

The Agricultural matter published in the WEEKLY GLOBE is entirely different from that which appears in THE CANADA FARMER.

The Canada Farmer

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Work for October—November.

A good deal of the work done at this time of the year may be advantageously invested in attending the Fairs. The larger gatherings have already come and gone, and have shown no decrease in their utility or in the interest with which the farmers regard them. The articles exhibited show convincingly that 1875 will be looked back to as a good year by Canadian farmers. And even if the articles did not prove that their exhibitors are prosperous, the personal appearance of the farmers would be enough to convince any on-looker of the fact.

Though the rushing time is over, there is no scarcity of work to be done; for the farmer's work, like that of the good housewife, is never done, till he is in possession of his ultimate freehold of six feet by two. Advantage should be taken of the many fine days which may be reasonably expected about now, to do work that will cost twice as much if put off till the cold, sleety days of next month. Land for spring-crops should be ploughed and left rough, the surface being first scarified so as to allow the germination of seeds of weeds, previous to ploughing under. All of the winter grains will have been sown before now, but rye can still be sown with reasonable expectation of success.

Every exertion should be used to add to the bulk of the manure pile. Leaves, wood ashes, plaster, house scraps, where not fed to pigs, bones and refuse of all sorts have a manurial value. Swamp muck and vegetable mould make valuable ingredients of the manure pile, though possessing little value alone.

The spring work will be greatly expedited if an outlet is now made in all places where water stands upon the surface. These places can be seen now just as well as when in spring they become miniature lakes in which nothing but aquatic vegetation will flourish. This is the time of the year for drainage operations, both surface and under-draining. We have not space to enlarge upon the virtues of under-draining, and it is unnecessary to do so. They are visible to everybody. The increase in the one year's crops has frequently paid the entire expense of the draining. If stone be used for filling in the drains—but tiles will be found cheaper in the end nearly everywhere in Canada—they should be got together ready for hauling on the snow. If the drains are dug before the ground freezes up, the work can thus proceed till the snow gets too deep.

Potatoes are not improved by much exposure to light. Therefore, do not delay burying or housing them permanently. Let them sweat in heaps for a short time, and then, if you bury them, put a layer of straw between two layers of earth with straw over all, as mentioned in last FARMER. There is less labor and more security from frost by this method. Do not trust to luck by leaving the potatoes unburied a day longer than is necessary. A sudden change of wind in the night, and a sharp frost, may knock the profit out of an entire crop.

It will be better to husk the corn as it becomes ripe rather than wait till later when cold fingers will be the order of the day. Select seed corn, throwing aside any likely-looking ears without husking them. Take from stalks having two ears in preference to those having only one: and take the upper ear only.

Burn all the weeds that can be collected, and let none of them disperse their seed.

Get rid of old, that is, unprofitable stock which it will not pay to winter. Carry this right through from the horned stock down to the hens. It is unprofitable to depend on old horses, and thrifty farmers usually get rid of them before they are quite past labor. But there is often a deep and laudable attachment between the farmer and his old four-legged servants, and we do not wish our recommendation to be taken as applying to them. Old milch cows should be fattened as soon as they are past their

milking prime. Old ewes give weak lambs, and light fleeces; qualify them for mutton as soon as possible.

Cattle are better in stables that are not very light, nor very dark. Plenty of shelter should be provided. Places where, on bright days in the winter the cattle may enjoy the sunshine, but be sheltered from cold, should be made, such as an open shed facing the south.

Do not endeavor to carry through winter more sheep than there is shelter and provender for. See that the manure made by the sheep in the winter does not go to waste, for it is very valuable.

"Swine well-summered are half-wintered," is a true saying. It is less troublesome and expensive to keep them fat than to make them fat. Let them go into winter fat and strong. Keep none but well-bred swine. Let them have warm and comfortable quarters and they will want less food.

Look after the water supply. In Canada, the roofs of the buildings necessary to shelter the stock in the winter will furnish enough rain-water for the stock all the year round. Every building should be spouted, and the water conducted into a cistern.

Do not keep your orchard produce, if a good price can be got now. Plough land that is intended for new orchards next spring. Look after the labels on the trees, and that the name is decipherable. Look after the bindings on budded trees and loosen them if necessary. Feed all fallen fruit to the hogs before it decays. Insects will be thus destroyed, and the hogs pleased.

Grape-vines should be pruned, laid down and covered with earth about eight or ten inches. Mulch strawberry beds with leaves, hay or some such thing. Cut out the old wood from raspberries, and tie up the new canes. Cut out old wood from currants and gooseberries, and plant cuttings, which succeed better when planted in the Fall.

Earth up celery, but not when wet, and, later, store it in pits covered over with planks upon which put several inches of earth. If new beds of rhubarb are wanted, divide old roots now, as it is easier done than in spring. Sow spinach for spring crop, and cover the fall crop with hay on the approach of freezing weather. Store squashes in a dry place where there is no fear of frost. Cut back parsley to force a new growth in the spring.

The wood pile should be got together. A covered shed for it is a necessity, and a covered approach a great convenience.

Now is the time to prepare an ice-house. Sawdust or tanbark should be got to pack the ice in.

Some of the Western doctors are predicting an unhealthy fall, when the unusually luxuriant vegetation shall have fairly begun to decay.

Around the homestead there are a host of things to be done. A closed porch around all the outer doors will be certain to be worth the money. There are door and window jambs and fastenings to look to, storm doors to be put up, leaks to be stopped, banking up to be done—all things that pay for themselves in lessened consumption of fuel. Much may be done to avert disease by seeing that all surface and closed drains about the house are kept clean. No stagnant water should be allowed to lie around, nor any heaps of refuse, except in the manure pile. With due attention to cleanliness, no fear may be felt on account of malarial diseases. The drinking water is the cause of many diseases in the country—perhaps more so than in the city, where a howl is soon raised if the public water be impure. Bright, sparkling well-water should always be shunned—or boiled. So also should water that has a pleasant taste. Water ought to be tasteless, but not mawkish.

THE TREE-PEDDLING NUISANCE, we notice, is as great in New Brunswick as in Ontario—or perhaps worse, for the trees sold from United States nurseries will be less likely to suit the climate than they are here. The St. Stephen Journal gives some experience of its editor in this line, that, if it were not so common, would be agonizing. He invested \$125 eleven years ago, and since then has invested any quantity of time and attention in caring for the trees purchased. Result: seven trees alive, one in the last stages of decline. It will be observed that he is seven trees ahead of many persons who have invested with travelling tree-peddlers,—and yet he is not satisfied.

A Defence of College Education for Farmers.

The Agricultural College of Iowa is one of the Colleges to which the finger of scorn has often been pointed, on account of the small number of its graduates who take to farming after going through its course. Mr. J. K. Macomber writes from the College to the New York Tribune, defending the institution. He says that sixty-one pupils, including eleven ladies, have graduated. He mentions three of the graduates who are now farming, and says he could name several others. Also that a third of the graduates are in the Department of Mechanics and Engineering.

As we are as much interested in the question of Agricultural Education as are our neighbors, we want to know all about what is done in other countries, as well as in our own country. It seems to us that Mr. Macomber's letter admits indirectly the justness of the allegations against the College that it does not turn out farmers. He makes a good defence on general grounds, which we reproduce.

He says:—But the Iowa College does not measure its success by the number of practical farmers found among its graduates. [This is a fortunate thing for the Iowa College.—Ed. C. F.] Every year it sends to the farm and workshop from 100 to 150 young men who have attended one or two years. They go home with new and improved notions of farming and farm processes. They have studied stock-breeding, examined the fine specimens of cattle and swine kept on the College Farm, received lectures on botany, horticulture, and forestry, and in every way have better ideas of farming than they had on entering. The above-named branches are taught during the first two years. Thus it is evident that the graduates are not the only ones benefited. Again, it is very doubtful about the propriety of college graduates endeavoring to swell the amount of the grain and stock raised in Iowa by adding to the horde of common farm laborers. It is not muscle that we want. There is already an abundance of cheap labor to do the rough farm work. [The Immigration Agents tell another story.—Ed. C. F.] We need more brain work out West and more improved processes. We need to learn how to widen the margin between the cost of production and the selling price. The men who are most helping agriculture in this country are not following the plough, but driving the quill, teaching or working in laboratories. The land is surfeited with unskilled labor, and now what we want is brain work. The fact of the matter is, however, that people are looking for fruit from the Agricultural Colleges too soon. Men seldom achieve anything of note until past the middle age, and we must not look for noteworthy results from striplings hardly out of their swaddling clothes. Again, the graduates of these colleges are generally poor and unable to purchase farms. They can hardly be expected to hire out as farm laborers at \$20 per month when their labor in other pursuits is worth five times that amount. [This last expression "five times the amount" must be a joke. It must be a queer place where young men can go to learn farming, and in a short time can learn enough of other subjects to make them worth \$100 a month.—Ed. C. F.]

IT WAS NOT LIKELY THAT JOHN BRIGHT, the apostle of Free Trade, would have much sympathy with the efforts of English farmers to close their markets to foreign cattle, but some one thought it worth while to ask his opinion on the matter. Mr. Bright replies:—I shall not venture to give you a confident opinion upon the matter on which you have written to me, but my impression, when the bill was passing this Parliament, was that the county gentlemen were anxious to make it as restrictive as possible, and that its operation in the direction of protection made restriction popular with them. I have not much confidence in the legislation to prevent cattle disease, and I distrust it entirely when it is fixed at the point which meets the views of county Members of Parliament. High prices and high rents, by the help of legislation, were once greedily sought after, and will not be refused now if offered under cover of an Act to prevent the importation of diseased cattle. An impartial inquiry into this question would, I suspect, discover that the restrictions imposed are needlessly severe, and that they tend sensibly to diminish the supply, and to raise the price of butchers' meat throughout the country.