

Chance Visit to the Agricultural Implement Warehouse, Toronto.

A few days since I was accidentally obliged to call at the above establishment of Mr. Menure's, and was much gratified in inspecting the various kinds of farmer's help to save labour. I do not mean to describe or recommend any. Were I critically to attempt to do so, it would imply that my knowledge of farm implements was most extensive. I certainly have been engaged in agricultural pursuits all my life, and could use to advantage with my own hands, any one of the tools I saw, but it is quite another thing to sit in judgement on the merits of all. One reflection of a serious nature did cross my mind and it was this:—Are all these implements useful and labour saving in their class—I answered "most certainly"—and I think any one would echo my opinion. Each new and improved farm implement and labour saving machine that I saw, struck me as being one more step towards placing agriculture, where it certainly ought to be, amongst the first and most certain means, for those engaged in it, of making a peaceful and abundant living.

The great draw-back to my mind, lay in the want of capital to stock a farm as it should be done, with one of each kind, or class, of all the implements exhibited, and the difficulty seemed to be to know which to except as necessary. All farmers grow the same crop or nearly so, thousands, upon thousands, have the same sized farm, and if the possession of one "improved plough," "horse rake," "mower," or what not pays one farmer to buy and use, it certainly must pay *all* to do so, and following the same train of reasoning every one ought to have one of each sort, or he certainly does not do as well as he might do, and in fact ought to do. "But he has not the money to pay for this mass of tools," very true, but that argument does not for one moment prove he had not better have them, if he be able to buy them.

Hence it follows that if this mass of labour saving tools pay twenty farmers to have one or two each of the different kinds it must pay "one farmer" to have all twenty of them or one of each kind, provided he has the money to spare, and we are absolutely forced back into the position, that capital is most necessary to farm with success in Canada. Amongst all the number of excellent inventions, none struck my fancy more than the single horse Iron Plough. I am a great advocate for light tools, and this little plough was hung so deftly on its two iron obliquely placed wheels, which peculiarity entirely dispensed with a land side, and the friction, as well at the side as at the bottom of the furrow. "Compare this with the old-fashioned English plough," as well might we compare the vast extent of the work done by one of our beautiful steel forks, with an old-fashioned English or Irish one; as well compare the handling of this little compact iron plough with one of the old fashioned

heavy cast-iron mould board horse killers, that we formerly considered it advisable to use, and here we can feel the difference, and use the fork ourselves, but in ploughing our horses do the work, and we can only see the work done without feeling the power exercised to do it. Very few farmers test a plough by a dynamometer before or after buying it.

Tree Planting.

We learn from the *Herald* that Nebraska has designated the tenth of April as a Rural holiday to be known as ARBOR DAY. It is to be observed as an Agricultural Festival, and devoted to the planting of fruit and forest trees. The Agricultural Society of that State has offered a premium of one hundred dollars to the Farmers' Society of the County that plants the largest number of trees on that day, and twenty-five dollars to the man who himself plants the most.

Why can we not do something like this for Ontario? If our farmers could be encouraged to plant trees around their dwellings, along the road-side, and upon the wind-ward side of their farms, what a beautiful appearance our Canada would soon present. How much more attractive to the stranger from the old-world, seeking a home in the new, for himself and his children.

Farmers of Ontario, awake, take hold of this matter, stir up your Agricultural Societies to do something more than give prizes for fat cattle and plethoric cabbage heads. A man's life does not consist merely in the enormous size of the animals he raises, or of the roots he cultivates. Has he no pleasure in being the owner of a pleasant home? Does he take no pride in being a dweller in the prettiest county in the Province, and in the handsomest township in that county? Let us set about this matter at once, nor let any Nebraska get ahead of us in this matter.

Application of Manures.

The effort to work manures in deeply with the idea of fertilizing the subsoil which was extensively held but a few years ago, is now pretty generally given up by most practical farmers. That idea was, if we mistake not, advanced and maintained by Prof. Leibig and others. Now the most intelligent scientific, as well as practical men believe it most for the farmer's interest to keep manures near the surface.

At a recent meeting of the Farmers' Club, at London, Prof. Voelcker said, in reply to some statements made by Alderman Mechi, "Don't manure subsoil of any kind, light or heavy, manure the topsoil, and keep the manuring elements as near as you possibly can to the surface so that the young plant may derive immediate advantage from the food prepared for it." This we take it, is the true doctrine very forcibly expressed, and we believe it accords with the experience of the most careful observers both in this country and in England.

This position does not imply that lands should not be deeply ploughed and mellowed only that manures should not be buried deeply. We like deep ploughing. We like, in turning over the sod, to lay up to the sun and air a sufficient depth

to have the action of sun or earth and mellow. Cultivation easy and light without breaking up the turf and sod. But we do not like to turn under the manure too deep, and we think a great deal of manure has been comparatively lost and wasted. If the sod is turned over deeply there is some satisfaction in manuring and fertilizing the loose and mellow earth that is turned up. This is a practical point of very considerable importance, and is worth careful investigation."—*Massachusetts Ploughman*.

Covering Manure.

It is remarkable that more attention is not given to the subject of covering manure from the weather, and especially from too much rain. Those who have given the matter particular attention have found that the manure so protected is worth double that which is left out in the open air. Two loads for one is a profit few farmers can afford to lose. There is no question which so vitally concerns the farmer as this one of manure. Much that he does has reference to it. Straw is not to be sold because it makes manure. Stock is fed through the winter for the express purpose of manure making. Articles which will scarcely pay to send to market are nevertheless taken to the city in order that manure may be brought back as a return load; and yet the whole of the manure made remains all the season exposed to the sun, wind, and rain, until it is diminished in value to so great an extent as it is.

The trouble is probably that few really believe that exposed manures undergoes this loss. But the matter has been too thoroughly tested to admit of a doubt. We know first class farmers who did not themselves believe it, until by actual experiment they found out its truth.

In arranging farm buildings it will pay well to look as much to the preservation of the manure as of the hay or grain, and those who have their buildings already finished without these manurial arrangements will find that twenty five or fifty dollars spent on boards for a covered shed will rank among the best investments ever made.—*Germantown Telegraph*.

LATE ROSE POTATO IN VIRGINIA.—C. S. B., Lexington, Va., writes the *Country Gentleman*, that accidentally meeting with a barrel of potatoes of this variety from New York, on the 30th of March last, he obtained three of the tubers and planted them with the following result:

"I cut them, leaving one eye to a piece (total weight two pounds) and planted them by the side of some Early Rose potatoes that had been planted about two weeks, leaving a distance between them three feet wide, and putting the pieces in the row 12 inches apart. I dug them a few days ago, and had nearly two bushels by measure that weighed one hundred pounds. The people in this country think that a pretty good yield—I don't know what it would be in New York."