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The Field.

Water on the Farm.

Happy is the man whose estate is well-watered. In ancient times and oriental countries, it was considered a rare piece of good fortune to be "planted by rivers of water," and "a land whose springs fail not," was regarded as especially favored of heaven. All right thinking people will entertain very much the same views in these days. The value of a farm, other things being equal, is greatly enhanced by its having an abundant and unfailing water supply, as compared with one that is deficient in this respect.

Ours is, for the most part, a well watered country, but there are times, both in summer and winter, when owing to drought, the springs fail, the wells go dry, and the very swamps are devoid of moisture. In these circumstances, great inconvenience is caused both to man and beast. The stock must be taken long distances to living streams this can only be done occasionally, say once a day—and the animals are part of the time annoyed by thirst, and the rest of it gorged with excess of drink. Owing to thoughtlessness and ignorance, there is much suffering inflicted on the brute creation for want of water; and the "Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals," lately formed in this Province, might very legitimately pursue its enquiries in this direction, and find benevolent work in the country as well as in the city. In order to the highest comfort and well-being of farm animals, they should have constant access to pure, fresh water. Only those that are stinted will ever suffer from drinking too much, for instinct in the brute is a more trustworthy guide than reason in man. An animal with food and drink always at hand, will never take too much of either, except when suddenly turned into rich pasture, or accidentally allowed unrestrained access to grain.

It is astonishing how little some farmers improve the natural advantages they have on their lands. One man has a springy place on his farm which makes a large area so moist that only coarse grass or weeds will grow on it, but is quite useless for watering purposes, when, if he would dig a small reservoir, and a short ditch, he might at once provide a capital watering-place, and reclaim a rich piece of ground. Another has a little trickling rill, choked with brush and rubbish, that nowhere gives a creature the chance of drinking, but which cleaned out and dammed up here and there, would make any number of good watering-places. A third has a nice creek running through his place, but when the land was cleared, old logs and brush were allowed to accumulate in it, and the water is injured by a mass of decaying vegetable matter which it holds in solution, while cattle and horses can hardly get a drink without danger of injury to their legs. A fourth has

neither spring nor stream on the farm, and the supply of well-water is limited, and he is obliged to go to some low-lying places, here and there, where wells could be sunk at small cost—at a distance during a single season, when the home supply fails. Only last summer, we met a farmer on horseback with a drove of horses and cattle going a full mile to a river, when he had in his lane a low place, where water could be got in abundance by digging five or six feet. This man was an intelligent, prosperous farmer, living in a fine stone house, and owning one of the best farms in the region.

A very bad practice prevails in winter time. We refer to watering at ponds or streams that are frozen over, necessitating holes being made in the ice, at which animals are expected to quench their thirst. It is very difficult, even when there is snow enough to give a firm foothold on the ice, for a quadruped to get its mouth down to the water and obtain a drink. What efforts are sometimes made by sprawling out the legs, and bending them unnaturally to get the desired liquid! How often the uncomfortableness of the posture, and the dread of falling, compels the poor creature to content itself with two or three little sips, when its thirst is extreme. Sometimes animals are driven on bare and slippery ice, where they can hardly maintain a footing at all, and expected to drink; when, at the first stoop, their legs slip from under them. When the ice is thick, and uncovered with snow, it is often impossible for stock to obtain water at all in this way. We believe that water, in a freezing state, is unfit for the use of warm-blooded animals in the winter time; but if they must be watered at openings in the ice, it is only common humanity to do it with the aid of a trough and pail. The best mode of supplying their wants in this respect, is to have a run of water through the mangers. This can only be secured where there are stone basements and flowing springs; but many farms are provided with both, only the springs are unwisely turned to no account.

This matter of water on the farm is very large and important, having other aspects besides that of the proper care of live stock. In many cases, a proper economy of water resources would involve fish-culture. Thousands of creeks all over the country once teemed with speckled trout, and many a relishing meal they furnished the early settler, when meat, and indeed food of every description, was scarce. But it is a rare thing to find a solitary fish in them now. Yet there is no good reason why trout should not still abound in streams adapted to them; and modern science has proved that fish can be bred, reared, and fattened just like poultry, pigs, or any other live stock. But what "fancy farming" this would be deemed by not a few, who would nevertheless find a dish of nice trout very toothsome and welcome now and then!

Proper management of the water on a farm brings attention to this, would, of itself, secure an adequate supply of water for the stock, since there is enough moisture permeating certain descriptions of land, to maintain a constant outflow from drains.

Irrigation also comes under the head of "water on the farm." We are persuaded that large tracts of land might be flowed to advantage, and immense yields of grass and other crops obtained in this way. Some localities are admirably situated in this respect, and might be irrigated with very little expense and trouble.

The formation and management of cranberry meadows and marshes—a style of farming which is profitably pursued in many parts of the United States, and might also be practised here—forms another branch of this large and varied subject. These topics cannot be amplified upon in this article, but it is hoped enough has been said to set some thoughtful minds at work, and thus to sow seed that may germinate and bear fruit in the direction of farm improvement another day.

Picking and Pressing Hops.

In the first place, we are told by the *Rural New Yorker*, no grower should raise more hops than he has kiln or kilns with capacity to dry within eight or twelve hours after picking; for instance, hops picked to-day should be cured or taken off of kiln as soon as possible in the morning, for the kiln to cool off, and the hops picked in the forenoon to-morrow; if not sufficient for kiln, should be spread on kiln and lay until night, when the balance should be put on and a fire started immediately, and a good, strong heat kept up from four to six hours, the exact time depending somewhat on the height of the kiln and the thickness of the hops spread on, which never should be more than from 12 to 15 inches. The longer the hops hang on the poles, and the nearer they come to maturity, the less heat and time it takes to cure them. The kiln should have plenty of air below, not one-half of them having one-half enough; also draft enough above to let the steam escape.

Hops never should be turned on the kiln. Some time, or any time when they are dried, so the hops on the top open and the steam has all escaped it will do to go through them with a scraper or the feet, and mix them. One great trouble is, most of the hops are over-dried, which injures the flavor. This is done by keeping the heat up after the hops are nearly dried through. A sack or bag of hops, if ten-bushel boxes, weighs from 45 to 55 lbs., which depends on the length of time the picker is picking the same, and something on the weather, as hops wilt and settle more in warm days than in cool ones, and weigh from 14 to 17 lbs. when cured, and sometimes, if picked clean, 20 lbs. to the box after being cured.—This is to show you what moisture has to be taken