

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

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## The Canada Farmer

TORONTO, CANADA, DECEMBER 15, 1875.

### THE CANADA FARMER.

This number of the CANADA FARMER completes its twelfth annual volume, and it is proper that we take a glance backward. Our readers will agree with us that the promise made twelve months ago, that this volume should eclipse its predecessors in interest and value has been fulfilled to the letter. A reference to the copious index accompanying this number will show the immense variety of subjects discussed during the year. Our pages have been literally crammed with information at once reliable and permanently valuable. With matters of news, we have carried condensation to its extreme limit. We have endeavored to make a journal that is acceptable to those practising all the various branches that pertain to the agricultural profession—and we believe we have succeeded in the task. In this connection, it is possible that fault might be found with us by those who do not realize the variety and diversity of agricultural interests. A farmer whose entire energies are devoted to grain-growing takes but little more interest in stock than does a person totally unconnected with farming—while the stock-breeder is too apt to think that the purpose of all farming is to furnish food for his cattle. But an agricultural journal, to be successful, must devote itself to all departments of farming. So we venture to remind the arable farmer and the gardener that stock news, of no value to themselves, are esteemed to be of absorbing interest by others. On the other hand, the stock-breeder may be profitably reminded that the pages devoted to vegetable and fruit raising are of more interest to a vast body of our readers than are the births, deaths, and purchases in aristocratic Short-horn circles. Those of our readers who think we have run too much to Cattle, to Vegetables, or to Fruit, should remember that what they condemn others may think commendable, while the last referred to may dislike just what the first mentioned think the best feature of the journal.

The progress of the CANADA FARMER during the expiring year has been most satisfactory in many ways. We have enlisted a vast body of new, and, we believe, permanent readers. And not only in number of readers, but in influence, the CANADA FARMER has increased to a gratifying extent. It is now, on the subjects whereof it treats, one of the most largely quoted of farming journals—and this is a sure indication that its value is recognized by those who are most competent to judge of it.

It is intended that the improvement in the CANADA FARMER shall be carried on in 1876 with the same energy that has marked it this year. It is intended that it shall be kept in the front rank of Agricultural Journals, so that Canadian Agriculture, which is now making such rapid progress, may continue to have a representative worthy of it.

### Work for December—January.

Now that we are fairly in the grasp of Old Winter again, there are many things which we can do, but, *per contra*, there are few hands to do what has to be done. It is not probable, therefore, that there will be many days fall to the lot of the farmer, on which he must be lazy for want of something better to do.

The outlook continues to improve as respects prices for the great staple, wheat. The continual reports of worse quality than was estimated, and the long continued wet weather in England, with the consequent disastrous floods must soon have their effect on the market. On this continent, too, the winter wheat is not in nearly so good a condition as it might be. Indications point to a short crop next year, both here and in England, and in France.

There are all the thousand and one little jobs mentioned in last month's CANADA FARMER to be done from time to time. Barn and cellar banking, implement repairing and painting, house and out-door painting, and whitewashing, hole stopping, window mending, harness over-hauling, wood cutting, etc., etc., will keep the time from lagging. There are the stable floors to be made safe, cracks through which snow drifts to be chinked, the sheep rack to be fixed, and gates to be re-hung, to begin with. When they are done—look around and you will find another hundred of things ready.

The principal work will be looking after the stock. The horses are more liable to disease in winter than at other seasons. The close confinement, dry food, and frequently ill-ventilated stables cause constitutional derangement and a train of attendant diseases. The ammoniacal exhalations from the urine often cause inflammation of the eyes, sometimes extending to blindness. The trouble may be prevented by keeping the stables clean and by sprinkling plaster on the floors to fix the ammonia. Both the horses and the working cattle should be regularly exercised when not at work, and should be turned out on pleasant days.

The sheep which have roots served to them daily will not want water, but it should be accessible to them. They should have roomy, well ventilated sheds, and should be kept clean. They do not relish coarse hay and will not thrive so well on it as on fine hay well cured. They must be fed regularly, as the irregularity will show itself in the wool. If stretched show themselves, give a little sulphur and salt.

Swine want extra feeding in cold weather, and warm shelter—the warmer the shelter the less food will be consumed in keeping up the animal heat, and the more there will be toward laying on fat. Breeding sows will want extra attention, warm quarters, liberal food and bedding.

All kinds of stock suffer in winter from want of water. Clean troughs should be provided near at hand. A plug should be provided so that the water can be withdrawn at night to prevent freezing.

If frost forms in the stables, they are too cold, and additional banking is wanted, or holes need plugging, or roof mending somewhere. Give salt regularly, or have it constantly accessible.

Look after the hired men well, and see that they do not neglect or stint the stock.

Wipe dry the teats of milch cows after milking, or chapped teats will be the result. Fresh lard is the best application if they get so.

If there should come an opportunity, store up some dry soil for use in the stables as an absorbent for the urine, the most valuable part of the manure.

Fruit trees should be protected from everything that will disturb their period of apparent repose. The trunks should be protected from the attacks of vermin by bandaging, mounding or some other of the methods described in previous numbers of this volume. Be careful not to let the stock into the orchard during the winter. Fruit trees will all be benefitted by a liberal mulching. After each fall of snow, tramp it firmly down around the trunks. Cut away all long grass and rubbish that may be near the trees, or mice will find harbor therein. These proceedings will, to some degree, protect from being girdled such trees as are not bandaged or otherwise protected.

Scions, for grafting, may be cut at any time in the winter or early spring, when the wood is not frozen. Cut from vigorous trees of known variety. Many orchardists cut their scions in the early winter before severe frost has occurred. Pack them in moist sand, earth, or sawdust, in

boxes, and put them in the cellar or some other frost-proof but cool place.

Lay out plans so that healthy, vigorous trees of inferior varieties may be grafted in spring and converted into profitable sorts.

Blackberries and raspberries should be well mulched with a covering of straw, or leaves, which will protect the roots during winter and spring, and afford a good manure by its decomposition during summer.

Flowerbeds should be well mulched with straw or leaves. Lay boughs or slats over to keep the mulch from being blown away.

If you are not quite sure that your cellars are frost-proof, a covering of newspapers over the potatoes will keep a severe frost from getting to them.

The opportunity should be taken to haul fire-logs before the snow gets deep. Have a place where the sawing and splitting can be done under cover, and, if practicable, make a covered way from the house to the wood-pile. This will make things pleasant in stormy weather.

Put up a temporary porch or storm door to the front and back doors. Nail weather-straps along doors and windows.

See that the boys and girls, especially the boys, who have to do men's work during the summer, go to school during winter. Encourage them to talk in the evening of their day's task, and help them all you can in the preparation of their next day's work.

If you have kept accounts, you now should read and re-read them and extract from them many lessons they can teach you. If you have not kept them, do not let another year begin before you equip yourself with the means of knowing exactly how much money you are making or losing, and when you are making or losing it. Account books of farm expenses become more valuable with every year of their age, as the transactions recorded become more and more dim in the memory and are forgotten altogether. The failures they will bring to the recollection will be as valuable as the successes. It will be first-class training for a son or a daughter to set him or her to keeping the books—a training which is sure to be valuable, whether their future lot be cast on the farm or elsewhere. Any well regulated youngster will soon take a pride in the work, especially if a judicious word of praise and encouragement be given; and, perhaps, may be inculcated with that pride and interest in farm life, of which, to the sorrow of many an old farmer, some of the rising generation are lamentably destitute. Then, if you find you are losing money by one kind of husbandry, or if you find your crops are getting less and less every year, you may take it that Dame Nature has given you notice to quit that style of work. If you have more land than you can work well and manure well, make arrangements for seeding part of it down, and growing more stock. You may perhaps find that you are giving too little attention to grass-growing. Successive crops of cereals will exhaust the most fertile of lands, and it is best to fill up in time before poverty makes a change of system compulsory. Account books will tell you all these things more eloquently than we can.

Do not put off renewing your subscription to the CANADA FARMER. Do it at once, and then there will be no fear of delay in your getting the next number.

Finally, endeavor so to dispose things that you, and everybody you know, may enjoy what we heartily wish you—A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

THE GREAT ROOT SHOWS of the English seedsmen fill a large space in our last English papers. At the Royal Berkshire, the heaviest specimens of Sutton's mammoth long red mangold, of which there were 1,000 specimens, weighed 50lbs., and 12 specimens of the same variety weighed 440lbs., giving a weight of 75 tons per acre. A new mangold, the Oxheart, is spoken of as a very profitable type. From 120 antagonists in Sutton's champion swedes (18 in each stage—2160 roots), Mr. Allsopp, M. P., stood first with a lot remarkable for shapeliness and solidity. The heaviest weighed 25lbs., and the 18 together 3 cwt. 24 lbs. These figures look very large, but when the long, cool season of growth in England, compared with the season in Canada, is taken into account, we do not know whether the old country is so very much ahead after all. The large roots mentioned in the last CANADA FARMER would show well beside all but the first prize winners.