

DOES FARMING PAY?

We often hear it said there is no longer any money in farming. In the course of our experience we have heard similar statements concerning other occupations. A printer, adhering in these days to the old-fashioned hand-press, might make the same complaint, and with as much justice as the present farmer, who carries on operations in the old style, or a carpenter who makes his mouldings by hand and planes boards. The improvements in machinery of all kinds have so quickened the demand for labour in every branch of industry, that the farmer as well as the mechanic must abandon hand labour and use machinery, or his profit must be eaten up in expenses. Hay may be made and put in the barn by machinery now at the rate of one dollar per acre. By hand the cost would be four dollars. The old style of crop is half a ton per acre; now three times that is a fair crop. The difference is just that between eight dollars per ton and sixty-six cents. The wide-awake farmer has this difference for his profit, eight dollars being about the market price for hay in many places. The same is true of most other crops, grain and roots especially. In feeding stock and making and using manure, equally large differences result. So of breeding stock; the old style rooster, and the modern Berkshire, are not more unlike than are their several values when made into pork. The same of the ill-fed, rough-coated native heifer or steer, and the sleek, well-fed grade Jersey or Ayrshire. The same is true of many farming communities in respect to roads, fences, and schools. All these must be fitted up with modern improvements, or farming as a business must suffer. We know whereof we speak, when we emphatically deny that farming is an unprofitable business. The capital invested will, if rightly used, return in this branch of industry as good an interest as in any other, besides having the invaluable merit of indestructibility. A workshop or factory may burn up, but and remains not only intact, but from uncontrollable circumstances is ever advancing in value. So the labour of the farmer is sure of some remuneration if properly directed. Poor farms and poor farmers are the ones whose crops fail through drought or excessive wet. On a properly conducted farm these may damage the crop, but will never destroy it. The divine promise of seed-time and harvest is for the especial benefit of the farmer; but it rests with himself in a great measure whether the fulfilment comes to him individually, or whether his more enterprising neighbour secures it.—*American Agriculturist*,

DIVERSIFIED FARMING AND HOME.

We would urge upon our dairymen the importance of adopting a somewhat diversified system of farming. Every farmer should raise his bread, vegetables, meat and fruit. Wheat, corn, potatoes, oats, &c., should be cultivated so that you may not be wholly dependent upon one single crop, a failure in which would be most disastrous. If you grow what articles you want to use, you will not be subject to the fluctuations of the market, and possibly have to pay dear for them when you are compelled to take low figures for your butter and cheese. Keep a few sheep for stocking-yarn, and for mutton, and

to have a few pounds of wool to sell or to exchange for cloth. In short, farm it so as to be as independent as possible, and to keep your hand in, so that you and your boys may know how to do something else besides take care of stock milk and churn, or run to the cheese factory.

And, above all, seek to make your homes attractive and pleasant. Don't forget the good woman in the house, and leave her and daughters to drudge and get along in the old-fashioned way, while you use the mowing machine, horse-rake, reaper, threshing machine and other labor-saving machinery. Give her the benefit of the washing-machine, sewing machine, and all the possible accessories which lighten the burdens of the household. Don't be afraid of nice furniture, or even the piano. There is nothing more pleasing and refining than music. Consider the intellectual and moral natures of those around you, and do something to gratify their tastes and cultivate their love of the beautiful, which is very closely allied to the true. Remember that the soul is of more consequence than the body, invisible and immortal, which suffers and enjoys—which has its likes and dislikes, its joys and its sorrows, and that if you fail to please and develop this, you fail in everything for which this material existence was designed.—*Utica Herald*.

FARMERS' ICE HOUSES.

There is no more pleasure adjunct to the farm during the heat of Summer than plenty of good ice. Permanent structures for keeping this commodity are now so common that any country carpenter knows how to build one. But many persons put off the building of this necessary convenience to the household, until it is too late; and so the want of it is felt every Summer, and the erection of the permanent building is put off every Fall until it is again too late. If so, put up a temporary ice-pen this season, and be prepared to build the permanent house next year at your leisure.

Select a place as near the house as convenient, and shaded if possible. Have the drainage perfect. Level the surface and cover it a foot or more with ordinary straw, or better, flax straw; then make a pen of rails, or some other suitable material, so that the stack of ice will not be less than twelve feet square. The larger, the better it will keep. Cut the cakes of uniform size, and as perfect as possible; pack closely together, filling the interstices with pounded ice.

Around the outside between the ice and rails, two feet wide, pack with straw thoroughly trodden down, but do not mix any straw with the ice. Cover all with straw two feet thick, and over all a good roof of boards, letting the ends project well over the sides.

Now if in the Spring, you set posts on the outside, with something within them, to keep the straw from falling away, and fill the place with straw, you will have a cheap structure that will keep ice perfect. Packed straw, or flax trash, is the best non-conducting material that you can get for that purpose. With this structure, an ice box will be more necessary, than with a permanent one, since it is not advisable to open an ice stack oftener than is absolutely necessary.

Make an ice-box with double sides, and six inches space for saw-dust or tan-bark between. Fix a pipe