

tented with their lot and therefore better farmers and better members of society.

Again, the farmer is a privileged person, inasmuch as his occupation is domestic; he, unlike the commercial traveller, the sailor, or the railroad train employé, etc., can carry on his business in the bosom of his family who, if well trained, will, while growing up, render him great assistance.

In Canada, too, being part of the possessions of Great Britain, he is under the flag of a nation who, whatever may be said to the contrary, protects the rights of her people, and whose policy is to legislate for the good of all. Socially, too, he has nothing to complain of. Religion is free, and all denominations can worship God as their church or conscience dictates. Education is fostered, and its system is being gradually improved, and never was a time when so much attention has been paid to the means by which the condition of the Agriculturist can be improved and encouragements held out to him to exercise his talents and abilities so as to insure success. Some time ago, a High Commission was sent from the home Government to report upon the condition of affairs in Canada as a place to emigrate to, and its report should be full of encouragement to those who are already settled here. Here are some of the opinions of men well qualified to judge. Mr. Joseph Smith says:

"The numerous advantages to settlers in Canada are: 'firstly, it is a part of the British Empire, and under British laws and regulations; secondly, many of the people are our own relations; thirdly, it means the building up of one great Empire; fourthly, Canada has a great future before it, and with its stalwart sons has a great part to play in the said Empire; fifthly, it is a place where little is thought of wealth and more of men and character; sixthly, a man can get on there with less capital, and make a better living for himself and family than elsewhere'—Mr. T. Pitt: 'Were I emigrating to any part of Great Britain there is none I should prefer to Canada, where you can live on half the income with similar surroundings,'—Mr. A. J. Davies: 'To the great army of farmers sons I believe that Canada offers, as a field for settlement, the best advantages'—Mr. N. H. Dempster still more emphatically remarks: 'We are unanimous in the opinion that Canada is a great but undeveloped country with unbounded wealth both in mines and agriculture. Many thousand of families who are striving against the tide of fortune in great Britain will obtain, in Canada, what they never can expect where they are, namely, the privilege of being their own landlords with the law and liberty of the mother country.'"

Difficulties. To say that Canadian farming is not attended with some difficulties, would not be true; for instance, the winters are long and severe, and would tax the patience of those who had not been used to them. Snow is not altogether an unprofitable crop, and, if we did not have it in abundance, profitable farming would be impossible. We experience, as every where else, difficulty from keen competition and consequent low prices for most agricultural products.

But the worst difficulties too many farmers suffer from are those of their own making: carelessness; inattention to business; an idea that they have

nothing to learn, and are content to keep in the old rut; not studying the details of various necessary operations and methods; loss of time and opportunity; want of a well formulated system of management; having no definite and well digested plan of action; neglect to keep accounts or any record of transactions, as a reference to the past or as a guide to the future. Often a man's worst enemy is himself, and more potent for evil results is his own conduct than all the adverse climatic influences, close competition, noxious weeds, destructive insects or blighting mildews. If we conquer the bad within us, we shall find it much easier to battle with the evils which beset us from without.

In face of the difficulties above alluded to, it appears that the farmer's duties are plain, namely, in the first place, to cultivate his brains by study and observation; to adopt such methods of culture and care of stock as the conditions which surround him seem to demand, always remembering that the shortness of summer makes to "take time by the forelock," the more obligatory; to practise the most rigid economy as to the husbanding of all the natural resources of the farm, so as to let nothing be wasted, and thus to produce everything at the lowest cost; grow all he can to feed his stock with; not purchase for cash anything he can grow; thus he will be able to defy competition, and if, by strict attention to the conservation of the natural fertilizers made in due course, and by applying them properly, he can double his crops, it will be once apparent that he can afford to sell at a lower price than if his land only produced poorly, and his cattle only yielded a flow of milk half the year.

Common sense will teach us that, in the natural course of this world, every occupation which has certain advantages has also difficulties to contend with and duties to perform, and the greater the advantages the greater the duties and responsibilities.

In the first place the farmer, as indeed are all men, is responsible to the great Giver of all good for all that he enjoys and will be rewarded or punished according to the use he makes of it. If he has a family, which, as I have stated above, seeing that his occupation is a domestic one, he should believe he is responsible for their proper bringing up, and not only their happiness but his own, and may hap that of the partner of his declining years, any dependent upon how well this has been accomplished. The farmer is also responsible to the community in which he lives: example goes before precept, and it is very noticeable that in places where there are good practical energetic men, that many are following their lead so that every man who benefits himself by good conduct is a public benefactor at the same time. In rural localities where each family are more or less acquainted, these examples are more forceful than in cities.

Lastly, the farmer is responsible to the whole country in which his lot is cast and to those whom he has helped to place in a position to legislate, to strengthen their hands in all legitimate means they may adopt to instruct and assist him. The efforts made to popularize agricultural education, to make exportation of products successful and placed on the great markets of the world in their normal state, and all other methods of proposed amelioration

will be useless unless the farmer keeps his share of the matter in view and accepts the offers of assistance, proving this by practical results.

GEO. MOORE.

THE FROST.

M. Bouthillier's clovers, and which is far worse, all his lucerne, are entirely destroyed by the thawing and freezing of the past winter. So valuable, however has he found the lucerne-crop, that he has sown down another piece of it, an acre and a half in extent, besides following it up on the old field. We advised him to sow a couple of bushels of land plaster on the young plants, which are up already, as, on his sandy land, the sulphate of lime must, one would think, be beneficial.

WASTE OF SILAGE.

A propos of John Gould's complaint, that he has this year an unusual waste of silage, following if not caused by "tramping," is this item in the last report of the Minnesota Dairymen's Association. In the discussion following, his paper on 'The Silo on the Dairy Farm,' Mr. H. C. Carpenter, being inquired of as to his method of filling a two-plat silo said:

"We simply throw the corn in and it drops on each side. Another point. I lost considerable round the walls, and believe it was the result of too much tramping. The idea is that we tramp it through the centre, cross-ways and along the side and everywhere, and the result was that when it settled, the outside did not settle as much as the centre, and down went the air right along my wall. It is a big item. We now simply tramp around the wall and let the center take care of itself. When it settles, it simply presses out."

"Hoard".

TO GET A STAND OF CLOVER.

Hello there! you man hurrying along so fast and grumbling to yourself! Stop a minute and take heed to what "Hoard's Dairymen" has to say to you! You say you can't, because you are in such a hurry? That's what's the matter with you. You are always in such a hurry and work so hard that you don't take any time to think and consequently you work to no purpose.

We want to tell you how you can have some clover and things to feed your cows when there isn't feed enough for them in the pasture. You say you "can't get no catch of clover." We say you can, and if you will only stop your everlasting hurry a few minutes, we will tell you how to do it.

As soon as the ground is in condition to work, fit a piece nicely and sow it to oats, two bushels to the acre, and five or six quarts of clover seed. Roll the ground down after seeding and then harrow with a light, fine tooth harrow. Soon after the oats are headed and before any grain has formed, cut the oats for hay. They make excellent hay cut at that stage; or they can be used if needed for a silage crop. Taking off the oats will give the clover a chance and you will be almost sure to get a good stand. You don't believe it, eh? We can prove it to you. Don't you remember three years ago, the last time you tried to seed to clover and it was a very

dry year and nearly every one lost their clover seedling, it died either just before harvest or just after? Well, you know we were at your place in the fall. You know you tried to seed with oats that year. On the little patch near the barn where you cut the oats green for your horses, there was fine clover, all in blossom, and on the rest of the field, where you let the oats ripen, there was not a single clover plant.

The truth is it takes lots of water out of the ground to mature a crop of oats. They say out at the Wisconsin Experiment Station, that it took 512 pounds of water for every pound of dry matter in the oat crop. A large proportion of that water was used to produce the grain. You can see why the clover dried up. It is because the oats stole the water all away from it.

If you had not been in such an awful hurry all the time, and had only taken time to think, you might have taken in that fact and profited by it. That's the way a neighbor of ours found it out that same year, and he has profited by it every year since by having a splendid stand of clover and having nice oat hay.

Oat hay is splendid if it is cut early—before any grain is formed.

"Hoard."

WHAT SHALL WE DO FOR THE YOUNG CLOVER THIS SPRING.

For generation, farmers have been taught that the best thing to do for young clover the second spring to encourage its growth and to give a good crop of hay is to apply a dressing of plaster. In many sections, where this practice has been long followed, the results were formerly all that could be desired. But of late years there have come complaints that plaster no longer has the effect it once had, and farmers want to know the reason. We have no doubt that in many sections one reason for this condition is the exhaustion of the supply of potash in the soil. Men have long wondered why the action of plaster is so uncertain, and that while it has a wonderful effect on some soils, it should have none at all on others.

So long as a soil is rich in potash, plaster will have a good effect in making the otherwise insoluble potash in the soil available for crops. But in many places the supply of potash silicates is far from being inexhaustible, and there men have found that through its stimulating effect they have been enabled to rob the land of potash, and when they as usual apply the plaster to the young clover it no longer produces the effect it once had, and the only apparent effect is what can be attributed to the lime given as plant food direct, which is small indeed. Now having, by means of the reagent, been enabled to use up the potash in the soil, the only way to get it back is to put it there. All over the central part of New York men write to me: "We do not get the results we did from plaster, which was formerly about all the manure we used." The fact was that, instead of being a manure, the plaster, in the hands of a thoughtless man, was simply a means for rendering his land unproductive. Now when the clover suffers for need of plant food, you try to induce the impoverished soil to yield up more after the deposit is about gone.

What the clover needs is phosphoric acid and potash, and you cannot get