

LEUCORRHOEA, OR THE WHITES.

This unfavorable sequel may call for the administration of tonic agents, as drachm doses of sulphate of iron and gentian given three times a day in crushed grain, for horses and cattle, in addition to injecting the canal with cold water and a solution of two drachms of tannic acid to the pint of water may be used afterwards.

The Farm.

THE power of the will is almost omnipotent when applied to any labor that we engage in. If a man's heart is not in his work, he will not usually get on. The act of working will not only afford him no pleasure, which it always should under ordinary circumstances, but it will become positively irksome to him. Working men, whose only object is to get in the day and secure the wage, will never excel as workmen, nor will farmers who take no pride in their work. The number of farmers who simply work at farming is very large. In the true sense of the term they do not farm. So, too, we find stockmen who work at keeping stock, but in the proper sense they are not kept. Now the remedy for all this we believe is pretty much in the power of the will. If the heart is thrown into the work, whatever be its nature, it must progress, and more or less of a liking is contracted for it. The simple fiat of volition, a power that rests with every man, is able to uproot all the foul weeds in Canada, turn our farms into gardens, and fill our stanchions with stock that would be the envy of many lands.

The Great Drain.

Farmers usually bear the reputation of being a very economical class, and we think this reputation is on the whole well deserved. Were it otherwise, they would not be able to live amid the comforts which usually surround them, nor would they be able to accumulate at all.

A large proportion of those who are classed as farm laborers lay by nothing whatever, and for the simple reason that they do not use half the economy of those whom they serve.

Economy is a splendid possession providing it is not allowed to sink into the slum of parsimony. And we rejoice to see that it is practiced by the tillers of the soil to an extent quite unknown amongst most other classes. Yet this economy, like the cistern with a defective bottom, has its weak point, which in very many instances, allows a large outlay to leak away almost as it were unnoticed. We refer to the treatment that is so often given to farm machinery and implements.

The report of the Bureau of Industries for 1885 gives the amount invested in implements as \$48,569,725, while the sum invested in live stock is but \$100,690,740, and that the entire value of the produce of the farm other than live-stock is, according to a moderate calculation of our own, based on the figures of yield furnished by Mr. Blue, but \$94,155,541. In other words, the sum invested in farm machinery is more than half the amount realized in one year as the entire produce of the farm, exclusive of the returns from live-stock. If these figures are correct, they afford abundant material for reflection. The statement is nothing less than startling, and should lead every one of us most carefully to re-examine the bearings. To believe that we must keep \$48,569,725 invested to reap produce to the extent of \$94,155,541, or, in other words, that fifty cents must be kept constantly invested that one dollar may be secured, allowing nothing for the labor, should lead to the most

rigid examination of present practices, as the above is a burden that must make the country groan which bears it. Fifty millions of money exposed to the tender mercies of farm hands, very many of whom show a carelessness as guilty as it is cruel, or to the corroding influences of the elements, as is often the case, is a hazardous investment. Money placed in this bank, unless watched over with a most zealous vigilance, not only brings in no interest, but, like the snow in springtime, the principal soon melts away, and has to be renewed.

While we concede that it does not follow that \$50,000,000 are certainly paid out every year for farm implements, as some of those will last for several years, yet it is probable that the annual outlay is not far from this sum, as the returns as stated above do not represent the original cash value, but simply the present value, which in all probability is less than half the original value, as implements at the best rapidly deteriorate in worth, at least they sell at second-hand at a discount that is ruinous.

We do not advocate running the farm with machinery of an inferior class; nay, the very reverse. The farm should be well supplied with sufficient machinery, and the very best of its kind. Take the item of forks. In a single year it will pay a farmer well who has a cumbrous class of these to knock them off the handle, sell the prongs as old iron, and purchase good ones to carry on his work. It is not usual in the first outlay that the mistake is made. The leaks are further from the fountain-head. One of them, and perhaps the greatest, is *needless exposure*. Oftentimes implements are exposed, not so much from lack of desire to house them as from lack of room. At the close of autumn, the usual time for putting them in, every corner is filled with produce; the owner concludes that bye-and-bye, when he gets more leisure, he will collect them; but leisure time does not come in the fall of the year. The farmer who looks for leisure in the autumn indulges in a delusive dream. Winter rushes on apace and covers them with snow; they are frozen to the earth, and the very disagreeableness of the task of putting them in has an influence that is most repelling.

But would it not pay well to construct a shelter for them in such a case? It need not be a costly one. In the absence of ability to build a better, a low shed will answer, with a slab roof, and facing the direction which snowstorms are least likely to come. It would be better even to pay six per cent for money to put up such a structure than to lose four times that amount as the result of exposure. The only safe plan is to have one place for every implement and to put it there when done using it, even though it should be done after the shades of evening have gathered in. Rust and rain take several millions away from our farmers in the line of implements alone every year, and simply because they are *allowed* to do it.

A second leakage arises from the *rough usage* they get. The farmer is sometimes to blame, but oftener the hired help. The man who does not prepare his field for the reaper must not complain if it is broken or injured in cutting the same. And the one who leaves a farm road unmended and out of repair, should not murmur if his lumber wagon wears out in half the usual time. We have known instances where a reaper has been run for several years with less than ten dollars being laid out for repairs, and other instances where more than this sum has been paid by a neighbor for breakages the first season, and on farms very similar in their natural surface features.

The great drain here, however, arises from the barbarous method in which a majority of farm servants

handle the implements of the farm, especially in the absence of the employer. Their conduct in this respect reminds one of the actions of wild beasts rather than of human beings endowed with intelligence, volition, and conscience. If the latter really is possessed, which we suppose we must concede, it has long since been inert; nor will this cancerous sore ever be healed in connection with farm labor until employers make it a part of the agreement when they hire, that the laborer shall bear a part of the expense of breakages. The financial argument is the only potent one with men upon whom moral argument would be thrown away. There are, however, some noble exceptions. Some men use implements with the same care that they would use their own. They are most likely influenced by a power far more potent than that of any earthly master's eye, but these are a long way in the minority. And these should be rewarded. They should not be screwed down to the last farthing by way of wage allowed when the engagement is renewed, but a large discrimination should be made between these and the vandalic class whose depredations in some instances must be borne at certain seasons of the year, things being as they are.

The first outlay for machinery and implements should be carefully considered. The country is filled with agents, and it seems that now, in these days of stern competition, manufacturers cannot do without them. Yet we have thought in certain instances a farmer should not be compelled by any law of trade to pay an agent's fee. If he go to the manufactory and order his machine himself, and pay the same without making any trouble for anybody, he should get the implement for the usual selling price *less the agent's fee*. The manufacturer may object that the agent would complain. Let him complain. After all have gone out of the business who will not work on the terms indicated above, there will be an abundance of those middlemen left. While a certain number of agents is a necessity, a superabundance of them is a national burden. And for this superabundance the farmers are compelled to pay. Try this plan, ye farmers. If one manufacturer will not deal with you as we have suggested, another will; then go to that other, providing it will not inconvenience you unduly.

The first cost of farm implements in the past has been enormously high, but this is a matter that will soon adjust itself in these days of severest competition. Although the manufacturers have no right to be allowed to fatten on the hard earnings of the farmers, they should be well paid for their labor, as the energy they have displayed have brought refreshment to many a weary farmer at nightfall, whose burdens but for the assistance brought by the labor-saving machines of the manufacturer, would have been too much for him.

The grand idea is to get no implement not absolutely required, to get them as reasonably as possible; to purchase only the best; to so prepare the land for their use that the probable wear and tear are reduced to a minimum; house them carefully when not in use; keep them in a good state of repair, and exact a portion of the outlay for repairing every breakage brought about by the carelessness of a farm hand. We feel quite sure that attention to the above directions would cut down the outlay of expenditure for farm implements by *one-half*, and would add many days to the average farmer's life in the load of vexatious worry that it would prevent or remove.

"The JOURNAL suits me very well, and would recommend it to all of the farming public as a very instructive periodical."—Hiram Armstrong, Peterboro.