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The Field.

Work for the Month of May.

THE chief operations this month, are finishing the sowing of spring crops, and planting hoed crops. Flax should be sown as early this month as the weather will permit. Grass and clover seeds may still be sown on grain fields, and bare spots in meadows. Rolling and top-dressing with fine manure are recommended wherever practicable. They will greatly promote growth. Oats do best sown in April, but for seeding down to grass, they may be put in early this month, and if not likely to mature may be cut and cured like hay. Thus treated, they make excellent fodder. Oats and vetches mixed make good green feed during the summer, and cure well for winter use. Indian corn sown thick broad-cast, makes the best green forage for summer soiling, but it ought not to be sown until the last of May, or first of June, to avoid risk of frost. We recommend our readers to try this, and also by all means to plant a patch of corn in the usual way for a crop of ears. This cereal is too much neglected in Canada. A few pumpkin seeds should be planted here and there among the corn. Sorghum should be planted about the same time as corn. We hope many Canadian farmers will try the experiment of growing a little sorghum for a home supply of syrup. Carrots and mangolds should be sown early in this month, if they are not already in the ground. Potatoes ought to be all planted by the end of May. As a general rule, the earlier they are in the better, provided risk from frost is avoided. To raise potatoes profitably, hand-hoeing should be avoided as much as possible.—Plough out drills about three feet apart, and drop the pieces a foot and a half in the rows. Cover with the plough, or with a cultivator having the middle tooth out. In about a fortnight, or just before the potatoes come up, a careful harrowing lengthwise may be given, which will be as good as one hand-hoeing. Ground should be in course of preparation for turnips and buckwheat, though these are not to be sown for some time to come. Beans should be planted this month. The white bush variety is the best for family use. Dairy operations will begin to demand attention this month. A clean, cool, well-ventilated milk-room should if possible be provided. In the orchard, grafting should be attended to this month. It is a simple operation, and the farmer need not wait till he can afford to employ a professional grafter. Try your hand on a few trees, and give over growing natural fruit, some of which is sour enough to give even pigs the colic. This will be a busy month in the kitchen and flower garden. Seeds of all kinds must now be sown, as the state of the soil and weather permit. Fruit trees, shrubs, shade-trees, &c., may still be planted out with success. May is the best

time for lifting evergreens. With care they may be successfully planted from the woods and swamps, but they are more sure to grow, and will come on much more quickly, if transplanted from the nursery. Active operations will begin this month in the apiary. Weak stocks may require a little feeding still, but it will not be long before white clover, fruit tree blossoms, early spring flowers, &c. will furnish abundance of food. Toward the end of the month there may be a disposition to swarm in the case of strong stocks, but generally speaking, there is no danger of this occurring until June.

Grass Lands.

THERE is no subject on the farm more neglected, or less understood, or more important, than the grass or pasture of the farm. Grass will grow anywhere; let the land alone, and, finally, grass of one kind or another covers the surface; but such pasture is neither the best nor the most profitable, but like everything else that costs little, it seems to be preferred by too many farmers in Canada. To the ordinary, or old class of Canadian and American farmers, time is nothing, and space of ground is nothing, but the cost of a few dollars is most jealously looked at and guarded against. The common Canadian pasture costs nothing but time and space, and is therefore preferred over that which is many times more valuable, and which costs labour and money.

What is the result of this? Where such pasture is kept for hay, it yields about $\frac{1}{2}$ of a ton per acre, when the crop is good, and from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ a ton, when it is bad. The after-grass is poor in proportion—it will not carry half the stock it ought, yet as much stock is put on it as it ought to carry if good—it is cut too close, then usually eaten down to the bare roots, immediately after laying, and again before winter. The timothy—where there is timothy—is killed; the clover heart is bruised and trampled to death, and often so weakened as to freeze out in winter, and none but the natural grasses will stand the bad usage the meadow has received. Now, bare fall pastures produce a poor spring crop; the meadow, having lost all artificial grasses, yields merely wild hay, fit only for cows, and when sold at market produces the lowest possible price. At last even Canadian patience gives out, and the ground is broken up, and, from rest, and the assistance of a summer fallow, and, possibly, some manure, produces a tolerable crop of wheat, but the same evil is perpetrated on some other portion of the farm. Now, what is the cure for this? There is but one: either to raise timothy and clover, and never let the land remain in pasture for more than one year; or, if you cling to the old meadows, thoroughly manure them; take care that the hay is not cut too close to the ground, never allowing the cattle to feed down close, and take care that a plentiful supply of fog or withered grass is allowed

to cover the surface during the winter, and nurse the coming crop in the spring.

It is a well known fact that if timothy grass is cut before the bulbs are formed, or even then, if cut below the second joint, above the root or bulb, or allowed to be bitten down, the timothy is destroyed. Timothy and clover do not ripen together—to secure the best portion of the clover you ruin the timothy—and if you leave the crop uncut till the timothy is ready, you lose the best part of the clover. The best English agriculturists meet this by sowing clover and rye grass together. We should be inclined to recommend a mixture of clover and orchard grass, but, perhaps, clover alone, where it can be got to take sufficiently well, yields the heaviest crop. We have always been of opinion that timothy should be grown alone, cut late, and not pastured, or not closely pastured. If grown for seed, a remunerative return is obtained, and threshed timothy is certainly far preferable to straw. Our system of farming does not yield enough manure to afford it for grass lands; but, really, you can manure grass lands more cheaply with their own produce than with manure carried out of a barn-yard. All the grasses yield within themselves the best manure for themselves, and the aftermath is really the cheapest and best manure which can be had. Cut the hay crop; fasten up the field; let the aftermath rot on the ground; apply plaster in the spring, and the next hay crop will be double what it was the previous year; repeat the operation, and the fertility of the meadow increases year by year, until the crop is treble to what we now obtain. Do you want evidence of these facts? There is plenty before your eyes on every farm. Who has not some neglected corner of field, or orchard, or garden, where the cattle cannot get, and where the grass rots down year after year? Look at the crop of grass there and compare it with your old bitten down pastures—the produce is four times as much as on the pasture, the grass is rank and rich in appearance, and, if cut for hay, would yield at the rate of at least two tons per acre. Yes, but—farmers will say—who is going to let pasture go to waste while their cattle want grass? Well, the question is—shall they want grass this year, or will you go without hay the next? You must either manure with the produce of the barn-yard, or you must manure with the produce of the meadow itself, or you must go without grass, except in the homeopathic doses you now get from old pastures. You cannot spare the barn-yard manure from the grain crop, and, therefore, either of the other courses are open to you, and that generally adopted is to go with poor pasture in the fall and a trumpety hay crop the following year. Try our plan with one acre, or with one field, follow it up, and you will never again have to complain of short hay crop and poor pasture.

Top-dressing is said to be a profitable employment for farmers, but the ladies, devote too much time and money to it.