

respecting the social condition, resources, and agricultural wealth of Canada were more widely diffused, we should retain within our own borders a large number who now pass through to the Western States. In an article on "Westward Emigration" published lately in the CANADA FARMER, and which we were glad to see copied into some of the prominent English journals, we drew attention to some of the advantages which this country offers in comparison with the neighbouring States. We believe that the liberality of the American Government in free grants of land presents the chief inducement to emigrants. No doubt, also, the facility of immediate and profitable farming on prairie land is another great consideration. The system of free grants is now happily introduced into Canada, and if we have not the prairie land to offer in this immediate region, we can point to a vast territory westward, with prairie tracts of unsurpassed fertility, now inviting occupation. It should be remembered also that the open country does not in every respect surpass the timbered district. The absence of timber is in many ways a serious drawback, rendering building and fencing materials very expensive, and depriving the region of the shelter and other important benefits derived from forest growth. We are favoured with a fertile soil, a pleasant and invigorating climate; we have ready access to the seaboard, good markets, a healthful commerce, just laws, and free institutions, and we can without reservation speak well of this country as an inviting home to the British emigrant. To those who come among us with a will and determination to help themselves, we should at least give a cordial welcome, and if needful, be ready to extend a "helping hand."

### Look Ahead.

The hurry of spring work for the farmer is close at hand; and it is one of the disadvantages of his calling, felt more especially in this country of long winters and short summers, that so much of the work comes together. Nevertheless, a wise forethought and timely preparation will enable the thrifty farmer to overcome this difficulty, to be ready for everything in season, and while taking life apparently more easily than his worried neighbour who is always behind-hand, to accomplish much more, and to make his farm pay. Economy (not parsimony) of labour, time and money, are absolutely necessary to profitable farming, and to secure this nothing is more essential than a regular system, well matured before-hand, and duly provided for. A few hints to the inexperienced, or to those who have hitherto not paid sufficient attention to the matter of forehandedness, may not be unprofitable.

It is most important to have the work of the whole farm laid out for the season, though some persons need a caution not to attempt too much. Do not expect impossibilities from your farm hands, make some allow-

ances for unavoidable interruptions and rainy days. Hire at the beginning of the season, if possible, as much help as you may require. To trust altogether to casual assistance (often worthless and high-priced), for harvest operations, generally leads to vexation, disappointment, and heavy loss. In deciding what crops to put in, be sure and arrange for a sufficient amount of green fodder for the stock. It soiling altogether is not your practice, at least have some green food ready for seasons when pasturing is either inconvenient or fails from drought and other causes. Oats and vetches, for horses, corn for cattle (especially milch cows), and rape for sheep, will be found most serviceable in keeping up the healthy and thriving condition of the stock. Let all required arrangements be made for the comfort of breeding animals and their young.

Fences should all be in order before the pressure of spring work begins. The annoyance and loss of time and valuable produce by inattention to this matter can only be fully appreciated by those who have experienced or watched the inroads of breachy cattle, and all the vexatious consequences.

See that all the implements are in good condition and ready for use. Many a half-day and more is lost in an errand to the blacksmith's or carpenter's shop when all the delay might have been saved by a little timely repair.

It seems almost needless to say a word about the necessity of securing good seed early, yet we know farmers who put off even this essential matter till the day for sowing is actually upon them. They then lose much time in supplying their wants, are often obliged to be content with an inferior article, and, perhaps, induced to put the seed into the ground without proper cleaning and preparation.

In addition to matters affecting chiefly the work in the field and among the stock, the considerate farmer will see to certain domestic arrangements which will tend greatly to the saving of time and the comfort of the household, such as the preparation and convenient laying out of the kitchen garden, with easy access from the house; proper contrivances in the poultry yard, to prevent the hens from selecting their nests in out-of-the-way and inaccessible places; and some arrangement that shall preclude the necessity of any one, often some young girl or delicate woman having to trudge weary distances through wet fields, and in all weathers, to bring home the cows at milking time. Cows are creatures of habit and of excellent sense, and can easily be trained to come with wonderful regularity from their pastures into the farm-yard. A little salt or small allowance of extra feed by way of *bonne bouche* regularly supplied at home, will save all the seeking and driving which in some families consume a large amount of time, and entail no inconsiderable risk of cold or even more serious illness. Cows should be milked un-

der cover, each fastened in its proper place, and not at large in an open yard.

Another matter should not be neglected. The supply of fire-wood should be ready cut, under shelter, and conveniently accessible. For want of forethought and timely attention to this indispensable provision, a man's time is sometimes taken up in the busiest season, in cutting wood for the kitchen fire, when he ought to be in the field; or a woman has to use the axe, or put up with chips or damp wood, at the risk of her limbs, her temper, and the spoiling of the day's dinner, not to mention more serious troubles.

These few hints point out some of the ways in which the systematic and considerate man will arrange his own work and that of those about him, so as to make the most of the time and means at his disposal. They may seem small matters, but the profits of farming are not so great as to allow anyone to neglect these little things, which often make all the difference between the thriving and unsuccessful farmer.

### Wild Lands.

That there is yet plenty of land scattered about among the older settlements in Canada, that still requires the process of being cleared and brought into cultivation before it can become of any intrinsic value, and add to the ability and resources of our country as a food-producing one, is undeniable. Unfortunately, much of it has passed out of the hands of the Crown into those of speculators, who have too long been permitted to hold their lands at prices that render them utterly beyond the means of the emigrant or hard working backwoodsman to pay, even on a twenty years' purchase time. The principal idea with these owners of wild lands has been that the timber on them would increase sufficiently in value as firewood, from year to year, to enable them in a few years to make a thousand per cent. on their original cost.

But this is likely now to prove a chimera, as the discovery and working of the Welland peat beds, the cheapness at which coal is likely to be supplied from Nova Scotia, as well as from Pennsylvania, coupled with the fact that our railways will not carry firewood as freight at any price, is resulting in driving the speculators to see that they are gaining nothing by holding on to their wild lands at such extravagant prices, and they are now beginning to offer them for sale, though with a lingering, longing desire to obtain a realization of some of the great profits they once fondly hoped for, they can only come down cent by cent, till the pressure of taxation is tightened to a degree that will force them to see that it is their interest to let them go at what they are honestly worth to the actual settler.

Some of these lands doubtless still have some heavy timber on them that is valuable