



In the Track of the Automobile.

Photograph taken near London, showing how the pneumatic tire has sucked up and pushed aside the dust, leaving a furrow six or eight inches deep. This is a representative case. Much worse ones could have been chosen.

School Gardening.

The rural-school board that is not alive to the value of school-gardening and elementary agriculture is missing one of the best things of which progressive Canadian schools are availing themselves. Those who do not know the work being done in this department may be skeptical of its value, but to see the work undertaken and actually carried out by a teacher who knows his business, and who has the faculty of interesting boys and girls, is to be persuaded that the beginning of a new country life has been made.

The plot where the boys and girls do their work is prepared in the fall, as any other good garden is prepared. It is again wrought up in the spring, and then carefully laid out in plots of five by ten feet, a plot being assigned to each pupil, or, in cases where deemed wisest, one plot is shared by two pupils. Each youthful gardener lays out his little farm. He is supplied with seeds by the Education Department, but he is allowed to supplement this by seeds of his own choice. He is informed that his plot will be judged about the end of June and the first of October, along some such lines as planting, tillage, educational value, and economic value, the meaning of these terms being fully explained to them.

The actual labor involved cannot be great, nor can the time occupied in doing the work be considerable. But, on the other hand, the amount of thought that may be expended and the lessons learned are almost unlimited. At one judging contest, experienced farmers and gardeners were surprised at what these tiny plots taught or suggested. This was particularly the case regarding the value of the dust mulch. The pupil who used the watering-can, but who failed to cultivate, was left hopelessly in the rear. The pupil with the best dust mulch had by all odds the best plot. It was demonstrated that weed-killing is only one reason for cultivation. In the same way was shown the folly of overdeep cultivation, as by this method the rootlets are frequently destroyed. A further point was made in the importance of having a succession in the garden. A little forethought exercised, and it was shown how much a garden's yield is increased by having vegetables follow one another. Radish and beet seed, for instance, may be sown together. When the radishes are used, the beets are thinned and weeded.

The importance of this elementary gardening and agriculture does not consist in what the pupils actually accomplish. It consists, rather, in the new interest aroused in agriculture, and in country life generally. For too long have country people regarded the school as a sort of isolated affair that carried on its work quite separate from the practical necessities of life. This new activity brings farm and school together. Science is no longer looked upon as the pursuit of a few favored ones in school or college, but is shown to be at the farmer's right hand. The boys and girls are taught that hand and brain work together, and that the man who toils may be also a man who thinks. Rome was not built in a day. Rural Ontario will not come to its own suddenly, but if trustees will use this new school-gardening and elementary agriculture sympathetically, a long step in advance will be taken in the interest of rural life.

O. C.

"But the liberal deviseth liberal things, and by liberal things he shall stand." Th's is not out of date on the farm because Isaiah said it some twenty-six centuries ago.

The Verdant Grass.

Nothing else seemed to revive after the recent rains so noticeably as the grass. It is wonderful what an effect even a light shower has on this crop. During the dry weather and intense heat of June and the early part of July the grass fields became brown and parched, and the grass had a dead appearance, but immediately following the first rains which broke the dry spell, up sprang the grass, and soon the brown fields became verdant again. Human skill cannot do everything to promote heavy production. Rain is essential, and this is beyond our control, but we can do much to assist nature in producing an abundance of feed by using good judgment. Give the old pastures a rest for a short time by turning the stock on a meadow from which hay has been taken, and in a very short time they will grow up to a sufficient length to make excellent fresh feed, which will be relished by the stock at this time of year. The change will benefit the animals, and more satisfactory returns come from the pastures when carefully managed.

HORSES.

It is easy to scorch a horse when the temperature is hovering around the hundred-degree mark.

After-harvest tillage is now in progress. This is heavy work on the horses, and the summer heat may cause a scalding of the shoulders. Watch them carefully.

New oats will soon be in the feed bins. Feed these with care, as too heavy feeding may cause digestive troubles. It is always better to have old oats for the working horse.

Where grain is scarce, a few cut oat sheaves can be used. These are relished by the animals, but, like the new oats, must be fed in limited quantities until the horses become accustomed to them.



"Raising the Dust."

Care must be exercised in commencing to feed green corn to the horses. There is some danger of scouring, consequently, light feeding until they become accustomed to the new feed, should be the rule.

The driving horse or saddler does not require the same feed as the work horse. His feed must be that which will promote endurance. Pure clover is not satisfactory. It is too loosening, and causes a washiness in the horse that is compelled to do fast work. Timothy seems to be one of the best grasses for the driver, though many horsemen favor a mixture.

Trotting a horse fast down long and steep hills will in time cause him to become knee-sprung, but don't expect that trotting him up the hills will counteract this tendency or straighten the already sprung knees. A change of gait on the road is always easier on the horse, and if he trots on level roads, he surely deserves to walk up and down the hills.

Sore backs are quite common at this season. Much of the summer work, as mowing, horse-raking and reaping, is conducive to this trouble. Where sores appear, remove the harness every time the team is stabled, and bathe the sore parts often with cold water, and apply a lotion made of one ounce each sulphate of zinc and acetate of lead, mixed with a quart of water. Remove the cause as much as possible by adjusting the back-band and keeping it clean and free from the exudate of the sores.

A writer in the Live-stock Journal states that age has more to do with the production of foals than most breeders are willing to admit. Two-year-old fillies, if well matured and sufficiently developed, breed as readily as mares of any age. Doubtless some have wondered why it is difficult to get three or four-year-old mares with foal, and why it is that the number of foals produced by mares of this age is so small. The cause of their not breeding is given as the teeth, which are troublesome at this age, and which, it is said, cause an inflamed condition of the mucous membranes. Mares between the ages of seven and eleven years produce the largest number of foals, and comparatively few foals are produced by mares over fourteen years of age, and these few by those which have been kept breeding continuously. It is important that an old mare be kept breeding, for if she is, she will likely remain a breeder for many years. Allowing them to remain open for a year is risky, and it will often be found a difficult matter to breed them again. Horse-breeders cannot afford to let the mares miss a year, because very often, especially if they are aged mares, they will never breed again.

LIVE STOCK.

A Point in Selecting Breeding Stock.

That a knowledge of the breeding back of the individual is necessary in selecting breeding stock, was clearly shown by a large herd of swine which is kept on an extensive stock farm recently visited. The young stock were a thrifty, growthy lot, and every pen had individuals in it which looked good enough to justify their being kept for breeding purposes. They were long, smooth pigs, of good type, well grown for the age, and had every appearance of being the right kind to produce high-class stock if used as breeders. Looking over this young stock, one would be led to believe that they were the progeny of high-class sows, and that their breeding was all that could be desired to make them high-class, grade breeding stock themselves.