

must be continued. All beef raisers cannot quit and commence hog feeding. This would be disastrous. These figures are worth careful consideration. The matter cannot be too thoroughly threshed out. Give us your experience.

THE FARM.

Soil drifting is, year by year, becoming more troublesome in the West, some finding the condition almost intolerable. It is part of the price of exclusive grain growing by methods which exhaust the fibre from the land. Stock raising and mixed husbandry is the remedy—or, better still, the preventive for districts where it may yet be adopted in time.

The practice of tarring rope to protect it from the weather is common, but it is believed by many that the value of this is rather doubtful, as the acid in the tar weakens the rope to such an extent that engineers estimate tarred rope to be only two-thirds as strong as clean new rope. No oil or other preparation has so far been found that will not injure the rope except tallow. Tallow and graphite are used in making transmission rope, and for lubricating it when in use.

Steam Plows and Their Work.

The "other side" of the tractor plowing outfit idea is presented by Prof. Thos. Shaw in a recent article written for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal," of Winnipeg, Man. Much poor work, it seems, is done by these plows through carelessness or incompetence of operators, and, in some cases, through a desire to economize power.

"The moldboard plows are frequently run at uneven depths. In some places they may go six inches, at other places four inches, yet again two inches, and in some of the harder places are skips where the land is not turned over at all. In some places the furrows are not well turned, in yet others they are thrown on top of the previous furrow. No matter how land thus plowed may be pulverized, the first crop grown on it will be uneven. Where it has been most carefully plowed the grain crop will show up best, and in a dry year the difference will be much greater than in one that is moist. A skilled eye can tell by the grain the nature of the plowing that has been done.

"Where the disc plow has been used on sod land, many of the sods will lie on edge. In some instances the whole surface of the ground will consist of shorter or longer strips of sod lying topsy-turvy in all directions. Some of these may be turned grass side up, some will be on edge and others grass side down. It is difficult to pulverize such land. It can only be done by running over it some heavy form of disc until the sods are cut to pieces. Many of them will be on the surface and when they dry they will greatly hinder the harrowing of the grain after it is up; nor will they properly decay. Such a condition of the land is very undesirable. What has been said does not apply to all disc plowing, but it does to much of it.

"The manufacturers of these power plows should look into this question. If they do not know about the prejudice that exists against the use of these plows, they ought to know it. They should be more careful as to the qualifications of the men to whom they sell them. If these things are not carefully looked into, the day is coming when these implements will be relegated to the junk heap."

Over \$50 Per Acre for Beans.

Notwithstanding that prices of beans have sagged back from the very attractive level prevailing last fall, many farmers will be induced to try a few for the first time this year. For those with a suitable climate and soil, who grow them as a standby year after year, beans prove out well. In the bean section of Southwestern Ontario they are prized not only for the cash returns they bring, but as a cleaning crop, fitting well into a cropping system with fall wheat, which follows them in rotation. The straw, when harvested, makes feed, being especially suitable for use with corn silage or, alone, for sheep.

An extensive grower and strong advocate of the bean crop is R. D. Ferguson, of Elgin Co., Ont., who grows the Yellow Eye bean, which commands good prices in a limited market. Last year he had forty-five acres which averaged a little better than 24 bushels per acre. He sold early at \$2.30 and \$2.35 per bushel, realizing \$2,355.05, besides reserving 56 bushels for seed. This meant a cash return of over \$50 per acre, besides the straw and seed. The bean crop in general last year, was not a very successful one, but Mr. Ferguson harvested his pretty successfully, and obtained prices which made the crop very profitable to him.

What Help Will It Be to Me?

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate."

That is the question a young man I know of asked when it was urged upon him to be a little more faithful than ever in his duties on the farm, when the man for whom he worked for was away on business. "What good will it be to me? My time goes right on, just the same, whether I put myself out to do extra jobs or not. He wouldn't give me a cent more, no matter how faithful I might be." There was a sting of bitterness in the tone, and it was plain to be seen that the young hired man was simply working for his wages, and that was about all his employer considered him to be worth. There are thousands of young men just like this one, all over the country, men who are just "putting in their time" through the season, watching their shadows from morning till night and counting up the days that are left before they will get their pay and be off somewhere else.

I wish I might get the attention of every young man who is thus away from home, working by the month or by the season or by the year, as the case may be. And let me say right here that I know what it is to be in just that position. I worked a number of seasons as a month hand when I was a big boy and a young man. It has been my duty through a whole season to get out of bed in the morning before it was yet fairly light, get the cows and help about the milking and then do a hard day's work, finishing long after dark by a trip away two miles and back to the creamery with the milk. And I know the other side of it too. For a quarter of a century I have owned a good-sized farm of my own. I have had many hired men to work for me, and I have seen that side of the shield, as well as the other.

Now, I know there are farmers who do not seem to appreciate the efforts of their hired men to do the honest, square thing. These men think most of all of the work they can get out of their help. They reckon up what they will have to pay their men, and they crowd them hard from daylight till dark, to make them earn their wages. If these men ever served as month hands themselves they seem to have forgotten it, and are now thinking only of their own side of it. But, even if this is so, let me tell you, young men, friends you are all of mine, it will pay the biggest kind to put your whole soul into whatever you are doing, no matter whether the master is in sight or not. He is not an honest man who will lie down in the shade, providing he is well and strong, when his employer is away for a day or two. Will you let me tell you why this is so? In the first place, right says, "Do a good, fair honest day's work. You are paid to do that. When you hired out you really agreed that you would do it. You expected to do it. Then why not do it? Put away from you for the moment the side of the man you work for. On your part you agreed to do certain things in the best way you could. You cannot afford to do anything else. And then, the man who hires you knows what a fair day's work is. He cannot long be deceived. If you shirk, your day's work shows it, and the moment you let him know that you have not been carrying on the work he gave you to do, that moment you lose his confidence. From that time on, he will be on his defence against you. This will make it harder for you and harder for him. The best way is to keep steadily on with your work, just as if your employer were right by your side. Never have one gait for the master's eye and one for the back lot."

And then, the man who does not do the fair thing suffers most of all. It will, of course, be a drawback to the employer to have his help always lagging behind. He employs his help for the sake of getting his farm work along, for the profit there is in it, if you choose to put it in that way. He invests his money in your labor and he suffers if you are not true and faithful. If you are, he will recognize the fact and you will get your reward. No doubt about that. How? Perhaps not in the greater amount of money you will receive at his hands, but in a thousand little ways that it cannot be set down here. Kindly words and expressions of confidence will be bestowed in good measure upon the young man who is not afraid to do a little more than earn his wages; and when he goes away, he can have the commendation of the farmer, who has by this time learned him well and knows that he is fair and square and earnest in all he does.

But what if a young man is all the time thinking just of the money he gets, and deliberately sets out to do just as little as he can? That young man hurts himself far more than he does his employer. A dishonest act always harms the man who does it, most of all. If you steal your master's time, he loses just so much and that is all. But the man who commits the base act loses something that can scarcely be restored to him. He loses manhood, and that is

one of the most precious things any of us have. That gone, we are stripped of a beautiful treasure.

Then, too, the young man who is unfair loses the respect of everybody he comes in contact with. Speak against the man you work for and the one who listens will say, "I never want him to work for me. If he would say such things about one man, he would about another. The man that fetches will surely carry." This will extend to the young people of the neighborhood. They will distrust you if you are always trying to "beat" your employer by slighting your work or shirking on the job. More than this, ill news travels fast. Far beyond the confines of the neighborhood in which your lot is cast will go the report that "John Doe is not the man you want on your farm. I have tried him and I know."

But the worst of it all is the mark it leaves on a young man's heart life. Life is like building a beautiful mansion. Each one of us must do the work for himself. Others may help about the planning and getting the material together, but no other man can do a single thing toward the real work of rearing this costly structure. Your own hands, and not those of another, must lay the foundation stones, carry up the walls and finish the towers at the top. Just as you build, so the palace will be. If every part of the work be done just the best you can do it; if good, faithful, honest effort be put into it, the house will be perfect by-and-by. Every little thing you do is a brick in the wall. Every hour has its work; not one may be safely left out.

Right living, right thinking, right doing,—these are what count in the lives of us all, hired man and millionaire alike. The man who can and does work faithfully as a hired man will, by-and-by, be a good manager and good landowner himself. Nothing surer than that honest work will be worth more than it costs in the days to come. When you say, "What help will it be to me, if I am true behind the back of my employer," you do not think just what you are saying. Stop, now, for a moment, and just think of this. The costliest thing in all this world is insincerity. It never won a man anything that was worth having, and it robs him of the most valuable things in his life. Fight hard against insincerity. Live a good, true, manly, open-hearted life, and the time will come when you will reap a hundredfold for the seed you sow.

New York State, U.S.A. EDGAR L. VINCENT

The Difference in Peat and Muck Soils.

The Vermont Station has issued a bulletin, after a thorough investigation of the peat and muck soils of the state, dealing with these at some length. Among other valuable information is an explanation of the difference between these two soils.

The average agriculturist is not apt to discriminate between peat and muck. He sometimes uses the words interchangeably, but more often does not know what peat is, applying the word muck to deposits which strictly are peaty in character. A distinction exists and should be made clear. Peat may be defined as the yellow brown to black, more or less fibrous residue of partially decomposed and disintegrated vegetable matter derived from mosses, sedges, and water plants in general, which has accumulated mostly under water, and, consequently, away from the air, under conditions which have served in part to arrest the ordinary process of decomposition. Muck, on the other hand, is peat wherein the processes of decay have well nigh done their work, the fibrous structure being destroyed, the mass being of a black oozy character, the ingredients somewhat more oxidized and, hence, to some extent made more available to plant growth. A muck, in common parlance, is often simply a swampy soil of black hue and of a relatively high organic matter content.

It is more particularly to the effect of water that peat formation may be attributed. It excludes the air and largely precludes micro-organic growth, in that it favors the formation of soluble organic compounds which are thought somewhat to inhibit bacterial action. Hence peat forms only where there is either standing water or where saturation occurs. Muck, properly so-called, is simply a disintegrated peat, peat in its old age as it were, and its service is mainly that of a fertilizer. Peat is muck in the making.

Drained bogs on which the surface moss has ceased to grow are said to be "dead." The peat therein undergoes a sort of ripening, a more complete decay, darkens in hue, becomes more highly compressed and its ash percentage increases, all this because of organic matter oxidation. It now resembles a black loam or mud and constitutes a true muck. Peat naturally tends thus to oxidize, as is shown by the rapidity with which it blackens when loosely piled and exposed to the air. The blacker and the more compact it is, the higher its fuel value. Such peat as a rule is found in wooded bogs. Muck