

# THE CANADA FARMER

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## The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, CANADA, FEBRUARY 15, 1873

It was well on in January before the new series of THE CANADA FARMER was determined upon—and the editorial and mechanical arrangements for its publication occupied some further time. The first numbers have, in consequence, appeared behind time; but we shall presently make up the lost space, and appear punctually on our stated days of publication.

Having found sixteen pages of reading matter in each number of THE CANADA FARMER inadequate to our purpose, we have enlarged the number of pages to twenty.

### IMPORTANT ADDITION TO OUR STAFF.

We have the pleasure of announcing that we have secured the services of Mr. L. B. Arnold, Secretary of the American Dairymen's Association, as Editor of the Dairy Department, of THE CANADA FARMER. Mr. Arnold has no superior and probably but one equal in eminent qualification for the position. He is an able, shrewd, matter-of-fact man; has had great experience as a practical farmer; is thoroughly conversant with the rise, progress and present condition of the cheese and butter factory systems on this continent, and with the whole details of factory organization and operation; and in writing or speaking on these subjects he goes direct to the marrow of the question without flourish or circumlocution. We confess our hearty gratification at this addition to our Editorial Staff. We look forward to a large extension of dairy farming throughout the Dominion, and a great improvement in the quality of our dairy products, as the surest and easiest mode of renovating our exhausted lands and enhancing the profits of agricultural industry, and we are persuaded that, in this march of improvement, no more experienced or safer guide could be desired by the farmers of Canada than Mr. Arnold.

Our arrangement with Mr. Arnold provides for a continuous series of articles during the present year, explaining clearly and systematically the buildings, machinery and capital requisite for a cheese factory—the mode of organizing and managing factory associations—the most approved methods of making, curing, packing, shipping and selling cheese—and the most profitable modes of managing dairy cows. It also provides for a similar series of articles (to be published simultaneously) in regard to butter factories and creameries. The whole of these articles to be amply

illustrated by wood-cuts in the best style of the wood-engraver's art available to us.

We have not a doubt that these articles from Mr. Arnold's pen will alone be well worth the entire annual subscription of the CANADA FARMER to all our agricultural readers.

### THE SOILING SYSTEM.

How comes it, inquires a western cotemporary, that though the advantages of the soiling system have been thoroughly discussed for many years and shown by theory and practice to be great and undoubted—its practical adoption in the management of our farms has not become universal?

We doubt if there is one intelligent, enterprising farmer who has tried the soiling system, either partially or in whole, who has not many times put to himself the question suggested by our cotemporary. The admitted difficulties in the way of its adoption are no doubt considerable; but they are not so serious as to account for the apathy shown in regard to so great a reform. Thousands of the agriculturists of Canada could adopt the system as the basis of their farm operations without much inconvenience; all of them could adopt it in part without any inconvenience whatever; and the gains from it are so direct, so palpable, so immense, as to sweep away all objections and leave only wonder that soiling is not the universal rule.

Nobody denies that when the heat of summer arrives, as a general rule in Canada pastures become bare, cattle are sorely pinched, milk decreases, young stock become stunted in growth; and that green crops, specially sown to be cut and fed through these weeks of parching drouth, do avert all this loss. And yet, how few adopt even this small *medicament* of the soiling system.

No intelligent farmer doubts for one moment that the more cattle well kept on a farm, the more manure will be made; that the more manure made, the larger and better will be the grain crops; that, in fact, the profits of farming in Canada hinge on this pivot—and that by even a partial adoption of the soiling system, the number of cattle kept on every farm in the land might be greatly increased and the manure vastly augmented. But, yet, how very few farmers even partially adopt it.

Nobody denies that a vastly larger amount of good cattle fodder can be got from an average acre of green crop, to be cut and carried to the animals, than can be raised on an average acre of ordinary pasture; and that even of this inferior bulk of pasture grass, the cattle by trampling down and by droppings, destroy at least two-thirds, while the whole of the green crop is saved and eaten. But yet how few farmers have practically tested the relative cost of the two systems, with the fixed determination to adopt the one found most profitable.

No farmer who has considered the subject doubts that even on well managed dairy farms under the pasture system in Canada and the United States, it requires the produce of from three and a half to five acres of land for the support of a full grown cow or steer for one year. And yet it is easily demonstrable by every farmer in Canada who likes to try the experiment through the coming six months, that three full grown cows or steers can be better fed and maintained in better health and condition on the same space of land by raising green crops and feeding in stables or yards.

We know it is objected that soiling involves a great deal of manual labor—and doubtless the labor is greater than in pasturing. But the cash returns far more than compensate it:—That buildings are required specially adapted to it—but this, though expedient where a large herd is kept, is not imperative.—That the animals are cramped and injured by confinement—but this is not so; and if it were, they need not be housed in summer, but fed with cut food in a yard or "bush":—That it is an unnatural system

and destructive of health to keep beasts in stables,—but the very contrary is the fact.

We entertain not a shadow of a doubt that whether applied to the management of dairy stock, or cattle intended for the butcher, or thorough-bred stock for breeding purposes, the soiling system is incomparably the best and most profitable. We are satisfied—

That it saves land—

That it saves internal fencing—

That it economizes food—

That it keeps cattle in greater comfort and higher condition—

That it produces more milk—and

That it enhances immensely the quantity and quality of the manure.

In a system of soiling adapted to Canada, Rye sown at intervals during September and October, and pushed on so as to be ready for cutting in May, will naturally be the first crop. Green Rye is a first-rate fodder crop; and properly treated gives fifteen tons to the acre. One acre of it will maintain well twelve cows for an entire month—or in the proportion of one cow for an entire year. The same land on which green Rye is thus grown, can be easily got ready for a second crop—say of Western Corn, drilled in. The weight of green Corn stalks to be obtained in this manner from an acre, depends on the character and condition of the soil, the character of the season and the promptitude with which the seed is got in after removing the Rye. It is best to hurry in the corn seed, from day to day, as fast as the Rye is cut. Under favorable circumstance, 20 tons of green Corn stalks to the acre may be expected; 15 tons to the acre is a poor crop. Last year (1872) 21 acres of Western Corn, sown as above after Rye, so late as the beginning of August, yielded an average of 18 tons to the acre of splendid forage. Now let any one compare the profit from an acre of land yielding 15 tons of rye and 18 tons of corn stalks in one season, with the profit from the same acre devoted to pasture, and he will see that the cost of planting, reaping and feeding the two green crops is as nothing in comparison with the direct cash gains from that system.

The crop that usually follows rye in Canadian soiling is common red clover. With a good dose of gypsum at the first blush of spring, clover is ready for cutting in June, but it is wise to cut as little of it as possible, and to save it for hay. A good crop of ripe green clover, on suitable land in good condition, weighs from 10 to 11 tons per acre, according to the season, from the first cutting; a second cutting, equally good, can usually be got; and even a third crop may sometimes be taken if deemed expedient.

Close after clover should come Oats, sown thickly very early in spring, or oats and tares, or better still, oats, peas and tares sown together. The green forage obtained from either of these crops is succulent and delicious, and the weight in favorable seasons, enormous. Even in 1871 and 1872 good crops were obtained by early sowing and thereby getting the land screened from the hot rays of the sun. We have never known the produce of an acre of this crop to be weighed, and therefore speak with reserve as to it, but we should deem twelve tons per acre a poor crop, and from twenty to twenty-five tons a good one.

But the grand soiling crop for Western Canada is Ohio corn drilled in. No crop is so ravenous of manure as Indian corn, but give it plenty of that, and keep the weeds down, and no other crop will yield the cash returns that it will. Let the season be what it may, the corn stalks will be a profitable crop; and in a good season, properly cured, and properly saved and cut for winter use, there is nothing to compare with it as an abundant and profitable forage crop. Early put in and rightly cultivated, twenty-five tons per acre of green Ohio corn-stalks is a poor crop, and thirty-five tons is a good one.

The fact is, there are not two sides to this question. The soiling system has but to be fairly tested, to make the candid experimenter, an enthusiastic advocate of its surpassing merits. Our space is exhausted for this number, but we shall have much to say hereafter on this subject.