeded in doubling the length of the heads, in trebling their contents, and in increasing the tillering power fivefold. Five pints of wheat planted 12 inches apart each way in September, upon an acre of ground, gave 1,001,880 heads, or 67,760 heads more than six pecks per acre sown upon an adjoining field. Later plantings reduced the crop somewhat. One plant gave 1,878 grains; a bushel of wheat produced by this thin sowing contained 460,000 grains, while a bushel of ordinary wheat contains 700,000 grains. Here is interesting matter for consideration, and if, as seems scarcely to be doubted, thin seeding is more productive than thick, it might be very profitable to experiment in this direction. It is necessary to remember that for such seeding to be successful, the soil must be rich and free from weeds by thorough cultivation. With better farming than we now have we can raise large crops, and it is certain that the possibilities of better farming are not nearly realized as yet.

J. D. F.

Norfolk Co., Ont.

[Note.—While commending the general idea of the above writer, we think the arguments put forward for thin sowing are perhaps a little too sweeping. In this connection it may be noted that at the Ohio Agricultural Station, experiments in thick and thin seeding, covering eleven years' work, indicate that eight to ten pecks of seed per acre will give better results than a