

# THE CANADA FARMER

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NEW SERIES.

## The Field.

### Early Winter Work.

By the beginning of December the farmer, if he is thrifty and industrious, will have completed most of his work, and gathered in all his crops safely under cover. Most that now remains to be done is the thrashing, cleaning, and marketing of his grain crops. There is an evident tendency on the part of many farmers to somewhat neglect the matter of properly cleaning their grain before taking it to market. So much has this been the case this fall that our barley, which usually ranks No. 1 and commands the top price from United States maltsters and brewers, has been brought to market in such a dirty state, and so full of foul seeds and failings, that the bulk of it has only ranked No. 2, and dealers on the other side will scarcely buy the cargoes sent over, unless at a considerable reduction below the price of western barley. This might easily be avoided by a more free use of the fanning mill, an implement that does not seem to be as much used and appreciated as it should be. A bushel or two of tailings or chaff left in a wagon load of grain, can, it is true, be passed off, but the entire sample will be rated at a price that will reduce the value of the whole much more than the loss incurred by leaving out the tailings would amount to. So far there is nothing to complain of in regard to prices, which are comparatively higher than last year, with a larger crop to sell; and really first-class samples are eagerly purchased at an advance on average values, while unclean and poor samples are neglected or can only be sold at a reduction.

**IMPLEMENTS.**—Now that the field work is over, every implement that has been in use should be brought in, cleaned, dried, and oiled or painted, and put away safely under cover, where no rain or snow can reach it. Let there be a place for every thing and every thing in its place before winter sets in.

Every farmer should have a building set apart specially for the purpose of storing away his implements of husbandry when not in use. All that are broken or damaged should now be thoroughly repaired or replaced, and this done, there will be no time lost in spring when the season for work again comes on.

**FENCING.**—With the return of cold weather and a frost-bound soil, the farmer should endeavour to cut and split such rail timber as may be required for renewing or repairing of fences. This work is more easily done when there is little or no snow in the woods, than after the heavy winter storms come on. With the woods nearly clear of snow, it is much easier to see where to lay out the rails and pile them in places that are easily accessible when the sleighing becomes good enough to draw them to the clearings. Pathways for the team to get at them should be cleared out, while the nature of the ground can be seen, so that holes and bogs can be avoided. So also with the supply of firewood for next season, which may, however, be cut later, though usually some portion of each tree can be made into rail-cuts, while others may be cut into cord-wood. By a proper method of arranging this matter much valuable timber may be saved to a better use than burning, and much time and trouble saved to those who have to do the work of hauling out the rails and firewood to the yard and fields. If the work of looking over and repairing standing fences that do not require re-laying has not been done, no time should now be lost in attending to the matter.

**STOCK.**—All the animals on the farm should now be under shelter, and no longer allowed to roam over the fields even though they may still obtain a bit of frozen grass, which at best is scarcely equal to good clean straw. Those who have valuable stock will of course see to their being well housed and kept warm and comfortable as possible, with abundance of food and water. Animals intended to go to the butcher in spring or early summer should be put up to fatten before they lose their summer flesh. They need not be highly

fed at first, but care should be taken to give them a sufficient supply to keep them in thrifty and improving condition, till the time comes for pushing them rapidly forward. Those who have saved their corn-stalks or sowed corn for fodder, will find it the best plan to begin by giving out this feed at the commencement, and if the stalks are cut and steamed along with some roots or crushed grain, they will need little or no hay so long as this fodder lasts. Pea straw that has been well saved and is perfectly free from damp or mouldiness, makes excellent food when cut and steamed, and has considerably more nutriment in it than the straw of cereal grain crops. Sheep will often thrive well through the winter on pea straw with the addition of some roots. Cows that are giving milk need extra feeding at this time, to enable them to keep up the supply and give any return in butter, for without good and rich food, such as the best of clover hay and a little coarse-ground pea or barley meal, the cream that comes from the milk will contain but little butter and be difficult to churn.

The store pigs must not be neglected, for upon their being kept thrifty and in a constantly growing state will depend the success of the farmer in turning out profitable pork. They should get warm quarters and plenty of food. Cut clover hay mixed in with steamed or boiled roots, ruta bagas especially, and given warm with a little pea meal added, is capital winter food for store pigs and breeding sows. Keep their sties dry and well littered with straw and sheltered from storms or snow drifts. Nothing can be more unsightly and liable to create disease among pigs than the filthy state in which too many farmers allow their sties to remain during cold weather.

**SALTING DOWN PORK.**—To have good pickled pork the meat must be from pigs not exceeding 150 lbs. dressed. Cut out the hams, and cut the rest of the carcass up into medium-sized pieces of from 5 lb. to 7 lb. each. Rub each piece with fine salt, and set by for two or three days to draw out the blood.