

1883.]

CANADIAN FARMER'S ALMANAC.

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WORK WITH THE ROOTS.

It will usually pay to go through even broad cast turnips and thin them, and pull or cut out the strongest weeds—smart-weed, rag-weed, etc., and when roots are in drills it is absolutely necessary. Even when roots are very backward, and the outlook is discouraging on the first of September, thinning, weeding and hoeing will make a crop. All kinds of turnips do their best growing after cold nights are, so to speak, the order of the day. Loose earth and full possession of the ground are prime requisites to their doing their best.

MORE MUTTON-SHEEP.

The breeding time for sheep is just ahead, and flock-masters should be planning for early lambs, to meet the wants of the market next season. We need more fine-wooled sheep, more long-wools, but especially more mutton-sheep. The manufacturers can get wool to suit their purposes if they have to import it, but good mutton for the million, if had at all, must be raised within easy reach of the local markets. There is a lamentable dearth of good mutton in the village and rural markets, as we know from a personal experience of thirty years and more. Lamb is quite plenty in the summer months at the retail price of twenty to twenty-five cents, and mutton in the fall months at a little less price than good beef, but the rest of the year it is hardly to be had at any price, as if it were a thing out of season, like strawberries in December. We ought to have mutton the year round, so that delicate stomachs that eschew veal in spring and fresh pork in winter, can have a change from beef and poultry to mutton-chop at their convenience. The pure Southdown is the mutton-sheep of all other breeds, unquestionably. Then, after this, the various other families of Downs, as the Hampshires and other English shires, taking the names of the counties in which they are bred. A Southdown ram, running with a flock of Merinos or common sheep, will bring grades giving an excellent quality of lamb and mutton, though not equal in flavor to the purely bred. If these grades are put with a Cotswold ram, we have a sheep much increased in size, with an excellent quality of mutton. This cross gives a carcass from one-quarter to a third larger than the grades, and sometimes one-half. The lambs mature early, and are great favorites with the butchers. We have found no better cross than this in our sheep breeding. It is not necessary now to pay fancy prices for good breeding rams, either of the Southdown or Cotswolds. They are quite widely distributed, and can be had at prices within the reach of any thrifty farmer. To get the best service out of the ram, he should not be left to run loose with the flock, as is the common practice, but should be kept by himself, on generous feed, and led out when the ewes are in heat. Kept under this restraint, he will serve a larger number of ewes, and the offspring will be more vigorous. Mutton-sheep are so easily raised, and the flesh is so wholesome an article of diet, that every owner of a good grazing farm ought to cultivate them for the supply of his table and the local market. The export of mutton carcasses to England has become a large business, and cannot fail to stimulate this industry. Get more Southdown blood into your flock.

The teacher wanted to give his class the benefit of what he knew about the inevitable circle; but before doing so he asked, "What can't be squared?" No answer for a few seconds, when a treble voice piped out, "The account old Jim Clark owes father."

It many times falls out that we deem ourselves much deceived in others, because we first deceived ourselves.

We find ourselves less witty in remembering what we have said than in dreaming of what we might have said.

If the past is not to bind us, where can duty lie? We should have no law but the inclination of the moment.

All our relaxations, and every holiday we enjoy, are but means to that important end, the better discharge of our duty.

It is not until we have passed through the furnace that we are made to know how much dross was in our composition.