

growing richer, and more people than ever are able to follow the demands of fashion in the matter of costly raiment.

WALTER SIMPSON.

Fall Wheat.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

This week will be a busy time seeding, and a few suggestions, inspired by "Preparing the Seed-bed for Wheat," in a recent issue, may be appropriate. The summer-fallow has been looked upon as being a necessity for fall wheat. I claim that a rich pea stubble is about equally good, if proper attention is paid to the preparation, but too often it is left till the last, even till after the summer-fallow has been attended to, and, therefore, the surface soil is dry and lumpy, and in no condition to start a quick and healthy growth.

Taking it for granted that the summer-fallow or pea stubble has had nearly all the work intended bestowed upon it, go over it with the disk, running disks nearly straight, which will cut to the bottom, and tends to compact it more than any other implement I know of, more especially with the pea stubble or sod; then go over with the common toothed harrow. The seed-bed being prepared, treat the wheat with formaldehyde, either in a close box, that the gas may penetrate and kill all smut spores, or put wheat into a sack and dip into a solution of one pint formaldehyde in fifty gallons of rain-water. Clean the wheat thoroughly of all smut piles or bunt, which may be done by any good fanning mill. Slip the chess board down until about six inches from end of shoe, fill hopper, and open sufficiently to let an even flow over the chess board. Do not have the stream so heavy as to obstruct the passage of the piles or grains of smut. Take all of the sieves out, as they are only a hindrance, and put on enough pressure to blow every particle of smut over the shoe. Give plenty of wind, as it is better to blow a fair percentage of grain over than have a few grains of smut balls left in the seed, the spores of which cannot be destroyed by this process. Fill into a hemp or gunny sack, dip in solution, and leave for two minutes, then lift out and let it drain so that the flow will go back into the tub. As soon as possible, spread it on the barn floor, so it will dry up quickly. The seed must be thoroughly dry when put into the drill. If at all swollen or damp, allowance must be made, and drill gauge set accordingly.

After sowing, go over ground with heavy roller, crosswise of the drilling. This packs the earth round the seed, which will sprout fairly well in moderately dry ground, where otherwise only a few spindly stalks would come up. Now harrow once over the same way as drilled. This loosens the surface, which will check much of the evaporation.

W. WELSH.

Bruce Co., Ont.

The Hired Man's Side.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have frequently noticed in your columns letters from farmers seeking a solution of the scarcity-of-labor problem, and have often wondered why some hired man has not written on the subject. In consequence, a little spirit moves me to write a few lines, on the off chance of your publishing them. In the first place, surely the remedy lies with the farmers themselves, as they seem to lose sight of the fact that a hired man is only a human being, of the same clay as themselves, and not a machine on the perpetual-motion system. I have only been in this country a few years, during which time I have been a farm laborer, and am heartily sick, not of farming, but of the arrogant and supercilious manner in which the average farmer and his family treat the hired man. They have the idea that, no matter where a laborer sleeps, or what he gets to eat, it is always one better than what he has been used to. Some farmers would be more at home with a white coat on, bossing a gang of slaves with a long whip, as they seem to think that, in hiring a man for a length of time, they have bought him body and soul, instead of just hiring his physical strength, and that their sole duty is to keep his face on the grinding-stone fourteen hours a day, six days a week. Small wonder that so many men go to the towns and turn their backs to the farm forever. Well, I will cut a long story short and finish up with a few words: Treat your man with consideration; give him the smooth with the rough; see that his food is wholesome and substantial, and see that this bed and bedroom are such that you would not be ashamed if, by any chance, your visitors should happen to peep at them. Surely these suggestions are not unreasonable. Follow them out, and then perhaps you will not experience any difficulty in keeping a man in the future.

ANON.

The Iowa Experiment Station has rented a twenty-three-acre orchard for demonstration purposes.

An Employer's View Point.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

A great deal has been and is being said regarding the help question in this fair Canada of ours, and it certainly is a fact that, to get all the help one needs, is sometimes out of the question; but what arouses the blood of an employer is just such language as "Rube" has used in his letter of August 17th.

I have always supposed the County of Oxford to be one of the star counties of Ontario, but it certainly is far short of it if "Rube" tells the truth, which I very much doubt. I don't believe there is a farmer in Oxford that does not have order about his work, or that would ill-treat his help in any way, if he has the right kind; and the right kind is not the one who can work for twenty-five men in twelve years, and not find a good point in any of them. It is evident that such men are of little use on a farm, and especially in the County of Oxford, where the men are hustlers, as they have to be with such large farms as the most of them have. The writer is a farmer in Norfolk County, has been for forty years, and never saw one of the things "Rube" writes about. The farmers here are reasonable, of good understanding, and know how to treat their help, and can generally keep them as long as they want them, and can hire them again the next year. They get up at five o'clock in the morning, turn out at twelve o'clock, go to work at two, quitting at six; and no man, unless it be occasionally in harvest time, with a storm coming on, expects to work beyond his hours, and no hired man—if he is a man—will object to that.

"Rube" is finding fault with the "boss," as he calls him, for standing an hour and talking to anyone who may chance to pass his way. It is not the hired man's business what the boss does, and how he puts in the time that he gets big pay for. There are a great many men, and boys, also, who have a fair education, but little energy, and, as the Old Country has no use for them, they come out here, expecting to find a people who will give them big wages, food and washing, with little or nothing to do, and a horse and buggy to go to town whenever they want it. And "Rube" is just that kind, from the sound of his voice, and he is very much disappointed with Canada and the farmers in Oxford County.

Now, I would suggest that he go to work like a man, and try and earn what is paid him, and not be running down the country or the man who gives him his living, and he will be more contented with himself and those who are so unfortunate as to employ him.

He says it is only the poor men who haven't enough brains to kick, but I notice it's the lazy man who always kicks, and he hasn't good sense enough to see his fault.

Now, Mr. Editor, I hope there will be someone else willing to stand up for Oxford and the farmer in general. And I know, when a man calls riding the plow or mower a snap that he does not know what he is talking about, for there is something else to do besides sitting on the sulky plow, if he does the work properly.

JOE OF NORFOLK.

Auto Restrictions.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Owing to the automobile usurping the whole of our roads, and practically driving our wives and daughters from their regular trips to town with butter and eggs, etc., or for their regular supply of groceries, some restrictions should be placed upon the autoists, so that the favorite nag may be saved from a frenzied fit of fear, and the driver from a smash-up.

I would suggest that all autoists be required to stop where meeting any vehicle on a dangerous part of the road, and, if need be, to back up to some part where there will be less danger in passing; also, to have the number of the license placed in a very prominent position, on screen or dashboard, away above mud or dust, and where it can be seen before or behind, no matter what speed the machine may be driving.

W.

Changes in Fair Dates.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of August 24th you refer to the changes that are constantly being made in the list of dates of Ontario fairs and exhibitions issued by the Department of Agriculture. The Department, as you are doubtless aware, have absolutely nothing to do with the fixing of these dates, and the list is only issued at the request of editors of leading papers in the Province. Every society is notified previous to its annual meeting in January to send to the Department promptly the dates selected. Our list is usually published in the early part of May, and a number of fair dates are not received till June and July. In many instances, after the dates are sent up, they are frequently altered by Boards of Directors, and the Department is not notified. On being informed of change

of dates, we write to the papers promptly, sending them the corrected ones. This year an unusually large number of societies changed their exhibition dates on account of the Dominion elections, on September 21st.

Toronto.

J. LOCKIE WILSON,
Supt. Agr. Societies.

Heavier Tax on Automobiles.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In reading the article of August 24th, on taxing the horse, am surprised that any man with common sense would write such an article. He speaks about more bad roads in York County than any other county in Ontario. Certainly, he must use the roads very extensively, or how would he know so much about them? Mr. Fish asks, "Who have we to thank for these roads?" Certainly, it is not Mr. Fish. He objects to the way the roadwork is done. Remember the good book: "Judge not, lest ye be judged." We have a considerable amount of gravel road in York County, and only wish that all motorists thought as little of our roads as Mr. Fish, then our wives would not be in dread of driving on our highways as much as they are. I don't think we farmers are getting a square deal at all, as what roads we have were made by us and our forefathers, and now the motorists come along and want possession, or nearly so. Who has the most right to these roads? Are we to be imposed on like this, or are we to stand up for our rights on our highways. I must say that some of the motorists are perfect gentlemen, willing to stop if your horse be afraid, while, on the other hand, the man with the swelled head dashes along the road, caring for nothing, and, if your horse puts you in the ditch, only laughs, and never stops to see whether an accident has occurred.

The idea of taxing us farmers for every horse we keep is nothing but a piece of imposition, and a law Mr. Fish will never get passed. I must admit that the autos are increasing on our roads, and the horses decreasing to some extent—not that there are any fewer, but that many would sooner stay home than be run down by dare-devil drivers, as I may call them.

Which presents the better appearance at our fairs, a row of good horses, or a row of automobiles? I, for one, think that our laws are not strict enough on the autos. What is a fine of \$5 or \$10 for running overspeed? I would say, cancel their license for one year, if found overrunning their allotted speed, then we will have less trouble on our roads, and will also have better roads.

"YOUNG FARMER."

Fair Terms.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Your recent editorial re autos and the dust nuisance presents one of the live issues of the times, especially to farmers, and, as the views of readers are invited, it is "up to us" to take a part in the discussion and to state our approval or disapproval of the conclusions arrived at. For my own part, your statement of the case and need of remedy seem wholly rational and right. Whether or not the expense of the improvements required may be too great to be made up by license fees, as levied in some of the States, it is certainly the only way consistent with justice in which to deal with the matter, as it is clear that when we have roads sufficient for our use, or practically so, the owners and users of motor vehicles should pay the greatest part, if not all, of the expense of such improvements as their traffic requires. There would perhaps be a slight benefit to others in having oiled roads, but this is more than offset by the dangers to which motor traffic exposes the travelling public—the risk of injury to life and limb, which you mention incidentally, but which should not be lost sight of, debarring, as it does almost entirely, the use of the roads by the less capable classes of drivers, who may have just as much need, and certainly as much right, to use them as any. It seems to me that a bad mistake was made when the Grange proposal prohibiting such traffic during a part of each week was allowed to fall through for want of better support by the farmers of the Province. The present arrangement is certainly of the jughandled variety. That the motorist should have the right to use the best part of the road whenever convenient, while the farmer must take all the risk and delay of going off to the side, into or across the ditch, if any, or through a gateway, if one is near, seems somewhat absurd, to say the least, considering the part that has been taken by the farmers in making and maintaining rural highways.

If conditions were reversed, and rural residents essaying to use urban thoroughfares with equal freedom, causing similar danger and inconvenience to citizens, it is a safe guess that they would be promptly penalized by the authorities. But farmers, by their inertia, have given away their rights; the glamour of wealth and desire to pay homage thereto has mesmerized some; others have considered the matter from a personal standpoint