

planted with shrubbery. There are well-kept walks wherever they are needed; also flower and vegetable gardens in good order. The fences are of picket, and none missing. If we enter this dwelling we find it so cosy and inviting that we say to ourselves: How pleasant it must be to dwell there, and how fortunate is the farmer whose wife is capable of contriving a home so beautiful within and without. The beauty within is not the result of a large outlay of money. Its furnishings may be plain and inexpensive, but so arranged and kept that the effect is charming. We will now stroll to the barnyard and fields; but, surely, there is some mistake. This cannot be part of the farm where the home showed to such good advantage, and whose owner is in easy circumstances. Yet, upon inquiring, we find it to be the case; and what a contrast! Here the buildings are somewhat dilapidated, doors hingeless, windows stuffed with straw, an old machine half buried in manure, and a plough with a broken handle, so lying that an innocent animal running against it may be maimed for life. If we look over the fields, they are in keeping with the barnyard. Fences are tumbling down, and the gates (if there were any) are thrown down and trampled on. The contrast is so marked as to lead us at once to infer that the farmer has no such taste for beauty and order as his wife possesses. And we cannot help exclaiming: What a pity! Once more we pass on, and soon approach a farm which at the outset impresses us with its beauty, and with the thought that here all is in harmony. The house and all about it are similar to those last visited. The outbuildings, though not unusually expensive, are in good order, having no loose boards rattling with the wind, neither broken doors nor windows. The implements when not in use are carefully housed, and the worn-out, useless ones, are nowhere to be seen. The stock, though not of the fancy, pedigree kind, are yet good, and show no neglect, judging from their appearance. The fields are conveniently laid out, and the fences also are in good repair. The owners are not at all rich in dollars and cents, compared with the farmers previously visited; but we must admit that the couple who manage this home and farm, where everything is pleasing to the eye, are mistress and master of their business.

Such is my ideal farm, and idea of a beautiful home. Some one raises an objection by saying, "I cannot afford the outlay necessary to make my farm attractive." We know that, were all wealthy, our farms might be made so as to be admired by the passer-by; but who will venture the assertion that they would? It is not a question of means so much as the lack of will and taste. But comparatively few have the means to build, plant and adorn, within a year or two; yet that is no reason why nothing but what is absolutely required to gain a living should be done.

Tree-planting, judiciously done, is one of the ways by which we can add to the beauty and value of our farms; and it does not require a large outlay of either time or money. A belt of trees for a wind-break will become yearly more beneficial, and is an ornament on any homestead. If we have only an inferior house, and cannot afford a better, why not plant trees now, and they will be growing, until the better home is provided.

Removing all kinds of useless, and worse than

useless, rubbish, greatly adds to the appearance of house, yards and fields.

Is there anything that makes a farm more positively distasteful, than to have a generation's worn-out utensils and broken crockery lying about the door-yard; and old machinery, heaps of decaying timber, broken lumber, with a hundred and one utterly useless things which are so often seen scattered about lanes and barn-yards? A dry, covered well or pit, half-a-dozen feet deep, will keep forever out of the way and sight the broken dishes, old tinware, and all the accumulation of that kind for a score of years; and the gathering of rubbish into heaps to burn will not require an outlay of cash, and not as much time as some of us spend idly during six months.

The buildings and fences can be also kept in repair without any large outlay, if always attended to at the right time.

"Last, but not least," the garden should have its share of attention; for one well kept is profitable, and without it we cannot have that harmonious whole which I have tried to lay out in imagination before you.

Should Land for Corn be Plowed in Fall or Spring?

Director I. P. Roberts writes in Rural New Yorker: If the land is a somewhat tough sod and not very sandy, by all means plow it in the fall; open all dead furrows to quickly relieve it of overflow. In the spring the land will get warm and dry early, when a good harrow—the Acme and the Spring-tooth are very good for the purpose—if liberally used, will put the land in the best possible condition. If the land is a clover sod, it would be quite as well to defer the plowing to the last moment possible before planting. Grass roots, like those of timothy and blue-grass, decay slowly and furnish little nutriment to the corn crop till late in the season; they also bind the soil together, and prevent, to some extent, its becoming warm early in the season when corn needs both warmth and fertility in our cold, backward springs. Corn, too, needs plant food readily available in the early stages of its growth. By fall plowing tenacious sod, by the action of the elements and by the better preparation of the soil, we may obtain most easily and certainly the necessary conditions for the best results. On the other hand, clover tends to make land friable; it decays very quickly, and where abundance of water is present, and no living plant upon the soil, the nitrogen set free is likely to be seriously diminished by leaching; so the less time that elapses between plowing clover sod and planting, the better. If the clover can make a start of two or three inches in the spring before it is plowed under, the mass of nitrogenous matter in the leaves and roots, which decay very quickly, perceptibly elevates the temperature of the soil, thereby hastening germination and growth. The tendency of vegetable matter in sandy land is to decay too rapidly, so a sod should never be plowed any great length of time before the crop is planted upon it where the land is already too loose and admits air too freely, as too rapid decomposition and loss of nitrogen will ensue.

It was discovered by the New York Experiment Station that the seed corn nearest the tip produced the strongest and best plants, followed by that from the butt, while that from the middle was poorest.

Farming Affairs in Great Britain.

[From our English Correspondent.]

London, October 11th.

OUR PROTRACTED HARVEST.

The beginning of the end of our tedious harvest is at last in sight. Throughout the greater part of England the fields are all cleared, and it is only in the northern counties that there is still a considerable quantity of the grain crops ungathered. In spite of the unusually early touch of winter, including a heavy storm of snow in the north of England on the first day of the month, the weather has been suitable to harvesting operations, and nearly all the crops got in since the end of the first week of September have been secured in good condition. Therefore, instead of scarcely any grain being fit for market this side of Christmas, as there seemed reason to predict at the end of August, and for a week later, nearly half the wheat and three-fourths of the oats and barley are dry enough to sell at any time. The fine weather, too, has matured the potato and root crops, and has enabled farmers to make a good lot of hay of their second cut of grass and clover, the hay of the first cut having been half spoiled by wet weather. Thus there will be abundance of keep for live stock during the winter; and this will keep up the prices of cattle and sheep. Potatoes, in spite of a good deal of disease, are exceedingly abundant and extremely cheap.

MARKETS AND FAIRS.

The price of wheat, after the recent point of decline, is again advancing. A good sample of old English is now worth 45s. per quarter of eight bushels, and new Canadian of fine quality is worth 44s., if not 45s. Canadian farmers may rely upon making good prices of what wheat they can send at this season; and as really fine samples are scarce, anything like first-rate grain is, and is likely to be, at a premium. It is to be borne in mind that the American crop is not only a short one, but that a great deal of it is of poor quality and light in weight, and as this is the case also with most of the European wheat, those who have grain of high quality should be careful to "open their mouths widely enough" when they offer it for sale. The same is to be said of fine malting barley, of which, I am informed, Canada has a considerable quantity to spare this year. Cattle and meat, again, are likely to sell well throughout the winter. At the fairs and sales of this autumn, cattle have sold at about 20s. to 30s., and sheep at 5s. to 7s. a head above the prices of last year. This week the meat trade is dull; but probably the dullness is only temporary, supplies having been excessive. Butter is now getting up to its winter price, as much as 120s. per cwt. of 112 lbs. being paid for the finest quality of European, and American and Canadian going at 80s. to 90s. Prices will probably be 5s. higher by the time this letter reaches its destination, as they are rising every week. In the case of cheese, future prices are doubtful, the prophets predicting very low prices. On account of the extraordinary abundance of feed during the summer and early autumn, the make of English cheese has been a very large one, 30 per cent. more than the short make of last year, it is supposed; while imports have lately been heavy. There was a rise, however, at the close of last week, and good Canadian is worth 48s. per cwt., ordinary lots being 40s. to 44s. For September makes of Canadian