

## DO WE PROGRESS?

Yes, welcome winter! Did we not shiver when those nipping frosts came in October, hardening and whitening the ground, stiffening the crust, freezing the potatoes, frizzling up the cabbages, and spoiling the growth of the turnips. We rejoice in ice and snow—The keen cold energises us, and enables us to take hold with a will, any work that the time of year offers. Nevertheless, the period is one of comparative rest, and the best time farmers have to compare notes, to meet in farmer's clubs, to read, write, and lay down plans for the coming busy season. Winter with us, is the harvest time of ideas; and many a lesson, not theoretical, but of practical, sound, homely wisdom, with the result of summer heat, if they are carefully thought over. December may be compared to a hill top, from which two years are to view. The far stretching retrospect is brought to a close, by the clear, wintry air; while before us lies the fair prospect, dim, yet picturesque, in the uncertainty of the hopeful future.

The best and most useful possession a man can have, is experience. We all need some of our own, but he is richest who can make use of the experience of other men. This is what Farmer's Clubs and Agricultural Societies are useful for. This is all the use there is in agricultural papers. Books are, or should be, somebody's experience, or they should be based upon them. An hour's talk with a neighbor, will almost elicit a valuable fact about something. An agricultural paper should be the means of diffusing the valuable experiences of a hundred neighbors.

Every citizen has a vital interest in the intelligence in general of the community. Where there is a reading population, you see progress and thrift. Where the people are interested in lectures, literary and farmer's clubs, circulating libraries, &c., there will be usually little thieving or crime, little of intemperate excesses, little of litigation and quarreling among neighbors—these things are most prevalent where schools and books are scarce. Never grumble at the school tax, unless badly spent, but see to its proper expenditure, as every good citizen should encourage everything that will make general culture more general. But especially be mindful of the responsibility which rests upon every parent to encourage such tasks in his children, that in after years they may take their places among the influential and well informed, and not among the opposite class. Of this, there is always a large enough number without your children being included.

[Ass.]

## THE GREATEST WASTE OF THE AGE

Agriculturists have such a grand future before them, that anything relating to improvements in agriculture becomes more and more worthy of notice, especially when it appears to illustrate what may be regarded as the economy of nature. Slowly, but apparently surely, practical men are finding out that sewage should not be wasted, but that when poured on the land, it becomes at once innocuous and a source of fertility. On this point the latest particulars from the camp at Aldershot are instructive. The wild heath-land amid which the camp is situated, contains no vegetable soil, but is composed of gravel and sand, resting on a dense layer of iron sand almost as hard as rock. Of this unpromising soil, one hundred and thirty acres were trenched and broken up; drains were put in, and for a year all the sewage and drainage of the camp was made to run over it, a con-

tinuous stream. With twelve thousand men and two thousand horses, the camp had been very offensive, but it was purified by the experimental farm; for as soon as the sewage begun to run over the land it was completely deodorised.

By this thorough saturation of the ground, the land became so fertile that it produced yearly per acre, of potatoes, from 4 to 5 tons; swedes, 12 tons; mangold-wurzel, 18 tons; garden turnips 300 bushels; and 16,000 plants of cabbages. A portion of the land is laid down with Italian ryegrass, which is cut from four to six times a year, for horses and cows, yielding at the lowest an average of 6 tons to the acre, and 14 tons at the highest. By this succession of crops, 40 tons of ryegrass are got from each acre yearly. The quantity of land at present under cultivation is—potatoes, 25 acres; Italian ryegrass for feed, 29 acres; the same for hay, 15½ acres; and for green crops, 6½ acres. This acreage absorbs the whole summer sewage of the camp and barracks; and in this we have a most instructive example of what may be accomplished by intelligent labor. In whatever part of the world—in the temperate or the torrid zone, camps may cease to be foci of disease, and become centres of fertility. Cities, towns and villages may pour out their foul refuse until all their environment shall exult with luxuriant crops of grass and grain, and with fruits in wonderful abundance.

## THE FARMER'S YEAR.

Lo! the spring, with pleasant showers,  
Emerald fields and fair young flowers,  
Calls the farmer to his plough.  
Brisk he turns the sod while gazing  
On his cows and sheep a-grazing  
O'er the pastures freely now.  
All around him birds are singing  
Notes of joy and songs of praise,  
Man and beast is filled of gladness,  
In the spring's soft, sunny days.

See, at length, rich autumn bending  
Neath her load, and blithely wending  
Towards the stormy, wintry way;  
Making up her jewelled caskets—  
Apples, peaches, grapes in baskets;  
Piling ricks of grain and hay.  
Now the tempting grapes are bleeding,  
Golden grain is freed from chaff,  
And the harvest home is ringing  
With the farmers merry laugh.

Now the grumbling, gruff December  
Bids the farmer well remember  
That the gloomy days are near;  
Bids him look to barn and larder,  
That, when winter storms beat harder,  
He and his may keep good cheer.  
Sleigh loads of the dearly loved ones  
Now glide o'er the frozen plain—  
Thus in happy recreation  
Till the spring returns again.

A KICKING COW.—S. A. Todd, of Somerset, Me., prescribed the following treatment:—"Tie a rope around the hind foot, near the hoof, with a slip-knot, for the convenience of untying. Make the other end of the rope fast around the under jaw, with the foot drawn a little down. Then make her kick until she will raise the foot and replace without a kick, which will be in a few minutes, and the cure is complete. The plan is equally efficacious with horses and other frisky creatures. Let milkers and others fully test this safe and effectual remedy, and I am satisfied they will neither need nor use any other."

Mr. Curtis—"I should think this would work, as the cow would soon get tired of kicking against her own jaw, which must cause her considerable pain. Another plan would be to fasten up one of the fore legs, thereby compelling the cow to stand still on her hind ones. They sometimes throw themselves, but not often."

## HARVESTING PEAS.

This has long been one of the most tedious operations in farming, but ingenuity has now stepped in to aid us. An implement has been invented that will save us an immense amount of labor. See cut of Pea Harvester—invented by J. L. Morden, of this county—on another page. It was put in operation the past harvest, and is admitted by all who have seen it to be the best invention ever brought forward for that purpose. We introduce it with pleasure, as we feel confident it is just the implement required. J. L. Morden, of Hyde Park, is the patentee. They can be made to fit any reaping machine.

## Threshing and Clearing Clover Seed.

A correspondent sends the following communication to "Colman's Rural World," in answer to a correspondent respecting the method of threshing and cleaning clover seed:—

The Alsike clover bears its seed in its first blossoms each year, consequently, when I want to save seed, I let the clover stand about two weeks longer than I would for a hay crop alone; then cut and house it, as soon as cured, the same as for hay. About the first of November, so that I can have the hay for winter use, I employ a clover thresher, of which there are plenty here, (they cost about \$120 in gold) and thresh it out. They have 50 cents a bushel for threshing it. They will thresh about twenty bushels in a day, and it will be about as clean as wheat when it comes from the threshing machine. I then run it through my fanning mill, which blows out the dust and fine dirt, but it will still be full of bits of broken hay, and if there be any other seeds in it, they will be there still. I then take a very fine wire sieve, that with considerable shaking, will let the Alsike seed through, and nothing else. This is the most tedious part to do, as it has to be done by the hand, and it is often dispensed with by farmers when cleaning seed. Red clover, when saved for seed, is managed in the same way, with the exception of the cutting. The red clover bears its seed in the second blossom, consequently it has to be cut for hay early in the season, then allowed to grow up the second time, and when ripe, cut and saved for seed, then threshed and managed the same as the Alsike. The Alsike will yield from six to eight bushels to the acre—the red clover from four to six.

Red clover, when saved for seed, is worthless for hay, as it becomes dry and black, and when threshed it all goes to chaff. Such is not the case with the Alsike—its stalks and seeds are as green and fresh after having ripened its seed, as the red clover when cut in its prime; and after it has been threshed it makes as good hay for horses or stock of any kind, as the red clover at its best. I have not fed two tons of any other hay for the last two years, and for grazing farms it is invaluable, as it does not heave out of the ground with the frost, but will thrive on land so wet that often clover would not grow on it. If you have a field seeded down, one-half to red clover, and one-half Alsike clover, turn in your stock of horses, cows, and hogs, and they will feed on the Alsike as long as they can get a bite, before they will go to the red clover; at least such is the case here in Canada. Parties intending to sow it, should be sure to get the large variety, as I am told there is a small kind quite inferior to the large kind, although I never had any of it.

**For Sprains or Bruises.**—Take one pint of lard oil; half a pound of stone pitch; half a pound of beeswax and half a pound of beef tallow. Boil together for half an hour, skim off the scum, pour the liquid into cups. When needed, it must be spread upon coarse, cotton or cloth, and applied to the sprain or bruise. It will give quick relief, and it entirely excludes the air. One or two plasters of it will cure the worst case. It acts like splints on a sprained ankle or wrist. It is also good for cattle, horses, or dogs, in all cases of injury.