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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

Home Magazine.

WILLIAM WELD, Editor and Proprietor.

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The Month.

Farmers never had a finer spring to put in their seed in good order. The land worked well; there was no hindrance on account of wet, but unfortunately the rain delayed its genial descent and a spring drouth set in. The winter wheat, instead of spreading, denuded and became thin and spindly, particularly so on the late sown and clay soils. The spring grain has come up very uneven, and in some spots failed to show itself above ground. The meadows have been kept back, and the prospects now foreshadow a light hay crop. Fruit prospects are very good.

If any of our readers are in doubt about having sufficient fodder, sow a few acres of Hungarian grass or millet, even up to the middle of June; you may get a good crop of this fodder. Attend well to the root crops. Sow more turnips, more rape. Transplant your surplus mangel wurzel plants instead of destroying them when thinning out. A good crop of roots and millet may fill the place of hay and grain. Be sure and raise enough to keep your stock thriving next winter.

STOCK—MORE STOCK, BETTER STOCK

will pay. Do not neglect these hints. Keep the hoes and cultivators going; do not let the weeds get a start. There is only one master on any farm—either Good Management or Neglect. If the weeds are your master you may expect your farm to be owned by some other individual. If you keep down the weeds you may add some neighbor's farm to yours. Weeds and root crops both thrive on the same land; the weeds are destroyed easiest and cheapest before they are sown. Just try it; keep the ground stirred and

you will never see a weed, neither will your crops suffer so much from drouth. Dust your turnips as soon as they break the ground; road dust, lime ashes, soot, plaster, any kind of dust will keep the flies off. It is not a bad plan to sow radishes with your turnip seed; the radishes protect the young turnips and are easily destroyed afterwards. We tried this plan and were satisfied with the result.

Give the calves some ground linseed or oil cake or boiled flax seed in their milk. It will pay. Do not breed from old, ring-boned, splinted, spavined, bad-tempered, balky mares. Shoot or sell them to the greenhorns; get rid of old ewes, old cows and old hens. You cannot depend on your cows having calves if you take them to bulls that are over fat or kept in stalls without exercise. A bull that is moderately worked or allowed to run in a pasture is a surer and better stock producer than a pampered, stall-fed animal. We hear every year complaints of the barrenness of cows in different localities. The lack of exercise of the bulls is the principal cause. Bulls can be made much more profitable to the country by harnessing them in a cart and making them work. Those fat show bulls that are not allowed to move are the principal cause of the sterility of cows. This is also the reason why so many failures are reported from poultry raisers, that eggs do not hatch; the show birds are over-fed and too much confined.

Now is the time to think about killing the ticks. They will leave the ewes soon after shearing and will go into the lambs. Dip or wash the lambs; you then will have more wool and more mutton to sell next year. The surplus will doubly pay you for your cost and labor.

June is the right month to prune your trees. As soon as the leaves have attained their full size you may cut off the limbs and twigs. The wood will now heal over at once. If cut earlier the sap will flow and cause a rot; if in the winter, a bare, dead stub or spot will be seen. If you have trees that require pruning, do it this month.

You might try a little experiment at this time. Take two pieces of growing wood, cut the bark of each slightly, and tie them together closely. They may be on different trees or on the same tree. They will now unite if air is kept from the connecting points. Many pretty devices may be made in this way, and limbs that are likely to break on bearing may be held up by adopting this plan. We have not space to give you an illustration how to do it in this issue, but may in a future issue.

Experiments are being made in different parts of this Dominion to test the raising of sugar and syrup in our country. It is our impression that they may be successful, but we cannot recommend the adoption of these crops until we are better posted about them.

We have again the pleasure of calling your attention to our second letter from our Liverpool correspondent. It should be carefully perused.

Question—Would it not be a good plan to run the mowing machine over some of your old meadows that have been spindly and cannot produce a quarter crop. Although this unusual drouth has affected the early crop, we may have and most probably will have a rapid growth when we have the ground well saturated.

Contagious Diseases.

Despite the great attempts that have been made by (may we say) designing Americans, and some Canadians, to deny the fact that contagious Pleuro-pneumonia existed on the continent, the fact that the Americans are now freely admitting it and granting money for its extirmination should cause discredit to be placed on statements made by those that denied the existence of it. It has been discovered in England in six different consignments from this continent.

Trichina has now been found to exist in hogs sent from the United States to England. All hogs from the United States are to be slaughtered on landing after the 1st of June. The time may come when this dangerous meat will be excluded from importation to that country.

The Minister of Agriculture for Ontario wrote to us to enquire where the hog cholera had existed in Canada. We gave him the exact location of two places, one of which we had visited and seen the hogs while suffering under it. A Government official was sent to examine and report it, but the report is worded in such a manner as to lead people to understand that the disease had not existed; but it does not state that the disease was or was not the disease known by farmers in the United States as hog cholera. The farmers of this country want facts, not surmises; and statements made in such plain language that they can understand them. We hope we may not have another case of either the foot and mouth disease or hog cholera to report. If we do not report any more, it will be due to the healthiness of our climate, not to judicious steps taken by our Ontario agricultural representatives.

Hungarian Grass.

This variety of grass is coming more into use every season, as it is suited for almost any soil. It is grown extensively in the United States for a general crop, but has only been grown in Canada through the failure of other crops, or where other grasses have been killed out by the dry weather. This grass should be grown more extensively, as it can be used either as green feed or for hay. It can be sown as late as the end of June, and it has been known to be sown after a new crop of potatoes and succeeded very well. The richer the land, the more seed required, for if sown thin it grows rank and coarse. The quantity usually sown per acre is half a bushel on poor land and three pecks on rich. Millet seed is a similar grass to the above, but grows rather coarser. German or Golden Millet is comparatively a new variety, and from accounts received and appearances indicates that it will rank first. In a season when the grass crop is light Hungarian grass is of great benefit from its rapid growth. All kinds of stock relish it.