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VOL. XLVIII.

LONDON, ONTARIO, AUGUST 7, 1913.

No. 1089

EDITORIAL

Harvest is the best of the seasons on the farm.

A fairly good crop harvested in prime condition is often more profitable than a "bumper" crop partially lost through bad harvesting weather or lodging.

Are noxious weeds seeding along the road bordering on the farm? It is profitable to cut them. Clean fields and weed-infested roadways are not often found in the same locality.

What a difference there is in being well up with the work, driving it so to speak, than in having it do the driving! Work done in good season is usually accomplished at a great saving of labor.

If the corn has outgrown cultivation, it is not well to forget the root crops. Turnips and mangels grow just as rapidly, comparatively speaking, as does corn, as a result of the frequent stirring of the soil.

"What is Peter McArthur's real name?" we are often asked. Peter McArthur it is. He has no other. He is no fictitious character at all, but exactly what he represents himself to be. He is genuine all through.

There is a great deal of satisfaction in seeing the large loads fill first the end mows, then the drive floors, and often scaffolds as well right up to the peak of the roof. A full barn is a guarantee of plenty during the snows of winter.

Peter McArthur, in his weekly letter in this issue, says the hope of the future lies in the organization of co-operative societies for buying and selling. There are few districts in Canada, young as is our country, which could not be helped by co-operative effort. Help it along.

If co-operative societies can deal with each other so as to give the producer the highest price for his apples in Ontario, and save the consumer over eight dollars per barrel in Alberta, as Mr. McArthur points out in this issue, why not have more of them?

"Spotted" seems to describe crop conditions in Ontario this summer. In some counties, such as East Middlesex, the season is proving the most favorable in several years. In others the reverse is true. In certain of these, hay has turned out all but a complete failure. So it goes.

Will alfalfa roots block tile drains? If so, under what conditions is this most likely to occur? Does the depth of the tile make any appreciable difference? Will tile that do not convey a fairly continuous flow of water be likely to become obstructed? We have a tile-drained field under alfalfa and as yet have seen no evidence of obstruction. We have heard of many fields sown on tiled land and seldom with any report of trouble. Still, such reports have been heard of, and we are desirous in the public interest of getting at the facts. Has any reader ever had a tile drain blocked with alfalfa roots? If so, please write us about it. Do it now. Negative reports will be also in order—and doubly welcome.

The Road to Recognition.

"It cheers us as we read it to see how great a human life may be," observes Sir Wm. Robertson Nicoll, in reviewing a new biography of John Bright. As judged by many in his own day, and by popular modern standards John Bright, with his disregard for the honors and enrichments of office, might not be regarded as a marked success, but with unerring hand, history is according him his place of pre-eminence. The effective labor of his life in the interests of the people was immense, and one by one important measures and policies which he espoused, though perhaps unpopular for the time, have become realized in acceptable legislation. Each passing year bears added testimony to the real achievements of his career, which "position" as the mere amassing of money could never have earned for him. The latter, as a man's controlling life-purpose, relegated to oblivion as expressed editorially in "The Farmer's Advocate" last week. Lady Sackville West, whose coterie in unsavory litigation lately monopolized such a preponderance of space in the newspapers, may, for the moment, retain in her clutches the millions of Sir John Scott, but will she, any more than your common money grabbers in a small way, secure any right or title to the esteem or affections of humanity? To rivet home this practical lesson a few other citations might be given:

Count Cavour, in a very real sense the maker of modern Italy, though of wealthy and noble lineage and destined for a military career, discerned in this environment a barrier to the true service of his country, and devoted himself to humbler life and cause of agriculture, out of which he re-appeared as a constructive statesman and leader of the people.

John Howard, the English philanthropist, who might have spent his days in luxurious, inherited ease, chose rather to devote his life and fortune to the amelioration of the horrible prison conditions of Europe, dying at last of fever contracted from a felon in Russia. But his unselfish devotion to suffering fellow men has given him imperishable renown, and the work of prison reform goes on still right in our own land.

Florence Nightingale, reared among the culture and refinements of a luxurious English home, relinquished its comforts to espouse in the Crimea, cold, suffering, hunger, gaping wounds, blood, death in its most terrible forms to assuage, as a nurse, the anguish of the wounded soldiers and mitigate the terrors of the war. The forerunner of organized modern-nursing history reverently lays its garlands upon her unselfish memory. Florence Nightingale or Lady Sackville West—which?

With all the opportunities of wealth and aristocratic surroundings before him, Lord Shaftsbury turned aside from the leisure and luxury of opulence to redeem the slums and the sodden lives of the toiling under-world of British cities and towns, initiating social reforms that swept on from the 19th into the 20th century. He grieved at the last "to leave a world in which so much misery was yet unrelieved." He died amid the admiration of the rich, and the benedictions of the poor. At his funeral millions of workers wept as they perhaps never did by the bier of any potentate before nor since.

With abilities and an iron will that might

have made him a king in any great commercial sphere, David Livingstone, that peerless son of Scotland, relinquished the loom to fling himself against the slave trade of the Dark Continent, and win Africa to Christianity. At his centenary not long ago, the whole world re-united to do homage to the imperial soul of the scarred hero of Africa.

It seems needless to multiply names, but think of Wm. Wilberforce, Wm. Lloyd Garrison and Abraham Lincoln, men of transcendent abilities facing opposition, calumny and violence in the cause of human freedom in order that the shackles imposed by greed might be removed from millions of their fellow beings. Could any mere millionaire buy their honors to-day?

To many it may not be given to earn a place in the honor roll of earth's heroes or heroines alongside names like the foregoing, but they are only outstanding examples among a host that might be cited, who found that the true pathway to worth and recognition is not in the mere accumulation of wealth. A useful enough commodity as, means of exchange, money is to be kept in its subordinate place or its acquisition may not only fail to save from oblivion but carry the penalty of future odium. Whether in humble or high places the pathway to recognition and the affection of posterity is in useful and self-denying service.

Lengthening the Productive Period of Hay Fields.

It is not always the wisest thing to cut all the second growth clover on the farm unless winter feed promises to be very scarce. Some people wonder why clover does not form a larger portion of their second cutting of a seeding of red clover and timothy, mixed, after they have taken two cuttings the first year, or allowed the stock to pasture the second cutting down very closely. Common red clover is a biennial plant, and unless seed is produced to partially reseed the soil very little of it is likely to be present in the second year's harvest. Very close grazing is harder on it than cutting, as it literally eats it out by the roots. Fields have been noticed this season where no second crop was removed the first season, and a very considerable sprinkling of red clover remains. In some of these fields the clover formed about one-third of this year's stand, and this, where the land has been down two, three and even four and five years, but in no year has a second cutting been taken, and never since the seeding have the fields been closely grazed. One particular field has been down now five years, and has cut a good crop each year. This, the fifth crop, ran two tons of dry hay to the acre, and had just enough fine-quality clover in it to make it first-class palatable feed. It would seem from this that where land is to be left seeded down for a number of years it does not pay to cut second crops in any year, and too close grazing after the first crop is removed is likely to shorten future crops by killing out the timothy and clover, red top and blue grass taking its place. Of course, as a general thing, it is not good practice to leave fields seeded over long periods, but special conditions sometimes demand it, and a good stand for one crop each year for the number of years a field is down is much to be preferred to two fair stands in one year and partial failures thereafter. The hay crop must be given a chance as well as other crops.