

until his land, though rich and fertile, became so full of weeds as to baffle every effort to keep them down. All manure should thoroughly ferment and rot before being put on the land, in order, among other objects, that all noxious seeds may have their vitality destroyed.

Many intelligent and experienced farmers are adopting the plan of spreading their manure in the way of a top-dressing to land which has either been fall ploughed, or is intended to be broken up in the spring. There is doubtless some loss of the volatile portions of the manure in connexion with this course, but it is probably less than is generally supposed, while it is an immense advantage to have the soluble parts dissolved by the rains, and distributed as only rain can distribute them, among the particles of the soil, by which they are absorbed and held in store as nourishment for growing crops. A thin coating of manure spread on winter wheat in the fall, has been found of advantage in partially protecting the surface when the ground is bare in winter, and also in greatly increasing the yield.

Farming and Rural Life in Canada, &c.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

Sir, - The letter in your last, written in reply to an English Grazing Farmer, by a letter from Gloucestershire, appears to require some explanation.

Of middle class emigrants, England probably furnishes the greatest proportion; of these, one portion is composed of men of mature age, who in the words of the *Times* have been "hit very hard at home," and seek to better their condition, or rather to maintain a position in a new country, which, they find from impaired means, they cannot keep in an old country. The other portion consists of young men, who prefer emigrating, because they find something attractive in a colony in the way of freedom, which they fancy is not appurtenant to English life, and they persuade themselves that the chances are better in a new colony, than in England, where it is hard to get on. With both of these colonists or intending colonists, I have had a deal of correspondence and intercourse subsequent to arrival in Canada.

I have now an acquaintance who from an adverse Chancery suit, has brought out himself, wife, and two children, with perhaps from £500 to £700 stg. He intends to purchase 100 acres of clear land in a district where the ordinary social advantages of church, post office, and market, are within easy reach—and "to be thoroughly independent," by which, I infer, that the family are to get along without help indoors, and as little as possible out of doors.

The farm is to cost about \$2000, of which about half is to remain payable in annual instalments for five years; and the stock and furniture is to cost about \$1000 cash.

As to no neighbours of the same degree as himself, as your correspondent infers, there are at least three within three or four miles of his house, who are equal to any to be found in an ordinary English parish—fit associates for the clergyman, the medical man, and the lawyer, and if in England, they would be on friendly footing with the squire and his family, although not on terms of intimacy. To say that Canada has no good neighbours to offer new settlers, because the various grades in English society are not to be met with, is unjust, for experience convinces me that there is as much genuine society here as elsewhere, if less of polish there is also less of vulgarity, or of what Thackeray defines "as snobbery."

As to there being "no pleasure," surely there is daily pleasure in the occupation of a farmer, to say nothing of the winter evenings, when so many pleasant "re-unions" take place, preceded and completed by the merry sleigh drives, which of themselves cheer up the most dismal amongst us.

As to Fox hunting, there is certainly none, and yet I have seen more than one scratch pack after a bagged fox on the ice, but I cannot say the sport was very good. I have, however, two English friends now with me who flushed about 18 woodcocks in two hours, and brought down about 10—and were surprised at the number of partridges or tree grouse, to say nothing of the wood ducks and teal, or of the black bass and shad fish which vary occasionally our bill of fare.

For all these things the settler has no time or inclination, as other matters are more pressing, but sport is to be had and to be enjoyed by those who can use a gun, or have any idea of training a spaniel.

As to farming profits, they are not likely to belong to either of the classes I refer to. Cheap rural life, with plenty of occupation, and as much of comfort as

can be procured for the smallest outlay. And I believe the middle-aged man who has been "dead beat" at home, and does not like to see his neighbours all so much better off than himself, can live on a farm here, (especially if he can give his farm a subsidy in the shape of a small income,) and can enjoy himself. His wife is more likely to feel the hard work than himself, and she ought to be provided with all the labour saving implements of real use, as well as himself—and one "help," in the shape of a good, active girl, is more essential to her comfort than the first-rate ploughman is to the boss." But they had better get both, and with ordinary care and the exercise of good judgment, a comfortable homestead will gradually be formed. Nothing, however, is so likely to lead to failure as to rely upon excessive cropping to meet instalments. It is this which is the cause of most of the "second hard bits" encountered by farmers who have already been "hit hard" at home. When a man spends \$2 per acre in ploughing, \$2 for seed, and \$2 for harvesting, and cultivates 10 acres, he stakes \$210 on the chance of getting 20 bushels per acre, or netting \$560. The odds are greatly against his getting \$360. His \$210 are gone, and his instalment is due, with little more than the interest in hand to meet it. Now if he cultivates 20 acres properly, or 15 acres, which he could do without extra help, except perhaps for drawing some manure, not from the town, because we presume that is out of the question, but from his swamp, he would make the first crop off 15 acres of worn out land as good as if he had attempted to cultivate 40 acres, and get more grain.

Bees are social gatherings more useful than ornamental, and perhaps a threshing bee is not the kind of society your correspondent would prefer; still they are unavoidable. And as my neighbours are in my debt—i. e., as to *Bee* work—I am going to get up a "Muck Bee" for driving muck from the swamp to the upland, and I think you will agree with me that the experiment is worth trying, and if these *Bees* become more common, the threshing "*Bees*" will be a good deal cleaner, the "*Bees*" will be less dirty, less like chimney-sweepers than they now are; their eyes and mouths less choked with thistle dust and down, and the man who has to carry away the grain will not have so easy a place, nor the threshing machine owner be so reluctant to thresh by the bushel as he now is. I hope, therefore, you will put in a plea for the old adage, "Muck is the Mother of Money,"—and there are few farms in Canada which have not an abundance of muck of the best description, only requiring *Bees* to collect it.

Yours truly, SIMPLEX.

Farm Work for October.

In this delightful autumn weather, while the condition of the soil is so favourable for such employment, and the atmosphere is so bracing to the nerve and muscle of man and beast, we desire to call the attention of our readers to the importance, in an economical point of view, of *fall ploughing*. In this climate, our seed time is always short and hurried, and when we postpone all our ploughing to the spring, with our best endeavours we are liable to fail in being up to time in planting and sowing. The experience of all farmers who observe carefully the "reason why," has demonstrated that whatever work can be done in the fall to anticipate or shorten the labours of the spring, is so much clear gain, and the difference of a single week in the time of putting in a crop of Indian corn or other grain, has been proved by repeated experiment to be sometimes equal to the loss or gain of half the crop.

We are well aware of the advantage to a growing crop, of turning under sward ground in May, after the grass has got a good start, and the fermentation of the grass and its roots in the soil is equal in its effects to a pretty good dressing of manure. But the present is an extraordinary season, and in pastures not closely fed there is at this time a very good growth of grass; and to turn the sod under now, the same beneficial effects will be realized, for there will be no considerable fermentation of the vegetable matter in the soil until spring, and we gain largely in exposing it to the action of the frosts in winter, to say nothing of the saving of time when work is driving, and we are hurrying for our lives to get our seed in at the proper period to secure an adequate return.

It is an old but very true saying that "Muck is the mother of meal," and we have great faith in the muck; but it is an awful waste of time and labour to cart muck into the barn-yard or hog-pen at this season, and cart it out again in the spring. It is a much better way to draw out all the manure now on hand to the place where it will be wanted in the spring, and make your compost heap in the field. If muck cannot be had, use sods, surface soil, the

scrappings of the roadside ditches; mingle all together, put on a good coating of loam outside, and "let it sweat." After doing this very needful and profitable labor, it is best to fill up the barn-yard and hog-pen with new material from the meadows and the fields, and reserve from the butcher-knife swine enough to keep it well mingled with the voidings of the cattle during the winter. By this means the manure heaps will be largely increased at a great saving of expense and labour.

At this season, pork can be made very rapidly by judicious feeding. Hogs thrive best upon mixed food, and we should see to it that the swine intended for slaughter do not have their appetites cloyed with an excess of Indian meal; but that a due proportion of boiled potatoes and pumpkins goes into the trough, together with all the sour milk we can spare, and the slops from the kitchen. In feeding pumpkins it is well to remove the seeds, for they produce an effect upon the animal organization, which is unfavorable to man or beast, and although they contain much nutritive matter, its benefits are counteracted by elements of an opposite tendency.

The present is one of the best months in the year for the manufacture of butter and cheese, but milch cows are liable to fall off in the quantity of milk after the first severe frosts. To guard against this, we should be careful to have them warmly housed, and fed at night with all they can eat of good rowen or well-preserved stalks. It is not possible to obtain all the milk they are capable of yielding, if they go to bed hungry. Every additional mouthful that we can persuade them to eat comes into the milk-pail with interest, or improves their condition, especially if we provide salt for them whenever their appetites seem to demand it.

No prudent thrifty farmer will neglect his wood-pile; but this is emphatically a work for rainy days, and there will be enough of them between this time and "thanksgiving," which ought to be supplied in sawing and splitting a sufficiency of dry wood to keep the kitchen fire going without bellows, and to diffuse a cheerful warmth in the parlour fire-place or sitting-room stove. It is a sign of a "shiftless" farmer to see green wood only cut up from day to day, and the women folks trying to cool dinner with sticks from which the summer's sun has not evaporated the moisture.

A warm barn saves a large per-centage of winter fodder; and while the weather is pleasant it is the time to batten up the holes, chinks, and crannies, if there are any. We hate to see a good milch cow dis-counting from two to three quarts a day from her actual milk-producing capacity, just because there is a board or a batten off the barn close to her stall. Now is the time to make all snug, and the hammer and nails should be freely used wherever there is occasion for them.

Young stock at pasture should now be carefully looked after. Before the nights are severely cold, if in distant pastures, they should be brought home and comfortably housed. Some people say it "*toughens*" them to lie out in the cold until the severe weather sets in. Such a theory is against all reason and common sense, and those who advocate it ought to try the experiment a little while upon themselves. No animal can shiver with the cold without a diminution of its vital forces, and this involves a loss of fat and flesh. Don't believe any of the "*toughening*" nonsense, brother farmers, but see to it that your animals go into the barn in good condition if you would have them keep easy and come out in good condition in the spring.

Save the cornstalks. It is a slovenly practice to leave them in the field as some farmers do. If not suitable for fodder, they should be cut up and go into the manure heap. But with a good cutter, unless the corn is left too long upon the field, a good use can be made of them by chopping fine, scalding with hot water, and mingling with Indian meal or shorts. Used in this way there is little waste, and they make a wholesome and palatable change in the winter diet.

Well-fatted poultry, it is well known, command a much better price than the lean, lank creatures, whose skins and bones so often go to market. Corn, oats, barley, and buckwheat, are all good materials for making good poultry, but there is nothing which will promote so rapid a growth of both fat and lean as ground oats and water. Next come buckwheat, potatoes and Indian meal. Poultry-raisers should bear in mind that the colour of the meat and legs makes a difference of two or three cents a pound in the price of poultry at all city markets, and if they wish to obtain the utmost profit for their rearing, they will put the knife to or wring the neck off every black or blue-legged fowl upon their premises this fall, and start anew. It is a bad policy to keep anything upon the farm that is not the best of its kind, and blue-legged, black-meated poultry ought to be abolished by those who would secure the largest profit from their fowls.—*Flowerman*.