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Wayside Gleanings

By W. G. Orvis, Field Representative, Farm and Dairy.

Time Saving.

SOME men seem to be able to keep well up with their work even if labor is scarce, while others who have plenty of help are always away behind. Oftentimes we hear that remarked upon and there is sometimes much speculation as to how the one man is always ahead. I enjoyed very much talking to a man who belongs to the class who plan to do their work rather than have the work crowd them, and he told me just how he managed. He claims that the farmers of to-day must use their brains as well as their hands, and that by carefully planning their work they are able to save many hours and oftentimes many dollars' worth of valuable crop. He cited one instance of how he planned to keep even with his work. "I always like," said he, "to get one field of hay or grain that I intend to plow this fall cleared as soon as possible, so that when a wet spell comes I can set the hired man at work in this field with a team and plow. Whenever the weather is not suitable for harvesting, therefore, I have the man and horse at work. This counts for much when the rush comes in the fall. The man's wages are being earned, and the team does not have to be paid for simply standing idle in the stable." This seems to be a good piece of farm management wisdom, and it is an example of foresight that might be put in practice on many farms.

A Time and Labor Saver.

Last spring many farmers experienced a trying time in getting their corn planted. One man in Victoria county saved many days of valuable time this year, getting his corn in fairly good time. He has been following a somewhat different plan from the ordinary in his corn planting, and found it to work out exceptionally well in the backward seeding time of last May. His plan is as follows:

The field that he expects to have in corn is selected two years ahead. This field is in hay from which one season's cuttings have been taken. During the winter months and the early spring he draws the manure out to this field and spreads it on the soil. It is left there throughout the summer, the whole field being used for pasture. Sometime during the autumn it is carefully plowed and left in this condition throughout the winter. As soon as it is fit in the spring he runs over the field with the cultivator to conserve moisture and start the weed seeds growing. When the time to plant the corn comes all that is necessary to do is to cultivate in such a manner as to put the soil in good condition and plant the corn. He reports exceptionally good results from this method, and also that he saves a good deal of time and labor by planning so far ahead.

A Death Trap.

Much to my discomfort I had to pass over a section of road in Ontario county a short time ago that abounded in what were nothing short of death traps. It was a surprise to me that any township council would leave a road over which a good deal of public traffic has to pass, in the condition in which this road was left. Just to the west of this section of road is quite a steep hill. Every spring, when the snow and ice is thawing, a flood of water pours down the hill to creek level, and this water then dribbles on each side of the road have gradually become filled, and conse-

quently the water is turned into the middle of the road. Because of the velocity of its flow, it has cut a ditch for at least 100 feet in the middle of this travelled highway. This ditch varies in depth from six inches to two and one-half feet. Since the road has been left in this condition the traffic passes along on the side. People unacquainted with the road and traveling over it after dark, would be very likely to drive into this gutter, thus endangering both themselves and the horse. Why is such a road not repaired? There is but one answer, and that is, that someone who is the servant of the ratepayers of the district is not doing his duty.

Indirect Value of Fertilizers.

A York county farmer told me recently that he has used commercial fertilizers for two seasons, and that he has found them quite beneficial in several ways. The place that they had done the most good was when applied upon new seedlings. He claimed that he got a much better stand and a larger yield of clover from their use. "If basic slag—this was one of the fertilizers used—would do nothing more than give us better crops of clover," said he, "it would still do much to enrich our farms, for whenever we get a good crop of clover the crops following it are sure to be much better than the first." I would have been had clover not been grown.

Weather Optimism.

While I was visiting at the home of one of our Folks in York county, we, as people usually do, discussed the weather. This man said to me: "I have no fault to find whatever with the weather which we have had this year." It was so striking a statement, because nearly every one was finding fault with the weather, that I could not resist asking him why he made it. "Well," said he, "during the wet weather in the spring we found it to be the most excellent time for putting in the drains, fixing fences, and doing odd jobs around the farm that needed cleaning up very much. The crops that were already growing on the land were making great gains. The weather which we have been having for the last few weeks has been ideal for harvesting those crops, and in most places a bumper yield is reported. Now, if it had not been for the exceedingly moist weather of the past spring, fodder would not have been nearly as plentiful as it is. We had a 16-acre field that was too wet to plow or put under crop, but we harvested 16 loads of good hay from it; much more fodder than we would have received if the weather had permitted us to plow it and bring it into cultivation. The optimistic spirit of this man is one worthy of cultivation. Looking on the bright side of things has much to do with our enjoyment in life.

POULTRY



Mistake of the Beginner

By Michael K. Boyer.

It is well for the beginner to accept the advice of men who are veterans in the service, in order that they may avoid many of the stumbling blocks.

Too many novices start on too large a scale. They are not content to begin at the bottom round of the ladder and gradually climb to the top. That is too slow for them. If blessed with sufficient capital they are pretty sure to start on a large scale. Without



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