

Attention to Detail.

By Mrs. Anna L. Jack.

Someone left the wheelbarrow by the roadside and went away to dinner, without emptying the load of sticks that had been gathered on the lawn after a high wind. A skittish horse, driven by a careless boy, took fright at the red-painted barrow, and bolted—only to stop at some choice plum trees, that were bark-torn and injured by the contact. It was inattention to detail and thoughtless want of method that caused the trouble. How tired one gets of picking up after a careless person, and suffering from their blunders. It makes all the difference in the result, this attention to detail, and learning to do all work well.

"If called to sing—sing,
If called to soar—soar,
If called to burrow—burrow,
But in everything, and evermore,
Be thorough, be thorough."

Nowhere is this more demonstrated than in everyday work on the farm. A spade is wanted, and instead of having a place for it, the workman tries to remember where it was used last, and sets up a search. If only a corner of the woodshed, let it be called the tool-shed, and the smaller implements that are in constant use kept there. Children and hired help soon learn to know the place, if there is one, for all the needed gardening tools, and save time by regular method.

I have known a basket of currants, or of strawberries, left in the row when the dinner-bell rang, and the picker had not learned the necessary method of taking the fruit to the packing-house before leaving the field; and in the asparagus beds, the tall, lank stalks soon betray the careless cutter. All this means loss of money to the employer, and he has no redress except to discharge the delinquent, who may otherwise be worthy, though having this serious fault. Slipshod work soon stamps itself in any department of life, and the farmer who is training his boys and girls to follow his footsteps (with all the improvements of the age), cannot do better than to make an important and strictly followed maxim; "Hoe out your row," that though old-fashioned, still holds good.

"For want of a nail the shoe was lost"—for want of a little care in autumn, and covering up of tender things, the flowering branches are stark and dry when spring returns. For want of tying up, the wind twisted the choice grapevines, and the fruit is lost; while for want of a trellis and a little training the sweet peas sag and get set in their ways. For want of a prop the heavy-laden branches of early apples break down the tree, and for want of spraying, the later fruit is spotted and cracked. Everywhere, if this lack of method is tolerated, the result is the same. Fences are neglected, and the cattle soon learn to forage on forbidden ground.

"I will fix that gate to-morrow—
But that night the cows got into the corn"—

is the experience of too many of us. And it is well if the training schools and agricultural colleges impress upon our young people that the first element toward success is strict and honorable attention to detail in all departments of farm work.

The Hired Man.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—I read a letter in this paper, from one "Alick," and he gives the farmer advice how to use his hired help. He tells how things used to be 15 years ago. I would like to say how things are now, so I will apply here for a situation on a farm. I want to hire for eight months or a year (just as it suits myself, of course). I will take \$25 a month, or \$240 for a year, and board and washing. I keep a driving horse and a top buggy. I will want pasture for the horse; he will jump in the grain some, and it will take the farmer and all the family to get him out again, but that time don't count on a farm—hired help must be used right. I want a place in the barn for my buggy; we can run it out and in again every day we are drawing in the harvest, as the drive-house is full of the farmer's implements generally. I may sell my horse, and if I do I will keep a wheel. I am very particular about quitting at 6 o'clock—I do not want the hours that Alick tells about. A hired man should quit early, so he can have three or four hours to wheel for life and death to rest himself. I will not want to work very fast on Monday forenoons, as I will be wheeling every Sunday from morning till midnight. If the wheel should happen to break 15 miles from home, and I have to walk, I will be tired for two days. I do not want to do any of that clearing up swamp that Alick speaks of. I will expect a sawing-machine to cut the wood for the house. When we commence seeding, I can carry the heavy end of a pair of lines up and down the field, and sit on the spring-seat of the cultivator and roller for three weeks. Then comes the putting out of the manure; I will expect the farmer to get a man by the day to fill it, and then he will have a manure spreader, which I can handle to perfection. When this job is done, then plowing the root ground with a sulky and double-furrow plow, which I can handle well. The turnips are now sown; when they are ready to hoe, I can do as much as any boy the farmer can hire for 60 cents a day. When the hay is ready, I can ride on the mower and rake as well as

any man; then the hay-loader will pitch it on, and with the help of the horse-fork I can pitch it off. If I hire for the year I will expect the farmer to have a windmill to pump the water, cut the roots and grind the grain, as I do not think a hired man should have to be out in rough weather, when only getting \$240 a year, with board and a few other privileges, which only amounts to about \$360. Of course, ordinary farms won't rent for that much, but I am good company. I think my application is in keeping with that of the average hired man, and would like to hear if I am right.

To be honest with the farmer, I do not wish to compete for the prize that is given to the hired man now whose hands show the marks of hard work.

SANDY.

[Note.—The correspondent "Alick," to whose letter in the "Farmer's Advocate" for May 26th "Sandy" is replying in the foregoing communication, is now the owner and worker of a farm himself; so that the disabilities under which he labored as a hired man on coming to Canada from the Old Country 15 years ago did not prevent his getting on successfully in life. What appeared to be hardships, doubtless helped to make him a better man and farmer. Very often the best thing that ever happened a young man was not to be born and raised with a silver spoon in his mouth.—Ed.]

Mustard Spraying.

A good deal has been written of late about spraying to destroy mustard, but not all who are troubled with this weed seem to have received all the information that has been imparted, as we have an enquiry for the formula to be used in mixing the materials and our opinion as to the action of the solution upon clover, barley and other grain crops.

The principle of the practice of destroying mustard by spraying lies in the fact that a solu-

tion of copper sulphate (bluestone) of sufficient strength will destroy vegetable tissue if they can be kept long enough in contact. This discovery was made some time ago in Europe, and has frequently been favorably referred to in the "Farmer's Advocate." After many trials, it was discovered that those plants whose leaves were rough and hairy retained the solution upon their surface long enough for it to be absorbed into the plant cells, where it subsequently mingled with the plant fluids and caused death. Fortunately, mustard, one of our worst weeds, has these rough leaves, and so is susceptible to the effects of bluestone solution. Other rough-leaved weeds may also be destroyed with the solution, such as black bindweed and sow thistle, though not as easily as is mustard. In order to fully test the efficiency of this treatment, the Ontario Government made an appropriation for the purpose of giving demonstrations throughout the country of the efficacy of this plan in eradicating weeds. Consequently, during the last five years, many farmers in different parts of the Province have availed themselves of the services of officers of the Ontario Agricultural College, and had positive proof that bluestone will adhere to mustard and destroy it, but will not adhere to grain crops or clover, and, consequently, does them no harm.

The preparation is made by dissolving ten pounds of copper sulphate, by suspending it in a coarse bag in a pail partly filled with water. The solution is then made up to forty or forty-five gallons (a large barrel), which amount will suffice

Investigation of Soils Rich in Vegetable Matter.

Under the above heading, Mr. Corilis has an interesting paper on page 38 of the recently-issued annual report of the Ontario Agricultural College. He gives the results of the application of potash and nitrifying germs in garden soil to a soil deficient in potash but rich in organic nitrogen, as all black mucky soils are.

The oats were sown in flowerpots, and the photograph is shown when we should judge that the plants are between five and eight inches in height, and the rather hasty conclusion is drawn that this soil needed nitrifying germs more than potash, when it is very probable that both were equally required.

As a practical farmer, I would be much interested in studying the effect of the above management upon plots of not less than one-tenth of an acre, and allowed to ripen in the open air.

If oats on a plot deficient in potash and rich in nitrogen, to which nitrifying germs have been added, do not go down and lodge on account of the rank, soft, sappy growth, it will be a revelation indeed to those familiar with such soils.

It would also be interesting to know the result of the addition of an application of potash along with the nitrifying germs to the above-mentioned soil. We would naturally suppose that the potash would supply the deficiency in this respect, the nitrifying germs would liberate available nitrogen, and if there was sufficient phosphoric acid in the soil we would expect a record-breaking crop from the otherwise almost worthless piece of land.

During the past year I have had the opportunity of seeing the results of experimental work, both at the stations and also by the farmers on a large scale in the black soils of Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin, and all without exception attest the value of potash on such soils. But this I do know, that the packing-houses and phosphate-fertilizer manufacturers have been forced, much against their will, by the demands of the farmers, to keep constantly increasing the percentage of potash in their fertilizers used in these sections.

This would not be true unless the potash was giving good results. It seems to me a great mistake to give out such conclusions as the above, unless the experimental work warrant them, and I hope that the experiment will be continued this year, and that potash and nitrifying germs will be used combined on the same plot, as well as separately, the crop allowed to ripen, and the results noted.

But it is not necessary for farmers who have unproductive peaty soils to wait for the college. Let them read the directions given on page 42 of the same report, on "Soils and fertilizers," and experiment for themselves; for the nitrifying germs can be easily obtained, as explained in the report, by scattering some rich garden soil over the plot, while the potash can be obtained from any fertilizer dealer at a reasonable cost. So it is within the reach of any farmer to try this interesting experiment himself.

G. F. MARSH.

Governor Odell, of New York, has signed a bill appropriating \$60,000 for beet-sugar bounties this year.



Aristocratic Bovine Emigrants Landing at Levis, P. Q.