

A Model English Farm.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER.

SIR,—Thinking that some of your readers might be interested in reading the detailed account of the management of a model English farm of rather above the average size, and farmed in somewhat tip-top style. I propose, through your valuable columns, to give a description of a farm of 800 acres in Berkshire, on which I was myself residing a short time since, for nearly two years. In describing it I shall follow the same course which I should myself wish any one else to do were they describing anything to me—namely, to use plain language and give the things in detail.

The farm is, as I have said, about 800 acres in extent; on this 300 are arable and the remaining 500 grass. A bailiff superintends the work of the farm, and about 15 men are constantly employed throughout the year, besides 7 or 8 boys, and half a dozen women. The farm buildings (which, as a model piece of architecture, have already been noticed in several modern agricultural works) were erected about 15 years ago. They are both extensive and complete in their arrangements, occupying nearly two acres of land, and built entirely of stone dug on the estate; they occupy a central position—the farm extending about a mile on either side of them. The soil is varied, but the greater part heavy, with subsoil of Oxford clay; on one side is stone-brash with a sandy loam, but this is of small extent in proportion to the size of the farm. The farm is kept in a high state of cultivation by constant cleaning, and a free use of manure. The cattle are of the pure Short-horn breed, and the sheep South-downs; the former comprise a herd of 150 head, the latter a flock of 800, and about 80 or 90 pigs are also kept. All oats, beans, peas and barley, with most of the inferior wheat, is consumed on the farm, and thus the yield of manure is very considerable. The horses are of the Suffolk breed—16 in number. The wages of the men are about \$2 50 per week, and boys and women earn about \$1. Herdsman, shepherd, carter, and such as hold a more responsible position, receive from 50c to 60c per day—they are also allowed beer.

The working hours for the men are in summer from 6 a.m. till 6 p. m.—½ an hour being allowed at 9 a. m. and an hour at 1 p. m.; in winter the work of course varies according to the amount of daylight. The horses break off from work an hour earlier than the men, and in summer stop for 1½ hours in the middle of the day, in winter only for ½ an hour, and break off earlier.

With this prelude, I will begin now, in the first place, with a brief description of the farm buildings. As has already been said, they are in every way most complete, and fitted up with all the best and newest contrivances of the day. They consist of barn with granary and engine-house attached, fattening houses, cattle-boxes and stalls, cart stable, sheep-house, piggeries, yards, outhouses, &c. The buildings are all roofed with slate and thoroughly ventilated. Down the centre of the fattening house and across the lower end is laid a tramway, by which load and litter is conveyed in a truck to the different boxes and stalls. The doors are all suspended by small grooved wheels to a horizontal bar across the doorway, so as to slide backwards and forwards.

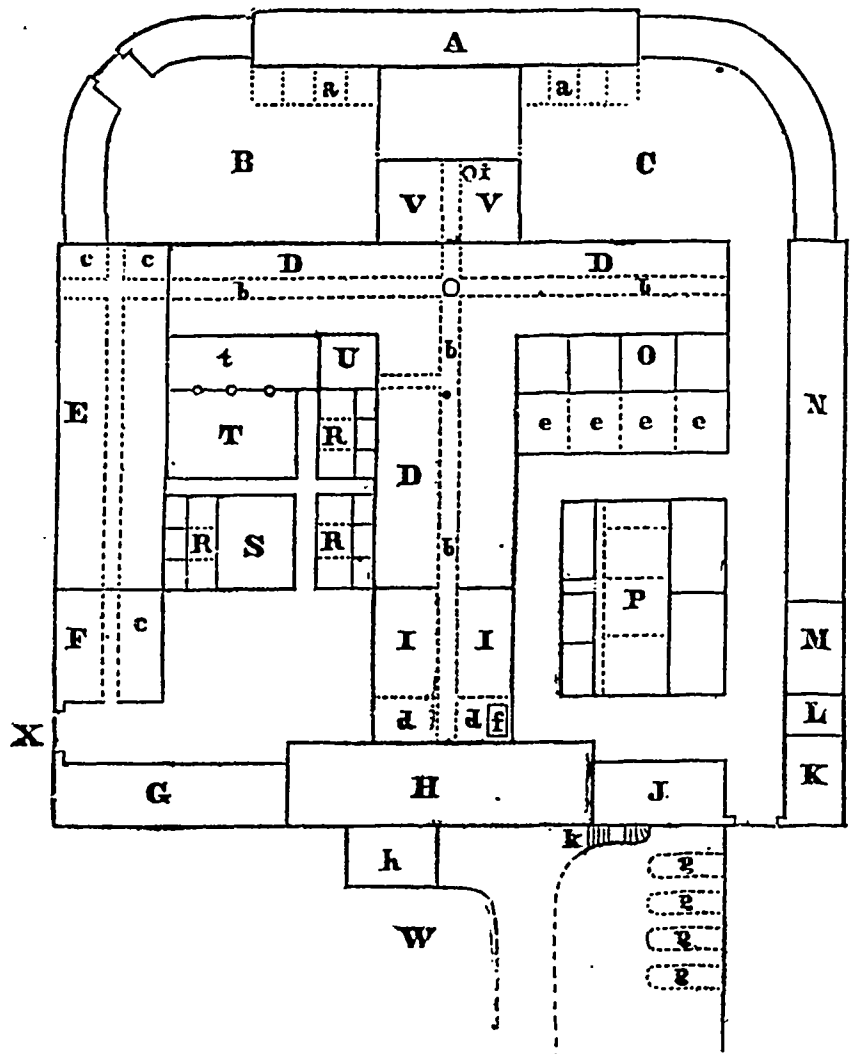
Prominent among the buildings stands the barn,—being built on the side of a hill which was excavated for its reception it opens upon two levels to the farm-buildings on the one side, and on the other to the rick-yard, some 15 feet or so higher up. The barn floor being on a level with the rick-yard, and the apartment or space beneath being used as a chaff or root-house. This arrangement adds much to the convenience of thrashing—as the straw when separated from the grain can be shifted down below by the action of the machine, or by closing a trap-door can be retained above and stacked up again in the rick-yard; the grain, too, can be loaded without difficulty into waggons, through another trap-door opening over a covered passage beneath the barn.

The thrashing machine is a fixture—manufactured by Clayton and Shuttleworth, and is worked by an 8 horsepower portable steam-engine by the same maker; it is conveniently placed, with the feeding-board close

to the door opening into the rick-yard, at which the waggons are unloaded when a rick is taken in; the grain, after being separated from the straw by the action of the drum and straw-shakers, is raised into a large hopper by the elevator, from which it passes into the dressing apparatus, and being thus separated by the action of the riddles and fans according to its quality, is received into sacks at the lower part of the machine, the spout through which the best wheat passes out being fitted with a weighing machine, over which the sack is hooked, and by a simple contrivance is made to ring a bell and shut off the flow of corn as soon as it has gained its full weight. The machine is fully capable of thrashing out 400 bushels of wheat per day, and prepares it so as to render winnowing quite unnecessary; the engine consumes on an average 6 cwt. of coal per day when in use.

The other pieces of machinery occupying the barn-floor are a chaff-cutter, a cake-crusher, a corn-mill, and a bean-crusher; although each of these machines is intended to be worked by steam power, steam is seldom got up purposely for them, unless for chaff-

- E. Milking house.
- F. Hay house—(c c c) Calf pens.
- G. Bailiff's house and hay stables.
- J. Barn with (h) engine house and (k) steps down to lower level.
- L. Chaff house with granary above, (d d) covered passage under barn; (f) weighing machine for carts.
- J. Implement house.
- K. Dwelling house for farm-boys.
- L. Root house.
- M. Implement shed.
- N. Cart-horse stable.
- O. Houses for yearlings with (e e e) yards.
- P. Fattening house for prize animals.
- R. Pig sty.
- S. Pig yard.
- T. Cattle yard with (t) covered shed.
- U. Bull's house.
- V. Manure pits with (i) wire pump.
- W. Rick yard—about 15 feet higher level than the buildings, with (g g g) waggon lodges hollowed out under the rick yard.
- X. Entrance gate.



PLAN OF MODEL ENGLISH FARM YARD

cutting in the winter-time, the cake-crusher being usually worked by hand, and the corn-mill being called into use only when the river is too low to allow of using the water-mill, the latter being found the most convenient and economical mode of grinding in a general way. In the granary, which opens into the barn on the same floor, are ten large corn-bins, capable of containing from 40 to 200 bushels each—with a spacious floor, on which grain intended for market is usually stood.

In my next I shall give an account of the accommodation for live stock, &c. E. F. W.
London, March 13, 1867.

Note by Ed. C. F.—Our correspondent having sent us a sketch of the Model English farm-yard described in his letter, we have caused the accompanying engraving of it to be prepared for convenience of reference.

EXPLANATION OF CUT.

- A Sheep house—with (a a) small yards
- B Milking yard.
- C. Sheep yard
- D. Fattening house with (b b) tramway.

Collard's First Prize Patent Iron Harrow.

The following is the manufacturer's description of the premium implement herewith illustrated: These harrows are made in two-row sections, with ten teeth in each section; four sections therefore constitute a harrow with forty teeth, and this is so arranged as to give an independent back and forward motion, and also a play up and down to each section. The hinges are made so that there is a connection, or joint, exactly behind each horse, and one between them; so that when either horse is walking in the furrow the harrow will readily adapt itself to the shape of the furrow, thus nicely dressing the edges of both lands at the same time; having besides a very lively motion when at work, the teeth are not liable to clog. Being in small sections, these harrows are very light and handy to move. A boy ten or twelve years old can with ease load or unload them. There is not a nut or key to remove when taking them apart.