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The Farm.

HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

August work on the farm may be summed up in two words: "Harvest continued." By the beginning of this month, indeed, where the weather has been favourable, and farmers have been duly prompt and pushing, the greater portion of the hay and grain crops will have been secured. Oats will have yet to be cut, and this ought to be done before the grain ripens, in order to improve the quality of the straw and prevent the grain from shelling out. When harvest operations are fairly concluded, the tools should be well housed and taken care of, especially the reaping machines, which are costly, and from their construction must suffer greatly from exposure to wind and weather. It is painful to observe what carelessness and neglect are practised in this direction. Farmers who have had a hard struggle to pay for expensive implements, bestow no thought or attention upon them, leaving them perhaps in the open field, or giving them some partial shelter which is little better than none. This ought not to be. Tools and implements well housed not only last longer, but do better and easier work while they last than those which are subjected to neglect. Root crops will now be so far advanced as to need no more hoeing. Even yet vacant places in the turnip field may be filled by sowing white turneps. They will of course attain no great size, but half a turnip, like half a loaf, is better than none. Those who have not lost faith in fall wheat will improve every opportunity for preparing land intended for that crop. A narrow field along the edge of the woods is the best locality that can be chosen, as there the wheat is less likely to be winter-killed. It is a thousand pities every farm in Canada has not its belts and strips of trees to afford a degree of protection. The country is too bare. Draught in summer, and alterations of freezing and thawing in winter, are the fruits of wholesale clearance. The best seed wheat should be secured, and care taken to get it thoroughly clean. Why should the land be stocked with chess and foul weeds, when a little care and precaution will

prevent it? Now is the time that most weeds ripen and scatter their seeds; therefore to destroy them at this period will prevent future increase. It must be destruction, however. To cut them up, is often but a half-way measure, from their being left to lie and perfect their seeds upon the ground. To rake heaps of them and burn them is an excellent plan. This month is a good time, if there is leisure for it, to underdrain low-lying lands to dig swamp much, and expose it to dry, or to perform any operations upon parts of the farm that are wet in the spring and fall. During this month the sheep gad-fly, which cause the trouble in flocks known as grub in the head, hovers about the heads of its victims in order to deposit its eggs about the nostrils. Smearing the sheep's noses with tar, and giving them access to ploughed ground, are recommended as preventives. The garden and orchard will now begin to yield their increase, and the pleasant task of gathering and storing the fruits of the season will commence. Insect troubles may be checked in their depredations by keeping a sharp look-out for them, especially the borer, which lays its eggs about this time. The bug quickly hatches and makes its way into the tree. A wire probe is the thing with which to hunt and destroy this pest. A coating of soft soap at the base of the tree is said to be a safeguard against its depredations. Except in localities where buckwheat abounds, honey-gathering will be pretty much over this month. There is yet opportunity to do something in the way of Italianizing, equalizing, and regulating stocks; operations which must be attended to, if at all, during the summer time. Bees cannot be handled to much advantage when chilly weather comes on, and after the working season is over it is well to disturb them as little as possible.

Stock of all kinds, let it be remembered, will need to be well looked after at this season of scanty pastures and falling springs. It is always poor economy to allow animals to fall off in condition. Whether it be dairy stock yielding milk, young creatures, the profit of which is in their growth, animals intended for winter feeding, or beasts of burden whose business it is to labour, pays to keep them in full flesh and in good heart.