

LOOK AFTER THE HARVESTING MACHINERY.

As soon as the harvesting is done it will pay the farmer well to look after the machinery used in taking off the harvest. The life of a self-binder, or for that matter of any other machine used for harvesting, will depend upon the amount of care it receives both during harvest and between harvests. The farmer who has to pay from \$100 to \$125 every four or five years for a new binder could probably save that amount by giving his machinery a little better care. Any good binder, if taken the proper care off, ought to cut the grain on a 100-acre, or for that matter a 200-acre, farm, for twelve or fifteen years, unless it meets with some unforeseen accident. In fact there is on record the case of a combined reaper and mower that cut the grain on a 160-acre farm for twenty-seven years and cut the grass on the same farm for thirty years. The farmer who owned that machine saved upwards of \$700 with interest, which he would have had to pay out had he been compelled to get a new machine every five years.

Though many may not think so, the care of the farm machinery is one of the most important branches of the farm work. There is no way of making or losing money easier than by looking after or neglecting the farm machinery. Many farmers wonder how it is that farming does not pay. They have good crops and sell a goodly number of hogs and beef cattle during the year, and besides have considerable income from the dairy, yet they find their farms unprofitable and perhaps at the end of the year, when accounts are made up, the balance on the wrong side, and the reason is because they are always buying farm machinery. If such farmers could manage to save \$100 a year by giving the farm machinery better care, they would begin to find farming a profitable business. And it would not be difficult on the average farm, as many of them are now conducted, to save this amount every year by taking the proper care of the wagons, sleighs, buggies, plows, harrows, cultivators, seed drills, self binders, mowers, rakes, etc., that are a necessity on every well-conducted farm.

Some people seem to have a mania for buying farm machinery, and are in many instances the "dupes" of the horde of farm implement agents scouring the country. Selling farm implements is a legitimate business, and supplies a necessary want in the country, but very often the farmer is induced to exchange his old machine for a new one when there is no more need for the change than an overcoat in the harvest field. If the old machine were gone over and fitted up it might last for several years longer, and save its owner a good big bill. The new machine may have many improvements over the old one, but if the latter will do the work for several years more why make the change?

The two things which cause more injury to farm machinery than anything else are wet and dry. Water and air combined will oxidize or rust any iron ever made, and therefore, every drop of water should be kept off the machine. It will pay every farmer to provide a canvas at a cost of \$3 or \$4 to cover his self-binder when not in

use in the field. As soon as a field is cut the machine should be put where it is dry, and when put away it will pay many times over to clean and wipe off the shafting so that it will be perfectly dry. Every drop of water or even dew or mist which settles on a polished shaft, such as are to be found in the bearing part of all machines, will produce a rust spot. For this reason the boxing around such shafting should be well supplied with hard oil when the machine is put away. Then the other parts of the machine should be treated in just such a careful manner. All these little attentions will pay and every farmer as soon as the harvesting is done should devote a day, or two days if necessary, to cleaning and putting away carefully the harvesting machinery. If there is not barn room for storing it, a cheap contrivance in the shape of poles set up with a cheap roof will serve the purpose well. To leave the farm machinery uncared for outside, subject to all kinds of weather is to court failure instead of success in farm management.

KEEP THE HOG-PENS CLEAN.

No building on the average farm is so much neglected as the hog-pen. While the horse-stable and the cow-stable are cleaned out every morning, and fresh bedding scattered around, the penned-up "porker" may consider himself in clover if he has his domicile cleaned out once a week. It is just as necessary to keep the hog-pen clean as either of the other two. By nature the pig is not the dirty, filthy animal that many pork-raisers take him to be. He will appreciate care, attention, and cleanliness as much as any other animal kept on the farm, and will pay for them in increased gain and fewer "squeals." It is usually claimed that a pig squeals because it is hungry. But we are inclined to think that these squeals may be the outcome of the pig's uncomfortable and filthy quarters. It is contrary to reason to expect a pig to remain in a perfect state of health, shut up in a pen that, to say the least, is abominably filthy, and the floors of which are covered six inches or a foot deep with a mixture of manure, discarded food, and filth of all kinds.

Aside from the pig's comfort, what is more repulsive and more offensive on a farm than a dirty, stinking hog-pen. A great many farmers turn up their noses in disgust when passing a hog yard at a cheese factory, and look upon such as a public nuisance, which it may be if not kept in proper shape, when at the same time his own hog-pen may be the very personification of filth and dirt. How a person feeding hogs in such a place can do so without an attack of sea sickness is a surprise to us. However, some people can accustom themselves to any kind of conditions. If the pens were kept clean and well aired it would be somewhat of a pleasure to feed pigs instead of being one of the most disagreeable jobs about the farm, as is the case where filth and dirt are supreme.

It is no great task to keep a hog-pen clean if it is properly constructed and the work of cleaning is done every day. Every hog-pen should have good drainage, and the floors should be

made with a good slope to one side. Then the feeding should be done in such a way that none of the food will be wasted or left after the hogs are through eating. The food left over soon becomes filthy, and is one of the chief causes of uncleanness in the piggery. The food left over should always be removed before fresh food is given. Not only will this aid in keeping the pen clean, but the hogs will thrive better and produce pork faster. It will be conducive to the health of the hogs if some good disinfectant is used liberally. Chloronaphtholeum is strongly recommended by an American authority for this purpose. The hog is the most profitable animal kept on the farm, and it will pay the farmer to surround it with conditions that will enable it to grow to the best advantage. These conditions are cleanliness, comfortable quarters and suitable food given in as cleanly a manner as possible. To follow the principle of "root, hog, or die," in swine raising will never bring success and make the business a profitable one.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND NOTES.

(By Our Regular Correspondent.)

Haying is well under way in this province, and as was anticipated the crop is the best known for years; but the wet weather has been very unfavorable to the farmer for saving it. The potato bug is now out in full force and is doing some very destructive work where he has not been met with the deadly poison—Paris green.

The *weevil* has made its appearance in the wheat. This is owing, no doubt, to the damp weather. There also appears to be a great quantity of black-heads in every field. These will mean a considerable loss to our farmers.

The cherries are now ripe, and the crop is exceedingly large.

The strawberries are done, after a good long season, which has had a good effect upon the producer. It is necessary to say that it is a great pity this berry is not more extensively cultivated here. This province is well adapted to raising them, and they come in for marketing when the supply is exhausted abroad, and a good business could be worked up if the supply of berries would be large enough to warrant the undertaking. Those who are cultivating them have done exceedingly well in supplying the local trade; the prices realized being from 8 to 12 cents per box, and at these prices some farmers have realized over \$200 from a half-acre. Where can a farmer to-day make the same money on the same quantity of land with any other crop?

The June make of cheese has all been sold and shipped at prices ranging from 7½ to 7½ cents per pound. The July make is still on the factory-men's hands. No doubt they will receive offers next week. There are two buyers on the island, viz., Thos. J. Dillon and A. J. Biffin. Mr. Dillon is buying for a firm in the Old Country, while Mr. Biffin is working in the interests of Hodgson Bros., Montreal. Both these men are from Ontario, and they have become exceedingly popular, and are much thought of by the dairy-men throughout this province.

THE RESULTS OF VETERINARY INSPECTION ON THE STANDARD OF LIVE STOCK.

There is no more important matter in connection with horse-breeding than the soundness of the stallion. In England, at the present time, all stallions which gain prizes at the agricultural shows have to undergo a veterinary inspection. This action has been the means of working a wonderful improvement of late years, shown by the fact that at a recent show out of 221 stallions examined only five were rejected for unsoundness. As to the Shire stallions, the exact figures are not at hand, but the soundness of this breed has also been steadily increasing. The most satisfactory result was as regards the thoroughbred stallions, and as to this we cannot do better than quote the report that was received by the Royal Commission on Horse Breeding from Professor Sir George Brown on behalf of the veterinary inspectors. This report was as follows: "Comparing the results of the veterinary examination of the Queen's premium stallions exhibited at the present show at the Royal Agricultural Hall with the results of similar examinations at Newcastle in 1887 and Nottingham in 1888, it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that a remarkable success has attended the efforts which have been made to prevent the use of animals for breeding purposes affected with hereditary diseases, such as cataract, side-bones, ring-bones, and spavin. Since that time, and during the past four or five years, there has been a noticeable decrease in the above-named diseases, which were at one time exceedingly common, and in the present exhibition it is satisfactory to be able to state that a critical inspection of forty-nine horses did not reveal a single instance of cataract or other disease of the visual organs. Further, it may be observed that no instance of roaring or broken wind was discovered, although the tests applied were exceptionally severe. The total result of the veterinary inspection was the rejection of only three horses out of forty-nine examined." This report must be very pleasant reading to those who have taken an active part in the movement for the revival of horse breeding in this country. In the discussions which in 1884 and 1885 resulted in active measures being adopted, it was contended that the great deterrent to the extension of horse-breeding was the impossibility of farmers obtaining at reasonable rates the service of suitable and sound thoroughbred stallions, and it was to remove these difficulties that the work was undertaken. When, on the initiative of Sir Walter Gilbey, premiums were first offered by the Hunters' Improvement Society in 1885 for sound thoroughbred stallions to serve farmers' mares at reasonable fees, there were twenty-five sires rejected for unsoundness out of thirty-five examined, and at the first show held by the Royal Commission on Horse Breeding, at Nottingham in 1888, the number examined was seventy-four, of which thirty-one were passed by the veterinary inspectors, forty-three being cast. The change to three rejections out of forty-nine inspected at the recent show is certainly a remarkable testimony to the good results effected by these