

## FARM AND FIELD.

### THE LIVING OF FARMERS.

Many men and more women object to living on farms because the food offered in farm-houses is not as desirable as that found on tables in villages and cities. There is no good reason why as excellent food cannot be afforded on farms as in large towns. Most farmers might live well and be at no more expense than they are at present. Most of the articles that pertain to good living are or can be produced on farms with very little trouble or expense. The water afforded by springs and deep wells is superior to that supplied by the service-pipes in cities. Fresh butter, pure milk, and newly-laid eggs can at all times be obtained, and these deservedly rank among luxuries. They are articles generally hard to obtain in large towns, even by persons of wealth. At most times in the year there are fowls fit to be killed as occasion may require. During the spring there is veal, and during the summer and fall lamb, for fresh meat. If a farmer has an ice-house it is comparatively easy to have a supply of fresh meat of home production a large proportion of the time. Fresh fish are, of course, difficult to obtain unless a farmer has a fish-pond or lives near a lake or river. He can, however, have salt and-smoked fish as often as they may be desired to form a change in the ordinary bill of fare. As to flour and meal, and all kinds of prepared grain, they are as easily and cheaply obtained in the country as in the city. The like is true in relation to tea, coffee, sugar, and all other kinds of groceries. The articles above enumerated constitute nearly all the substantial things that pertain to good living.

Fine fruit, fresh from the tree, bush or vine, is one of the most essential elements of good living. This can be had in abundance by all farmers who live in most of the States of the Union. It can be produced as cheaply as any kind of food, and is very more wholesome and nutritious, as well as more palatable, than most of the articles found on farmers' tables. A small plot of land will produce all the strawberries, gooseberries, red, white, and black currants that any family can consume during the season of their ripening, and enough to supply them with canned fruit during the balance of the year. As to grapes, they are as easily and cheaply raised as potatoes, and are adapted to a large number of purposes. During at least three months they will supply the table with a most delicious and wholesome article of food which is relished by persons of all ages. As a breakfast dish grapes are unsurpassed. As table ornaments they are the equals of flowers. They are excellent when canned or when made into pies and jelly. Wine can be made of those that are not quite fair enough to supply the table or market, and vinegar can be made of those that are quite inferior. By taking pains with their preservation, they may be kept in a fresh state till the winter holidays. In this latitude no fruit is more easily produced than the Early Richmond cherry. The trees come into bearing quite early, and are very productive. The trees are ornamental as well as useful. In nearly every State in the Union some variety of peach, plaw, and pear does exceedingly well. As to apples, they will grow anywhere that corn will mature, and in many sections beside. In all the northern States and territories cranberries and blueberries can be raised with very little trouble or expense. With all these fruits at his command, no farmer can afford to set a poor table.

Next to fine fruits, fine vegetables add as much as anything to the essential part of good living. It is singular, however, that, while they are

always found on tables in towns and cities, they are seldom seen on the tables of well-to-do farmers in the west. Nearly all farmers raise common potatoes, cabbages, beets and onions, but the list of vegetables extends little farther than these. They have no asparagus, lettuce, radishes, egg-plant celery, cress, or pie-plant. They have a "mess" or two of green peas, and a few string-beans, but no attempt is made to have a succession of them during several months. They have no Lima beans, and few or no good bush-beans. Ordinarily they have no sweet corn, no sweet potatoes, and very poor tomatoes and cucumbers. Many farmers raise no pumpkins, and are at no pains to raise squashes for use during the winter and spring. If they raise turnips, they are of the varieties that are only fit for stock food. No watercress is found in any of the springs or streams on the farm, and no grapevines flourish on the high places that are valuable for the production of little else. Comparatively few farmers raise melons, though they will grow with very little trouble. In short, farmers deny themselves most of the cheap luxuries of life that they might enjoy to an extent that no other class of persons can for so little labour or expense. They seem to think that great skill is required to produce fine fruit and vegetables, while in point of fact they are raised as cheaply as most field crops. They insist on eating large quantities of pork on the score of economy, while it is actually one of the most expensive articles of food at present prices. It will pay any farmer, who has a considerable family, to employ one man to raise fruit and vegetables for the supply of his own table.—*Chicago Times.*

### FARM ROLLERS.

Of all farm implements there is none the value of which is so little understood and appreciated as the roller. We can point to whole townships, and we venture to say counties, in which there are not one to be found. When farmers are anxious to secure the most approved styles of ploughs, harrows, mowers, reapers, etc., it would seem that their attention would also be called to the roller, and its practical value become at once apparent, but such is not the case. The roller may be constructed of wood, stone, or iron. The latter is probably preferable; it can be made in sections, so that a greater or less length may be used at will, and so that in turning one end of the roller will revolve more than the other, to prevent a portion being dragged over the ground with danger of making depressions or displacing seeds, as well as rendering the labour less laborious for the team. The relative pressure by loading can also be better graduated than on solid rollers, it not being necessary that the cylinders themselves should be heavy.

There are few meadows in latitudes where the winter's cold allows the frost to penetrate the soil to any depth, where the grass in the spring is not found with roots more or less loosened, and sometimes entirely exposed. To run a roller over such a meadow is but little labour, and will repay by the increased crop many times its cost. The same may be said of fields of wheat, rye, or fall sown grass seed. Those who have had no experience can scarcely comprehend the benefit such fields derive from the pressure of the roller; the levelling of the ground in meadows over which the mowing machine will pass in a few weeks is also an advantage not to be lost sight of.

The advantage of firming the soil about newly planted or sown seeds is now so universally acknowledged that it is useless to argue it here. But there is no better way in which this firming can be done than by using the roller; in fact, there is with many crops no other practical way. Where planting is done by hand, it can be accomplished in a measure by the hand or foot, but even then it is not so well done as when a roller is passed over it.

There have been differences of opinion as to the best diameter for a roller, some advocating large ones, and others small. One writer says: "In constructing heavy rollers, the workmen should be careful that they have not too great a diameter, whatever the material may be of which they are formed, as the pressure is diminished where the implement is of very large size, by its resting on too much surface at once, except an addition of weight in proportion be made. By having the roller made small when loaded to the same weight, a much greater effect will be produced, and a considerable saving of expense be made in the construction of the implement." On the other hand, the greater the diameter of the roller, the easier will be the labour of drawing it. Probably one with a diameter of twenty to twenty-four inches would be, for all the purposes of a farm, about right.

In rolling grass lands care should be taken to have it done when the ground is in proper condition, as it cannot be done to so good advantage if it be too wet or too dry. If too wet, the pressure of the soil on and about the roots will be too severe, and if the soil is too dry, it will not be sufficiently compacted to produce the best results. The same may be said as to fields of growing grain. In other cases, when the ground is in condition to be sown or planted, it is fit for rolling.

As rolling occupies but little time, the implement would on most farms be comparatively out of use; consequently there is nothing that is better adapted for co-operative ownership or use than a roller. One is ample to do all the work required for half-a-dozen ordinary sized farms, and to have one for each farm would be a needless expense. A number of persons might combine to contribute funds for the purchase of such a roller as would meet the wants of all; or, better, one might make the purchase, be the owner, and hire it out to the others at a fixed sum for each hour's use. Joint ownership sometimes makes unpleasantness, when two want to use the same thing at the same time, or raise questions relative to care and repairs not always amicably settled. But in whatever way it may be thought best to hold it, of one thing we are certain—there should be at least one good roller in every neighbourhood.

### FARMERS' HEALTH.

As a class, farmers are hard workers. So far as I know, they never have demanded the "eighth-hour system," though they work much harder than those who are almost uproarious in their demands. In the busy season, in many instances, they are not even confined to "from sun to sun," but continue as long as the light will permit, attending to the chores after dark.

In haying and harvesting—the former more especially—the watchword is "drive," with