

The Grange Record.

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LATE SPRING.

The 16th of April, and the first indication of spring weather. Winter wheat all right so far, with two inches of frost out of the surface, but several inches of frost below; grass quite safe, with plentiful irrigation from snow water much of which, owing to the flag of frost below, will have to pass over the surface into open drains, to the loss of a certain amount to the land over which it passes, that, under existing circumstances, is unavoidable. There are still large snow banks in lanes and around fences, which will keep fields wet for some time, but will benefit the land, as by the time that it will be melted the land will be sufficiently thawed out to strain all the fertility out of the snow water. Though it may retard seeding for a few days longer, the soil will be the gainer.

S. D. G.

Huron Co.

DANGER ON CLAY.

In a late season like the present, those on light soils have much advantage and little to fear from early seeding; but, on stiff clays and clay loam, the danger of working the land too soon is likely to be the error which in nine cases in ten is sure to do harm. What is well begun is half done; but clay land wrought before thoroughly dry had better be undone, as in that state a good seed bed cannot be made and the ground is permanently injured by being rendered lumpy and stubborn. Better wait until the land is well dried, when, with the deep action of the frost during the past winter, the soil can be got in fine tilth, and a few days' delay will be more than counterbalanced by the rapid growth that will follow.

Seed put in sodden or cloddy clay soil cannot make a good start unless in thoroughly under-drained land and in a fine showery season; while with a fine seed-bed a good start is certain whether showers follow, or not; and after progress is certain in the latter but not in the former; but under a too hasty cultivation on clay soil much extra labour must follow in fining the surface. The land will be out of order for a year or two after, unless broken up by another winter's frost such as that just past. Let farmers, therefore make haste slowly till the land is fit to work finely, unless they are prepared for disappointment, or can afford to give much labour in breaking lumps, and run the chances of having two or three poor crops.

S. D. G.

A SUGGESTION.

Editor Rural Canadian:

SIR,—Through the courtesy of Mr. Phipps I have been furnished with his second report on Forestry, which contains much practical, useful information on the preservation and replanting of timber, the climatic benefits of timber belts, and the injurious effects of the entire destruction of

forests to an agricultural province like Ontario. I believe the pamphlet should be studied by every one who has an acre of land in his own right; and that our Provincial Government is desirous to put it where it will do the most good, I would suggest that the Secretary of each Division Grange furnish Mr. Phipps with the address of the Secretary of each Sub-Grange in his Division, and that these reports be read and discussed in every Grange in our Province, in hopes that steps be at once taken to check the total destruction of our remaining fragments of forest, and some of the plans proposed be applied to furnish a fresh supply before the whole surface of the country will become an arid, treeless waste, exposed to Arctic winds, roaring blizzards, and rainless scorching periods.

Sec., Div. 24.

Egmondville, April 12, 1885.

NOTES FROM HURON.

MR. EDITOR,—Please find enclosed the sum of \$1 for the annual subscription due by me for THE RURAL CANADIAN, FARM JOURNAL, THE CANADIAN FARMER AND GRANGE RECORD, the paper with the long name. I hope that it will do good in proportion to the name. Spring has now set in and the snow is fast disappearing, there is only a little left around the fences and the north sides of hills, and a little in the bush and on the north side where the sun does not shine much during the day. Some people are ploughing where the land is dry. The spring is late for this part of the country, and the winter has been unusually severe for the past three and a-half months. There were no thaws, the snow was dry and the fall wheat has come out all right this spring in this section of the country (Huron County). Feed for cattle has been very scarce on account of last summer having been so very dry, so that there was little straw; but pressed hay came in to aid those that were in need and no doubt saved the lives of some animals for a time. The weather has been warm for this time of the year, the thermometer ranging from sixty-five to eighty degrees above zero for the past four days.

Wingham, April 8, 1885. ROBERT CURRIE.

WINTER WHEAT.

The returns of April 1 to the United States Department of Agriculture indicate a reduction of over 10 per cent. of last year's area in winter wheat. The aggregate shortage amounts to 3,000,000 acres. A decrease is reported in every State except Oregon. It is 22 per cent. in Kansas and Virginia, 20 in Mississippi, 15 in California, 14 in Alabama, 12 in Tennessee, Illinois and Missouri, 11 in New York and North Carolina, 10 in Maryland and Texas, 8 in New Jersey, West Virginia, Kentucky and Indiana, 7 in Georgia and Ohio, 6 in Pennsylvania and Delaware, 5 in Michigan, 3 in Arkansas and 2 in North Carolina. The present condition of wheat as reported is worse than in 1883. It is 77 per cent. against 96 last year and 80 in 1883. In 1881, the year of lowest recent rate of yield, the condition April 1 was 85, and serious loss was sustained afterward. The real status of the crop will be better shown a month hence, when the vitality of the roots has been demonstrated and the character of the spring determined. On the present showing, the reduction of yield on the basis of last year's production promises to be nearly 40,000,000 bushels, on account of reduced area, and more than 60,000,000 from winter killing and low vitality. Whether the crop will exceed 400,000,000 bushels, or fall short of it, depends upon the reliability of present appearances and on future condition, affecting growth and ripening. The soil was in bad condition at the

time of seeding on the Atlantic coast from New Jersey to Georgia, and in West Virginia and Tennessee. It was better in the South-west and in Missouri, Illinois and Michigan. In the Ohio valley it is scarcely in a medium condition. Damage by the hessian fly was not severe, though worst in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and Kansas, where injuries have occurred in three-tenths of the reported territory.

DIVISION GRANGE MINUTES.

The first quarterly meeting of Prince Albert Division Grange was held at Hensall on the 28th ult. In the absence of Master, Bro. Halls was put in the chair. By request of Master, Bro. Smillie explained proceedings of Provincial Grange; Bro. McMordie gave some further explanations on the same subject. The advisability of an elective advisory board for our Experimental Farm at Guelph, which was laid over at last meeting, was now taken up and thoroughly discussed pro and con., when it was moved by Bro. McMordie, seconded by Bro. McQuade, and carried without amendment:—That this Division, being aware of the great importance of the College and Farm to the farmers of Ontario, desires to use its best influence for the entire success of these institutions and wishes to make them as useful as possible. We remember with pride and gratitude that at the request of our Division during an excursion and assembly at the Farm, our government permanently endowed the College. In order to place the Farm on a more permanent basis and give it more assistance and place it on a parallel with all other similar institutions, we desire to see an elective advisory board of practical farmers appointed to assist and advise Professor Brown in the management and thus relieve him from the effects of adverse criticism; such board to be elected from or by the Agricultural and Arts Association, or on the plan of the election of boards in university, or any other plan that may seem best to the Minister of Agriculture, that our delegate to Provincial Grange advocate that body to memorialize the Government for this purpose. Proposed by Bro. McMordie, seconded by Bro. Smillie, and resolved,—That this Division considers that for our midsummer holiday it is advisable to have an excursion sometime next June to Kincardine; that this Division will join with any other in getting up the excursion, and that the fixing of the day be left to Bro. Gifford; that our Secretary correspond with him forthwith and ask him to fix the time, and suggest the Divisions that will be likely to participate, and to assure them that we will use our best endeavours to make it a success, and that these resolutions be published in local papers, the two *Bulletins* and THE RURAL CANADIAN.

M. McQUADE, Sec., D. G. 24.

HAVE YOU THE STICKING QUALITY?

The sticking quality is essential to full success in farming, as in most kinds of business. It is an element of success in Grange work, as every Patron knows when he looks over the situation and takes account of discouragements. There are instances of Granges where no progress was made for three or four years, but members had the sticking quality and at last found their reward for patient waiting and determined adherence to organization. In one case a Grange met regularly for two years without a single addition to its membership, and with innumerable discouragements—the Grange made the object of assaults, ridiculed, maligned and opposed by every influence that could be used to increase difficulties and discouragements. Yet, the sticking quality remained unimpaired, and that Grange