

## Editorial.

## The Month.

There needs a good deal of preparation for harvest, for the work to go on systematically and in order. We are fully persuaded that there is a good deal of time lost, and a consequent reduction of profits in farming, by not having everything in order for the harvest. See what delays are often made on account of some defective machinery; the farmer probably has to drive a long distance for some casting, and leaves the hands without employment at home. The reaping or mowing machine has been left out doors to rust, and some part gives way suddenly. Our farmers do not take that care of implements and machinery that they should, and hence they soon wear out, not by actual use, but through rust and dirt. An ordinary harvesting machine should and will last a dozen years at a small outlay of \$4 or \$5 a year, if properly cared for. The secret of this is in taking the machine apart and thoroughly cleaning and oiling, and not putting together again until needed for another harvest. If our farmers would do this a great amount of money could be saved in the annual expenditure for machinery. Some farmers we know use up a machine in three or four years and are continually buying, and nothing reduces the profits in farming so much as this expenditure for machinery and implements. Then there is something new coming up every year, and often good articles are discarded for a novelty, and it is not unfrequent to see barn-yards and fence corners studded with some new implement. What with mowing and reaping machines, horse rakes, hay forks, seed drills, cultivators, gang plows, long plows, harrows and scufflers, and the various and sundry requirements to harvest a crop, it will be found that unless economy and care be taken in the purchase and use of such, farming won't pay. Then labor is high, and according to present appearances is going to continue so during the coming harvest; and when the high price of labor be taken in connection with the price of machinery, farming now-a-days is not all profit. This hired-man question is an important consideration, especially during the harvest. Some farmers can get double the work out of their hands that others can. A poor man is dear at any price; get good reliable men and pay a liberal wage. Keep them in good humor by kind treatment and reasonable hours of work. Don't expect them to commence work at five o'clock in the morning and work till after dark. Feed your men the best you have and plenty of it, and you will be surprised how pleasantly harvest will pass, and what an amount of work your men will do.

## Farm Labor.

During the coming harvest, according to the present outlook, farm hands are likely to be scarce and wages high. This is the necessary outcome of not having permanent labor on our farms the year round. Farmers want to employ more help. Not only do they want more labor, but it needs to be permanent. This hiring men for a few months in the year gives no encouragement to farm laborers. When they find they can only be profitably employed in rural districts for a few months in the year, they flock around towns or go on public works. Now, this could be remedied by having comfortable cottages, either in villages or on the farm, so that laboring men could have a garden, keep a cow, &c. Then the men would have an interest in the place and the surroundings, and they would become a fixed population. For the want of proper houses, only young men are employed on

the farm, and these probably for a portion of the year. If a hundred acres of land is properly worked it should give steady employment to at least three men and two spans of horses the year around. Several farmers now are offering nearly as much for four month's work as might do to hire a man for the year. Our farmers appear to think that labor can only be profitably employed during seed time and harvest, and that the rest of the year can take care of itself. This is a mistake; labor can be profitably employed all the time on a farm. And we have no hesitation in saying that unless more labor and capital is expended on our farms, that the older settled portions of the Dominion must eventually go behind. There is no doubt that colonization attracts the masses of emigrants to new places, but, yet, labor can be as profitably employed in Ontario as any part of the Northwest. But permanent employment cannot be expected unless there is suitable accommodation for married help.

This high price of labor and scarcity of good farm hands has a disastrous effect on the general production of the country. Crops have to be hurried in, and the ground half prepared, and then in the harvest time work is crowded, and the crops are garnered in a slipshod manner. Then draining cannot be done on account of this labor question, and the consequence is wet fields and late and poor crops. The labor question is at the bottom of all this, and we see no remedy only by employing more and permanent labor, and this can only be done by having better accommodation for married men.

## Agricultural Exhibitions.

For a long time we have thought that our exhibitions have been degenerating into too much of the Barnum line. Grants originally intended for agricultural exhibitions and the encouragement of agriculture in its various branches, and managed by practical farmers, have been alienated to the furtherance of questionable sports and amusements. In fact, many of our so-called shows are only fancy fairs and Punch and Judy exhibitions. The management has been taken out of the hands of the farmers, and is now mainly controlled by others, whose principal object is to draw crowds to the city to spend their money. Without exception, the horse-ring constitutes the leading attraction. However we may admire racing in its proper place, it should have no place in an agricultural exhibition. They should be schools for observation and instruction. There should be sufficient recreation in viewing the varied display of productions and stock to satisfy any mind imbued with a love of farming. Indeed, these exhibitions of fast horses and dog shows have a tendency to divert the minds of the people into frivolity, and hence the true design of agricultural fairs is lost sight of. One of the most successful agricultural exhibitions in the world—the Royal, of England,—eschews everything not directly pertaining to agriculture, manufactures, and kindred branches of industry.

About one of the most absurd connections with our fairs is the encouragement of dog or bench shows. Here we have a host of yelping curs petted and fondled, and money spent on them, to go through the country and destroy the farmers' sheep. It has been conclusively shown that these sporting dogs which are inuading the country, are the ones that commit all the ravages. Yet the managers of the Western Fair in their wisdom appear to think more of a lot of useless curs than a flock of Merino sheep. There is in fact a plethora of sporting dogs in every city, and in London in particular, as has been brought to notice recently in the killing and maiming of over

60 valuable imported sheep in London Township. On principle we deprecate the idea of making our shows anything that would tend to lower the standard of morality in agricultural exhibitions. It was a noticeable fact that last year, both in Toronto and London, whiskey was sold openly, and the authorities winked at it. The sum and substance of all this is to make money out of the farmer, no matter at what expense. However desirable music may be, we fail to see why \$700 should be offered as prizes for bands at the Western Fair, whilst several classes of animals are neglected altogether and some but meagrely supported. There is certainly inconsistency in this; and as managers of large fairs appear to be so hard up for novelties to amuse and attract our farmers, how would it do to get Barnum's Jumbo in the show line, and Mitchell and Sullivan in the prize ring? With such an array as this, surely the people would be gratified to their hearts' content, and their morality brought down to the level of professional sports.

## TOWNSHIP EXHIBITIONS.

We strongly urge upon our farmers to maintain their township shows and keep them intact. A number of the best township shows we know of have been amalgamated with larger ones, and the management got out of the hands of the farmers and run by outsiders and speculators. Township exhibitions can be managed easily by a few practical farmers, and with few exceptions give satisfactory financial results, but when citizens and townspeople presume to control the management there is always dissatisfaction, and the funds are appropriated to objects which have no connection with the elevation of agriculture. At our township shows, farmers, their wives and children meet without witnessing anything of a doubtful and demoralizing character. These township shows act as a greater stimulus than larger ones from the fact that neighbors come into more direct contact in their exhibits and they have a better chance of seeing what their neighbors are doing.

## The Quarantine.

At the extreme ends of the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario—at Point Levis and Point Edward—the Government has a quarantine, and the expenses of such paid out of the funds of the Dominion. As the American Government makes no preparation for the quarantining of stock in or near any points between the two countries, the whole onus of keeping both Canadian and American cattle falls upon the Dominion. Not one-third of the stock that are quarantined in these two places ever do any benefit towards improving the stock of Canada. The fact is these quarantines are kept up by the Dominion solely for the benefit of dealers in stock in Canada, who run them to Chicago, Kansas City and other marts of stock in the west. Originally the quarantine was established for preventing diseases from the infected districts of Great Britain and the Continent being brought into Canada, but by the present working of the quarantine on the borders, the Dominion has to foot the bill for both Canada and the U. S. There are but few purchases of stock of any kind from the U. S. to Canada, compared with what is exported there. Indeed, Chicago and Kansas City in the west are the marts for the thoroughbred cattle of both Canada and the U. S., and why make the Canadian Government pay all the bills of quarantine?

We should like to hear from the Minister of Agriculture what rate is charged for stock in these quarantines, and what ratio is paid by American importers. Nearly all importations of stock to this country pass on to the ranches of the Western States. Our principal importers of cattle only make this country a shipping place and a con-