

be put in first-rate condition and be ready for the seed first thing in the spring, the crop allowed to thoroughly ripen before being cut, the grain threshed and stored by itself, and during the winter run through the fanning mill several times, blowing out all the smallest wheat. By following this plan there will be a tendency to improve the wheat product of the country—it is simply improvement by selection. "Like begets like" is true of plants as well as animals. All breeds of live stock have been improved by selection, a notable instance being the South-down sheep, in whose case no outside blood was introduced, and which is to-day the nearest approach in form to the perfect mutton sheep of any breed we have, but in the hands of a careless owner, who neglects his animals and is satisfied with the poorest of his ram lambs as a sire, a few generations show a decided deterioration even in this prepotent and hardy animal.

We may expect the same result with wheat, if we persist in sowing seed deficient in vitality. It is all right to grow this pretty wheat for the miller, who wants it and is satisfied with a superabundance of starch, but the farmer wants gluten enough in his seed to make the properly balanced ration for his young wheat plants.

More Special Work Needed.

The cause of so many of the drawbacks pertaining to farm management is that so many of our farmers spread their energies over too great a diversity of crops—they have too many irons in the fire, and consequently some are burned. If the farm is all paid for and the owner in easy circumstances a moderate living can be made in this way; but if, as is often the case, a young man is just beginning life and has the farm to pay for, improvements to make, new buildings to put up, he will find it an almost impossible task, and if he intends to succeed he must get out of the old ruts of growing a little of everything.

Times are changing. It was necessary at one time for the farmer to raise about all that he wanted for his own use, but the cost of exchange has been reduced so much of late years that no farmer thinks of doing that now, and as the need of this style of farming is passing away the advantages of special farming are made more apparent.

This is an age of specialties, and a man must get into some special line of farming to be successful. It matters little what it is, so long as it suits his nature and condition, whether it be gardening, fruit, grain, stock, or dairy, for all are equally successful if the right man is managing them, and then instead of putting the work upon a dozen or more crops he can concentrate it upon a few. These general principles will apply to any line of special farming.

Special farming does not help a man, it only gives him a chance to help himself. Every farmer must select the crops which are the most suitable for his own soil, climate and location. This is where the good judgment of the man is shown, and it is just here that many men make a mistake. Plenty of farmers will say, "Oh! this is too small and insignificant a business for us," while they are now perhaps keeping a dairy, growing a large number of crops, and working a lot of land; but enquire a little closer and you will find that these same men are growing from 15 to 20 bushels of wheat per acre, 100 of potatoes, or are making \$20 to \$25 for each cow they keep. Now, all these yields can be doubled if the man did his part, and while the above crops show little or no gain the doubled yield would make all the difference in the profits at the end of the year, and this at a very slight in-

crease in the expenditure. Farmers should learn that it is folly to undertake more work than they can do well. Plenty of men are working double the amount of land that their means warrant. They think that they would not have enough to do if they had less land. They might not if they worked it in the same way as they do the large farm; but with a less number of acres to work it will give more time for better work and more thorough cultivation of the land. For example, there would be time to cultivate a crop two or three times where now it only gets one, and time to put the work on the land at just the right season, and more time to keep all the crops entirely clean. You will find that there is no lack of work, even on a small farm, if a man has a mind to do it.

When you have your machinery and teams you can make more money in the regular way than by fussing over small matters, even if you have to buy many of the things which are usually grown on the farm, and the best result will be found by sticking to one line and giving it all your time and attention. It would not do to advise everyone to go into special farming, but if you will look around your own neighborhood and see that the most successful farmers are the specialists in some line, it will pay you to consider this fact, and you will see the wisdom of dropping off some things that pay you least or perhaps not pay at all, and to do more of that which makes you the most money, and the first thing you know you will find yourself a specialist in some branch of farming.

Of course people will talk against special farming and say that you should not have all your eggs in one basket, so that if one crop fails you will have something to fall back upon. Experience has proved this to be a mistaken idea. In the majority of cases the cause of failure has been that there have been too many crops, and for that reason they have all suffered and been failures, while a specialist would have given them better care and doubtless have brought them through a bad season, although it will not do to go to the extreme and make the specialty too narrow. It is best to have some variety in the case of failure. Though in most cases the man himself is more to blame, circumstances over which we have no control will sometimes interfere, and we will have partial or total failure, but these cases are very rare as compared with the failures which we could have prevented. Many of these failures are due, wholly due, to our undertaking more than we can do thoroughly, and this important fact should be impressed upon the mind of every farmer.

How often, in talking with farmers, we hear them say, "Well, I would take you down to see my root crop, but it is so weedy I am ashamed of it!" This is often owing to the fact that two crops are grown which require attention at the same time, and neither one is thoroughly attended to, while the same amount of work put into either would have given a greater gain with a less outlay. One sees such examples on the farms of our best farmers. In this style of business there is too much worry and not enough money.

It is of no use to grow half a dozen crops that do not pay, just because it is the fashion. Make up your mind what pays the best, and go ahead. Don't pay any attention to those who laugh and sneer at you now. They will be glad enough to follow your example when they see how successful you are.

All subscriptions, with address label marked Jan., '93, expire with this number. Be sure and send us your renewal for next year's subscription at once and, if possible, at the same time, a list of new subscribers, and secure some of the valuable premiums we are offering.

The Management of the Grass Crop.

BY JOHN TAYLOR, JR.

The grass crop does not receive the attention that is due to it by the majority of farmers, while upon its judicious management largely depends our success as grain growers. We cannot crop continually without impoverishing our land. We have not got the virgin soil to work on, and the keen competition necessitates, more than ever, growing big crops. Our soil has been cropped for half a century, and will not stand the strain without something being done to keep it up; one of the best and cheapest ways to secure this end is by the scientific management of our grass crop. There is a number of points to be observed, the first of which is the kind of plant to grow. Nothing, in my opinion, is equal to clover.

In seeding most farmers make a great mistake, because they do not sow thick enough. I know farmers who do not sow more than four pounds per acre. They say it is plenty; they would not say it was enough if they had not to pay for it. The rule with them seems to be, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." They would sooner pocket the extra dollar than throw it on the land in the shape of clover seed, which would pay them many times over. I think eight pounds per acre is the least that ought to be sown. If you spend \$1 per acre in clover seed, it is the cheapest way of manuring your land. Clover at \$6 per bushel would be 10 lbs. for \$1—10 lbs. per acre is not at all too thick. There are plenty of farmers who haul manure from the towns, and pay \$1 a load and put 6 or 7 loads on an acre. I would consider it dear enough if I got it for nothing, and do not consider six loads of fire-fanged town manure worth more than one pound of clover seed, if it has been put to right use.

FALL MANAGEMENT.

After the crops have been harvested is when great damage is frequently done to the young clover. The crop is no sooner off than a herd of cattle or sheep is turned in the field. By all means, keep them out; they tramp the ground when it is soft with the fall rains and eat the plants close, which leaves it in the worst possible condition for standing a severe winter. Keep your stock off and turn on the mower. I find the mower can be used to a decided advantage on the stubble. Cut down the stubble, which will form an excellent mulch; any weeds that may be growing will be prevented from going to seed. Clip the tops off the clover and cause it to stool out, and your clover is in excellent condition for standing the winter. Treatment in the

SPRING

depends on what you are going to do with the field. If it is for corn, you may let the clover grow as long as you can; thus there will be a crop of clover turned under that will tell in the corn crop. For potatoes I find there is no better way than to bury the seed in a good clover sod. If it is for wheat, cut a crop of clover hay off as soon as possible after the middle of June, then let it grow about three weeks and plow it down; wheat and clover can be grown alternatively in this way without impoverishing the land,—in fact, it will continually improve. Plow the sod once and let it stay; this may be set down as a rule. Never plow more than once; it is not only waste labor, but an injury to the land, and not as good for the wheat. Some farmers have the idea that it is best to plow just before sowing; this is most erroneous. The ground should be as solid as possible below—nothing more than a nice seed bed worked up on the top. If the ground has been worked up deep it is too porous—too much space for air and water; it will heave and settle with the frost, the wheat will send down long roots which will be broken by the frost. The roots should be spread as near