

pass nothing by without presenting all the objections within their knowledge. In fact, agriculture is deserving of all the means being applied which are now active, and as much more as can be devised; the learned, and those to be improved, should meet more intimately.

In Germany many of the walled grounds have on their inside all the improved implements, while outside these walls, and close along side, may be seen a plow made of a crooked stick, and without even an iron shoe. These plowmen cannot be talked at over the walls; the instructors must come out and go among them. Germany is not alone in this particular, and every means should be devised to remedy the evil.

RULES FOR MAKING FARMING PROFITABLE.

One whose conclusions have been founded upon experience, thus writes to the *Prairie Farmer*.

1. Buy no more land than there is capital enough to pay for, with one-third more surplus. A small farm, free from debt, with plenty of means to stock it, enrich it, and carry on its work, will yield more than a large one, encumbered with debt, conducted feebly in every part, with bad fences, poor implements, bony animals, weedy fields, and thin crops.

2. Lay out the fields in the best order, so as to admit of a systematic rotation, and to give ready access to every field at all times, without passing through other fields if possible.

3. Provide good fences, and necessary gates, and valuable time will not be lost in driving out intruding animals, nor crops lost by these depredations.

4. Furnish good farm buildings to secure properly the crops, and also to afford a good shelter for animals.

5. Select the best animals in purchasing, and secure the *very best* the country affords to breed from. Also select the best implements that can be procured at reasonable prices.

6 Bring the soil into good condition, and keep it so by a judicious rotation.

TAN BARK AS A MANURE.

To the Editor of the *Lower Canada Agriculturist*.

Sir,—The columns of your Journal being ever open to give and receive all information that pertains to the advancement of Agricultural improvement, I am induced to ask the opinion of the Journal upon the following question:

Having an opportunity of procuring a quantity of waste tanner's bark, which is the easiest way to convert it into an active manure.

I understand that tanners bark has been used extensively by several farmers to great advantage, after preparing it in some particular way. Perhaps composting with farm-yard manure would prove most beneficial. But if it could be used at once and applied in a fresh state to our various crops, a great deal of extra work and trouble might be avoided.

By answering the above in your next issue you will much

Oblidge, Yours truly,
A Subscriber.

Messrs. Editors:—I have observed various statements as to the nature and value of spent tan-bark applied to crops or tillage land. Having made some experiments in a small way, bearing on the question, I will give the results.

On the 1st of July I sowed broadcast, on good alluvial soil, well-pulverized carrots, ruta-bagas and cabbage. I covered them with three-fourths of an inch of tan bark, quite fresh from the tannery. The growth was good, and crop as large as the season would allow.

I also planted potatoes in the same way, covering with four to six inches of fresh tan bark. They had no other care, the weeds not growing. The crop was fair under the circumstances—indicating no bad effect from the tannic acid of the covering.

I also raised good corn where tan was mixed with the soil in the proportion of one to four.

From these facts I have not hesitated to use it freely as an absorbent in my stables. My cows are bedded with it to a depth of three or four inches. It is hoed back into the drop as fast as it becomes wet. It then becomes thoroughly mixed with the manure, making about double the bulk. It is daily loaded into a cart and hauled to the fields, where it is deposited in heaps.

The great advantages I get are a more perfect distribution of the manure in spreading—economy in getting all the manurial qualities on to the ground—neatness of stables, and saving all the trouble in plowing, drilling in seeds, and cultivating, when coarse straw manure is used, as it must be, or one year lost in rotting it.

Dried muck is undoubtedly the best. But I can't get it; and it is much more expensive in procuring and hauling, where tan is within reach.

My land is alluvial, a little inclined to be heavy, and I anticipate good results from the light, open nature of the tan.

I procure my supply (about 150 loads) in dry weather, and place in the bottom of a bay, convenient for use. Frost only crusts over the top, giving no trouble.

NATURAL BAROMETER.

The spider says an eminent naturalist, is almost universally regarded with disgust and abhorrence; yet, after all, it is one of the most interesting, if not the most useful of the insect tribe. Since the days of Robert Bruct, it has been celebrated as a model of perseverance while in industry and ingenuity it has no rival among insects. But the most extraordinary fact in the natural history of this insect, is the remarkable presentiment it appears to have of an approaching change in the weather. Barometers, at best, only foretell the state of the weather with certainty for about twenty-four hours, and they are very frequently fallible guides particularly when they point to *settled fair*. But we may be sure that the weather will be fine twelve or fourteen days, when the spider makes the principal threads of its web very long. This insect which is one of the most economical animals, does not commence a work requiring such a great length of threads