

A Few of the Reasons Why Farmers Fail.

In these days when rigid economy and an understanding of the work is necessary to insure success in agriculture, it is not surprising that so many out of the great class of tillers of the soil fail to get either pleasure or profit from farming. Every neighborhood, whether good or bad, has a few farmers who are always in debt, always struggling to meet their obligations when due, and unable to make necessary improvements. In fact, their lives are made miserable by what they seem to think is a misfortune. But is the trouble the result of misfortune or mismanagement? It may be the former, but we cannot help thinking the latter has much more to do with it. We all know of numerous instances where farmers, often laboring under a disadvantage, have succeeded in raising and educating large families, besides laying by a modest sum for old age.

Many failures that we see cannot be attributed to lack of industry, as many unsuccessful farmers work late and early, and seldom, if ever, take a holiday. It can truthfully be said in almost all instances that failure is caused by the head not guiding the hands. The work is not done systematically as in other business, but managed haphazard, trusting to luck. The farm and markets are not studied; on hilly farms where sheep would do well, this animal is never seen, and grain is grown at a disadvantage and loss. Many similar everyday mistakes may be pointed out which are the result of bad judgment in the line followed.

Undertaking to do too much is a common cause of failure. Too many attempt more than can be properly done, and when hindered by bad weather the work is piled up and not done in season, which always becomes much worse to do and therefore less well accomplished. Short crops are the result both in quality and quantity, which means a light purse. Again, the farmer who attempts too much work neglects the small sources of income and comfort which a well-kept garden and poultry-yard can produce. A very common mistake is the injudicious management of the stock. The feeding and breeding are very carelessly done, which with a caution and judgment would produce results very different from those so often realized. The farmer has no right to complain that his business is not remunerative when he leaves his stock, especially the milking cows, exposed to the inclemencies of winter weather. The farmer should have a conscience that would not allow him to rest when he knows that his stock is not comfortable. A wise management in feeding is of great importance. To this end it is necessary to understand something of the constituent elements of food, and their office in the system. He will see then the folly of stuffing growing colts, which are raised for muscle and endurance, with corn or other fat-producing foods, and not allow cattle to lose half the flesh they have gained in summer by insufficient food and shelter in winter.

We will point to one more of the causes of failure, namely, allowing the soil to become impoverished. An intelligent rotation is one of the best methods of getting all that can be produced, together with a wise use of fertilizers at a farmer's disposal. The stock should be managed so as to save all the manure, both liquid and solid, using straw as an absorbent, as well as to make a comfortable bed, and then use this manure wisely so as to get the greatest profit from it. No source of fertility should be neglected. The grass and clover acreage and the amount of stock should be increased, and acreage under plow decreased, in a great many instances. Many more causes might be cited, but these enumerated will suffice for the present, and they are directly within the farmer's own control, which, of course, may not be said of all circumstances that militate against the farmer's success.

The attempt to hold lectures on practical dairy work at the World's Fair appears to have been a failure. People were there for sightseeing, and could hardly be expected to settle down to study the details of butter-making. The travelling dairy, as conducted in Ontario so successfully, and the Farmer's Institute afford the best opportunity for imparting instruction along that line.

Do not neglect the local exhibitions—the county and township fall fairs. They are great incentives to improvement. See that all the classes provided are well-filled. Do not neglect fitting up stock or arranging other exhibits till "the day before the fair." Take pains to select only the very choicest fruits, vegetables, grains, etc., and have everything arranged in the neatest possible package. Make your entries early and thus aid the secretary in getting through his work without hurry or confusion. In case they should be required, have pedigree certificates of stock at hand.

Messrs. Devitt & Sons' Clydesdales.

The group of draft horses which are portrayed on the front page of this issue are representatives of the stud of Clydesdale horses owned by Messrs. Isaac Devitt & Sons, Floradale, Ont., which is situated about four miles from Elmira, the terminus of a branch of the G. T. R., and is in one of the most fertile and best farmed sections of the County of Waterloo, where fine horses, choice cattle and improved stock of all descriptions have for many years been in demand.

The stallion in the foreground of the illustration is Douglas McPherson, sired by the Macgregor horse Macpherson, always considered to be among the best breeding horses of his day in Scotland. Douglas McPherson is a massively built horse, with a nicely turned top and equally good at the ground, as he stands upon the best of wearing feet. He has had the honor of winning in the best company. After carrying first prize at local shows and Toronto Industrial as a foal he was not again exhibited until he came to his three-year-old form, at which time he won first at a number of shows in the adjoining counties, also winning first in his class as a three-year-old at the Industrial, Toronto. His dam, Bell, who appears to the right in the illustration, was sired by the Darnley horse, Good Hope, her dam being Mall (6267), by Lochiel (450). Bell is not only a well-bred, but is a wonderfully good mare. She is built on the largest scale and is very smooth and handsome, and is doubtless one of the best mares now breeding in Ontario, which is borne out by the very successful show yard career she has gone through, never having taken second place except once in Scotland, at which time she was beaten by that noted mare Moss Rose. Since coming to Canada she won first in a team in 1888, also winning the Clydesdale Association prize for the best draft mare any breed or age. In 1889 she won first as a mare with foal by her side.

The next standing to the left is Isabella (451). She is a Canadian-bred mare, and belongs to that admirable class that has furnished so many prize winners at our shows. Isabella was sired by Ontario Chief and has six imported crosses, but as one of them is a Shire horse she is only entitled to register in the Canadian Draft Horse Stud Book. This mare won second in her class in 1889 at the Toronto Industrial, and again won second as a brood mare at the same show in 1892, and has also beaten a number of the best imported mares at local shows.

The yearling filly in the background was sired by Douglas McPherson, and is one of a number of good ones sired by this horse. Her dam is Lady MacArthur, sired by the Macgregor horse Mac Arthur, and is decidedly one of the most promising things on the farm, proving that Douglas McPherson may be accounted a great success in the stud, which we would expect by analyzing his blood lines.

There are at present thirteen Clydesdales in the stud, and it has evidently been the aim of the proprietors to breed for size, in which particular all their horses excel, they very properly contending that this is the most necessary qualification in the draft horse; and while they have kept this point pre-eminently in view, they have not lost sight of such essentials as beauty of form and quality, while, at the same time, good feet and clean, dense bone, and other useful characteristics, have always received due consideration. The Messrs. Devitt have paid every attention to breeding in popular lines, and have spared neither trouble nor expense in placing the most desirable crosses upon their brood mares. In scanning the pedigrees we find a host of familiar names of the most noted prize-winning stallions in past years, and such good ones as Boydston Boy, Lord Lyon, Duke of Flemington, MacArthur, MacClay, and others of this class, have been freely used.

A small herd of Herefords has lately been added to the live stock on the farm, and although these are not pushed to the front by the proprietors, we shall expect to hear from them in the near future, as whatever this firm undertakes to do they do well.

Many farmers report finding fish oil, with a few drops of carbolic acid added, the most satisfactory remedy for the horn fly.

The Jersey breeders are receiving congratulations from all quarters over their success in the cheese contest at the World's Fair, as announced in last month's ADVOCATE. The results of other tests will be given as completed from time to time.

Prize Essay on Harvesting.

BY M. WATTS, CARTWRIGHT, MAN.

It is impossible to give a single method that is suitable for all conditions. Whatever method the farmer chooses he must be ready to modify and adapt to circumstances. One of the first things to be done is to give his binder an overhauling; see if it needs any repairs, and give it a good cleaning; if it is rusty or clogged with old, dried-up oil, a good application of coal oil will clean it. Next lay in a supply of necessaries, sufficient to do until after harvest; do not be stingy, either, as it is very trying on your good wife (if you have any) to get comfortable meals without a good stock of groceries. It is good economy of time and strength to rise an hour or two earlier than usual (unless you are an earlier riser than most of Manitoba farmers), and take a long noon rest in the hottest part of the day; the horses work better with less fatigue in the morning and evening. Again, don't neglect your bath and the changing of damp, sweaty garments (I know farmers are generally careless in such matters); anything conducive to health and comfort is time well spent. Another important item is good, plain, digestible food, suitable for the hot weather, including fruits, salads, vegetables, a good supply of milk and cream; lemons or oatmeal in the water make a safe and excellent drink; buttermilk is also good. Aside from personal comfort, the man who has things comfortable can get help when men who give poor fare cannot. If you have two teams, it is well to keep the binder going early and late by changing teams and hands. The best twine is the cheapest, as it goes further and works with more satisfaction. If your binder did poor work last year you had better get a new one, as the crops are heavy this year; improved machinery saves time and labor, and may save the crop from damage by rain and frost by handling it quickly. You should be supplied with "grit, get and gumption." "Grit" and "get" will never do alone. For instance, a neighbor who has plenty of both bought a first-class binder, which drew very heavily; he fretted and fumed and lost a couple of half days running after the machine agent, who, when he arrived, found he had forgotten to oil it, and some parts of the machine were almost worn through. The great secret of light running is, a little oil often. It has been proven the best sample of grain comes from grain cut on the green side, as it feeds on the heavy straw and ripens without shrinkage, as at first supposed. By using the sheaf-carriers and dropping the right number of sheaves for a stook, the work will be much easier for the stoker. Do not make large stooks or cap them heavily, as it prevents them drying out quickly. Slant the sheaves well from the bottom and they will brace against the wind better. If after wind or rain sheaves are blown down, set them up quickly; it will have to be done some time, or they will grow on damp ground. It is frequently the case in the latter part of harvest that we have a wet spell, so it is a bad policy to wait until all the grain is cut before starting to stack; the early grain is always the best sample, and why run any risk of spoiling what is ready, for fear that the frost will hurt the late crop? Better pay a smaller threshing bill for good sample that will bring a much higher price than a large bill for damp, musty, sprouted wheat. Barley should be cut if possible with a binder, and harvested quickly to preserve its color; if cut with a mowing machine, and raked with a horse rake which leaves a large portion on the ground, the sample will not be as clear, nor will it weigh as well. Throw out any very weedy sheaves when stacking, as the weeds are only wilted. Reserve some of your best grain to your fall fair. Experience has taught many it is a mistake to thresh from the stook; although it may save work stacking, it is more than made up when threshing, as so many more men and teams are required, and a shower of rain places everything at a standstill, causing a great loss of time and patience. Some who have tried it have had the misfortune to have their grain in stook all winter. The only way threshing can be done to advantage is when a farmer has a machine of his own and is sure of extra help when needed. In stacking I cannot give any better rules than were given in September No. of FARMER'S ADVOCATE, 1892 (which might again be published for the benefit of new subscribers):—Always have a good stacker, as it is a great loss to have a loose, leaky stack. Always stack on high ground, with no low bad crossing for the machine to get over in wet muddy weather. Do not stack on stubble or any place you wish to plow next year, as you will of necessity burn the straw, which is wilful waste. We