

Editorial, &c.

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HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

March is nominally the first month of Spring, but is sometimes, in Canada, of almost as wintry a character as either of its predecessors. From the increasing altitude of the sun, however, the days when unclouded, are frequently of a genial warmth, and the snow wears gradually away while the advent of spring birds, and the gradual swelling of the buds on the trees, give sure indications of the approach of the joyous and busy season of Spring. We have even known the frost out of the ground, and ploughing commenced in the first week of March, but as a general rule this work cannot be performed till after the first of April. The following old proverbs in reference to March will be familiar to most of our readers. Some of them are, however, rather less applicable to Canada than to the old country, where as the result of long experience, their accuracy is generally acknowledged.

"March back ham, comes in like a lion, goes out like a lamb.

A bushel of March dust is worth a king's ransom.

March grass never did good.

A windy March, and a showery April, make a beautiful May.

March wind and May sun,

Make clothes white and maids dun.

So many frosts in March, so many in May.

March many weathers.

March birds are best."

The work to be performed in March will to a great extent be merely a continuation of that for the past three months, thrashing and delivering grain, tending the stock, getting out firewood and rail timber, &c., with the difference that the farmer must now keep more immediately in view the near approach of Spring, and so shape his operations that he may be fully prepared for that season when it does arrive. The importance of this in this country, where the season in which the soil and the weather are in the most desirable state in which to get in the crops is generally short, cannot be too much kept in mind. Let the horses or working cattle be well fed and in good heart to meet the work they have to go through; the harness well oiled and

repaired, the ploughs, harrows, whippetrees &c., in proper working order, the seed grain thrashed, thoroughly cleaned and stored in the granary, hay brought in from the stack or barn to the stable for the horses, and oats in the bin, clover seed and gypsum brought home to be ready for use when required, &c. By attending to all these things beforehand, instead of losing a day, or a week in doing them, just when the implement, the seed, or the fodder, is wanted for actual use, and thus perhaps losing the most favourable time for getting in the crop—all the spring work will go on much more pleasantly and satisfactorily, the farmer will be ahead of it instead of behindhand with it, and will find the advantage in the whole season's operations, and to a moral certainty also, he will reap the benefit in the produce of his crops at harvest time.

Cattle now require continued care, and a good quality as well as quantity of food, to enable them to keep up their condition through the changeable and trying weather of spring. But do not for the sake of economizing fodder, allow them to ramble in thawing weather, over the meadows. It may be doubted whether the little, withered herbage they could so obtain would be of any real benefit to them, while the injury the trampling does to the meadows is very great. In hard weather of course there would be little loss except of a portion of the manure, which it would be much better to keep as much as possible in the yards, for use where more directly required, in the spring.

A pretty large number of lambs in this country, come in March, although the middle or latter part of April is considered by many the best time, and there is certainly then less risk. Early lambing ewes require great watchfulness on the part of the farmer, both on account of the ewes and the lambs; we alluded to this matter, however, in our last.

"The first great event in Spring," Stephens says, "on a farm of mixed husbandry, is the calving of the cows." We may therefore make a few remarks on this subject. From careful records which have been kept in England it appears that the average period of gestation in the