

The Agricultural matter published in the WEEKLY GLOBE is entirely different from that which appears in THE CANADA FARMER.

The Canada Farmer

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Work for August—September.

In the greater part of Canada the cereals, with the exception of corn, will have been gathered before this issue reaches our readers. With the exception of winter wheat, abundance is the rule, and, even with the winter wheat, the yield is greater than could have been anticipated after such a terrible winter as it passed through. The upward tendency of the price of wheat, brought on by disastrous floods in France and England at harvest time, will go far to reconcile farmers to a shortness in its yield. From all information at our command, Canada is better off as respects her harvest, both as regards quantity and quality of the yield, than any other section of the continent.

Corn is looking well generally, except on undrained soils where it presents a sickly appearance. A good deal may be done in the way of letting off surface water after showers, to remedy this state of affairs. Some good hot weather, such as we may expect to have, is what is needed to ripen the crop properly.

Where fall wheat is to follow barley, peas or oats, the stubble should be gone over with a harrow, and then lightly ploughed, so as to give a start to the seeds of weeds and to the shed grain that may be lying in the ground. As soon as the weeds appear, the ground should be well manured, ploughed, harrowed and rolled. The wheat should then be drilled in. A successful and practical farmer tells us that it is better not to harrow in the fall, but to leave it just as the drill leaves it. In selecting variety of winter wheat, it is false economy to choose a variety that is known to be running out, merely because the newer variety is a few cents a bushel more expensive.

If using seed of your own growing, select the heaviest and plumpest grains. This may be readily done by throwing the grain with a shovel from one side of the barn to the other. The best grains will roll the farthest.

From the first to the fifth of September is considered the best time to get in the wheat in the neighborhood of Toronto. It is best not to plough so early that the land has to lie over, but to bring in the ploughing so that the seed-bed is in a nice mellow condition at the time when the seed is to be sown. All wheat does best on a strong, limestone soil, notwithstanding the notion of some book-farmers that the red varieties will succeed better on gravelly soils.

To prevent smut, seed grain should be soaked in strong pickle made by dissolving a peck of strong coarse salt in 20 gallons of water, to which add one pound of blue vitriol. Remove all the grains which float on the surface. Stir the seed and remove it from the brine. Let it dry by lying on the barn floor, or, which is better, dust it with finely-slacked lime.

As we write, barley maintains a remunerative price, but the trade in that grain is in so few hands that there is no knowing when a combination of buyers may agree to lower prices. Should the bottom fall out of the barley market, the grain may be used to good effect in fattening swine and in that shape profit may be realized from it even when the selling price of the grain is below the cost of production.

Rye, both for forage and a crop, should be prepared in the same manner as wheat, and should be got in about the 25th of September—not earlier, or it will suffer during the winter. Rye will succeed on poor, gravelly soil where wheat is not profitable.

Rats and mice should be exterminated from the granaries before the new grain is stored. Good cats are the best rat-traps that we know of. Open up all the runways of the vermin so that the cats may follow them. Granaries which are not cleanly kept are liable to the depredations of the weevil which eats the flour out of the grain and

leaves only the shell. Scald the woodwork with hot water previous to storing the new grain. Grain that is infested with weevils should be put through a fanning mill to separate the weevils from the grain.

Potatoes should be dug as soon as they are ripe, or a warm wet spell may rot or set them growing again. It is well to put them on the floor of a barn before taking them to the pit or root-house; or they may be kept in the field, in small heaps covered with the vines and a few inches of soil for a month before taking to their final destination. Without this precaution, they will sweat and rot. In digging, only leave them on the surface exposed long enough to become dry. If you have a chance to see the working of a potato-digger, go and see it, for that is one of the implements for which there is urgent need. We have not yet seen one that was at once cheap, simple and workable in all soils. Do not store potatoes if you can sell them at a remunerative price now.

Those farmers who have not got an ice-house should set about providing themselves with one.

The wet weather we have had may cause an extension of foot-rot among sheep, a disease which is always more prevalent in wet than in dry weather. The sheep should be frequently examined and any animals showing signs of foot-rot should be separated from the rest of the flock, as the disease is very infectious. An infected sheep should be laid on its back, and the diseased portion of the hoof should be cut away without drawing blood, if it can be avoided. The cut surface should then be dressed with a salve made by rubbing together thoroughly a mixture of equal parts by weight of lard and finely-pulverized blue vitriol. In about a week, dress again, but no cutting should be necessary. In a very bad case a third dressing will be wanted, but, if well done, one application will be sufficient.

Old sheep and inferior ones should be separated from the flock and put up to fatten for market. If early lambs are to be bred, the ewes must be put to the ram about the end of September.

Flesh can be put on stock at this time of the year at half of its cost in the winter. Very little, comparatively, is used up in hot weather in furnishing animal heat, to which purpose a large part of the winter's feed is devoted. The young animals should be kept growing and should have shelter from cold showers. Old stock should be fed up and sold off.

In the orchard, budding may still be done as long as the bark parts freely from the wood where the cut is made for the insertion of the bud. Grapes may be layered by making a groove in the soil, which should previously be well prepared, and laying therein a shoot of the current year's growth pinned to the ground with sticks and partly covered.

See that no unnecessary damage is done to the fruit trees on gathering the crop. Do not let the help or the young folks break off spurs or branches or rub off the bark. The eye of the owner will be wanted all over the orchard.

Strawberry beds should be freed from weeds, and new beds can be set out.

The ploughing and manuring for intended new orchards can be done now.

Old canes should be removed from raspberries, and the new ones tied up to stakes or wires. Suckers should be removed from currant bushes.

Save a few ears of the best corn from the garden patch to be used for seed. Commence earthing up celery plants as the nights are cool. Take care that no earth is pushed inside the plants.

Cellars should be thoroughly overhauled and purified. Many a precious life has been lost from miasma arising from decaying vegetables or other refuse which was "out of sight and out of mind" in the bottom of the house. Many houses, the very perfection of neatness and order, are pervaded with a charnel-house-like odor arising from a foul cellar that is as fatal to the health of its occupants as the breath of a pestilential swamp. Open drains are another source of disease and death, to say nothing of their repulsiveness, but they are less deadly than a neglected cellar, for there is an escape for its odors.

Covered drains want occasional flushing or they are even more deadly than open drains. Covered drains should have a sharp fall and be provided with a trap which will

prevent the gas generated therein from being drawn up into the house.

The Tree-Peddler—Why Not Take the Field Against Him?

It will be from accident only if we neglect any opportunity of putting a nail in the coffin of that unmitigated nuisance, the wandering tree-peddler. He is around this year in greater force, and, if possible, is more brazen and pertinacious, than ever. His "novelties" have more taking titles, his tongue is more glib, and his skin is thicker than ever. Hard times have had their effect on him, but only to increase him in numbers and to render each individual "him" a greater bore than he was before.

If all the cheating he did were by selling to his customers common and well-known varieties under high-sounding names, with impossible characteristics and at exorbitant prices, he would not be an unmixed evil—for, to do the fellow justice, he is often a splendid salesman, and he can sell fruit trees in places which without him would be treeless. But in ravenousness he will surpass the father of hogs. A little matter of three or four hundred per cent. profit which amount he would often realize, even if he had bought his stock at retail price—will not satisfy him. He is by nature a cheat, and cheat he will. He sells to his victims articles which he knows will not grow. He knows that he can only go through a section of country once. He seems to take a fiendish joy in doing his clients in the brownest of manners. Has he blarneyed or bullied his victim into buying his "new variety of Russian apple?" He will sell him not for 25 cents, its price under its right name, but for a dollar or two—a Tetofski or Duchess of Oldenburg readily obtainable anywhere; or in sheer diabolism will put off on him an unadulterated crab.

It is just the same with his other staples. Were he only to palm off cheap and hardy varieties of strawberries at high prices, he would only be robbing his customers of a part of their money. But, no! He must cheat them in the article as well as in its price. So he resurrects an exploded humbug like the "Mexican Ever-Bearing Strawberry" and re-christens it as the "Alpine Bush Strawberry," or by some other high-sounding name; and it goes off like hot cakes. And so on, *ad nauseam*.

We will do CANADA FARMER readers the justice to suppose that they do not furnish many victims to the irrepressible tree-peddler, except in that they are sometimes hurried nearly to death by the fellow's talk. It is the class of farmers who do not read their professional journals who are the almost pre-ordained prey of every shallow swindler that passes along. Hence, if we were to go on denouncing for a month, we should only be closing a door through which the tree-peddler does not care to enter. So we will point our remarks to a quarter in which it is possible they may do some good.

Great blame is to be attached to the proprietors of the nursery establishments where the peddlers procure their stock in trade. At some establishments, it is the rule to destroy all the inferior stock to which the firm would not care to have their name attached; and at others such stock is sold out at low prices as admittedly second-class quality. But some nurserymen—and reputable ones, too—sell their refuse stock with a full knowledge that it will be put off upon the public under false pretences; generally with the proviso that no sales shall be made in their own immediate neighborhood. And these same nurserymen will pull long faces over the injury done to the trade by the rascally crew whom they furnish with the means of defrauding the public!

It is by inducing nurserymen who sell their refuse stock in bulk to cease the practice, that an effective blow can be struck at the tree-peddling nuisance; for, as before said, the non-reading public, who form the mass of the victims, cannot be reached. And, perhaps, even a more deadly blow could be dealt by high-class nurseries adopting the trade which the peddling fraternity find so remunerative. Let them send out agents, the best salesmen they can get and armed with proper credentials, to offer good stock at reasonable prices. We are mistaken if the adventurous tree-peddling crew would not find the wind taken out of their sails. By themselves thus taking the field, nurserymen would be fulfilling a four-fold object. They would be doing good