

reel, for there are many lines of activity in which more money is being made than in farming. Was it for the leisure time the life afforded? No, for anyone who has had experience on the ordinary farm knows that leisure is not generally found there. Neither was it because of the conveniences and pleasures to be enjoyed, for these are not, nor have they been, a part of my life. Then, why was I a farmer? In answer I asked myself another question, "Why did I start farming?" The answer came quick and sure, "Because circumstances forced me." I am convinced that many men farming to-day began for the same reason that I did. Destiny decreed that we work for a living and the farm was the only door that was open. But though circumstances have forced us to engage in farming, and though in many of its aspects it is not the most desirable of occupations, still it offers many compensations. In numerous cases these compensations are so great that those who for a time have followed other lines of work have returned to the farm, making a deliberate choice of it in spite of its many drawbacks.

When a boy I worked for a man living near a small lake. Many were the enjoyable evenings this lake afforded, and when winter came I had ample opportunities for skating and ice-boating. This did much to make my life on that farm an enviable one. I remembered also that there was a pair of horses in which I took great pride. They were common in many respects, but good workers, and I became so attached to them that when the time came for me to go elsewhere they were the hardest things on the place to part with.

Later I worked for a man who was just starting in pure-bred cattle. As hired man, it was not expected that I should take much interest in them. Everything about them, however, interested me, the searching of pedigrees, naming of the calves, and feeding and caring for the cows through periods of testing. We were all so interested that no work was counted drudgery that was connected with those cattle.

When I started farming for myself and bought one or two pure-breds, the interest taken in cattle as a hired man increased many fold. So great is the fascination of some of these things on the farm that it is holding us to it in spite of the many alluring things in other vocations, and of the many hard and disagreeable things that come to all who live on the land. I heard a prominent Holstein breeder say recently that if it were not for pure-bred cattle he would not farm for ten minutes. Another man, who is still young, and in a sense growing up with the business, remarked to me that the farm with a pure-bred herd of cows was more to

him than anything else. These are some of the compensations in farming. Though the work is hard and the material rewards not so great as they should be, we find our recompense in the fascinating nature of many of our daily tasks.

Cultivating Corn Land

It Should Be Gone Over in the Fall

THERE is a problem that presents itself almost every autumn to the farmer, and it is one on which many opinions and solutions are offered. This problem is what to do with the corn ground. If it has been well cultivated during the summer months, and the weeds have been thus kept in check, many good farmers think that it is not necessary to do anything with it in the fall. Others like to plow the land and will do so if at all possible, even going so far as to re-set the corn, if it is still in the field, on the plowed areas. Some disk or cultivate their corn fields several times during the fall, and I recently saw one farmer going through his fields with the plow,



Stooks of Corn Reset on Plowed Ground.

This entails extra labor. Besides, much of the corn is wasted, as the butts of the stalks become covered with soil and are rendered unpalatable. The corn would be better in the silo. The lumpy condition of the soil is characteristic of fields plowed this fall before the rain came.

—Photo by an Editor of Farm and Dairy.

just turning one furrow where each row of corn had grown.

It would not be wise for all farmers to adopt one method of cultivation, as it is quite obvious that different kinds of soil under unlike conditions require different treatment. There are certain rules, however, that would apply in most cases, and in trying to formulate some of them it would be wise to ask this question, "What are the objects of cultivation?" These are easily enumerated. They are to kill weeds, to make plant food



Their Owner's Interest Was Not Consulted.

Sharp six-inch spikes in this heifer's halter did not hinder her from helping herself at will to new Jersey milk. The Farm and Dairy camera caught her in the act.

available, to conserve moisture, and to fit the soil for the next crop. When we consider the first of these, that of killing weeds, it is desirable to get the land in such shape that any seeds in the ground will germinate so that they can be killed by subsequent cultivation or by frost. This can be accomplished by thorough surface cultivation, or by plowing and harrowing. In doing this we are, in a measure, proportionate to the thoroughness of the work done, accomplishing the other three. Scientists tell us that mixing and stirring the soil assists chemical action and liberates plant food. By keeping the surface worked we prevent the evaporation of moisture, thus storing it for the use of the next crop, and by plowing, harrowing, disking, or cultivating, we bury or break up the roots and stubble of the corn, thereby getting them in such a condition that they will least interfere with the crop to follow. It would seem right, therefore, to adopt some good method of fall cultivation. The system to be followed will depend upon the soil to be treated and the time and equipment at our disposal.—W. G. O.

Are you going to wait till spring to pick out seed ears for your next corn crop? Although this may be a custom, the experience of the most successful growers shows that seed selected from standing corn in the fall yields more than corn taken from the shock or crib. By fall selection the best ears growing under ordinary conditions may be chosen. By selecting seed either at husking time or from the crib, the grower picks out ears that grew on unusually fertile spots or often with a single plant in a hill. The Ohio Experiment Station has obtained gains in yield of more than three bushels per acre by selecting seed in the fall from standing corn.



They Give Two Crops a Year, and Both Are Paying Ones. A S'one in Middlesex Co., Ont.

Photo showing Southdowns on the Farm of Col. Robt. McEwen.