

The Farm.

Mistakes of the Season.

If "time is money," it is emphatically so in haying and harvest. The farmer's whole mental and physical energies should now be concentrated on his work. All the toil and anxious care of the preceding ten months will now be recompensed or remain unrewarded, according to the amount of judgment displayed during the coming few weeks. Apart from the pecuniary loss, there can be nothing more annoying than to see the fruits of whole months of ceaseless labor now rendered useless owing to errors in management. A day lost now means more than the loss of a day; it means also a depreciation in the value of the products of the field. Don't accept the excuse that hay will go farther in winter feeding if cut on the late side; it certainly will reach farther, for it will be less relished by the stock, being more woody and less nutritious.

Very few farmers can be accused of spending their time in idleness, but they spend it in a manner equally culpable. Indeed, if they are to be censured at all with regard to their manner of application, the fault laid to their charge would be that their hours are too prolonged. Instead of keeping the necessary supplies on hand, many now spend their time in hanging round the express or telegraph office, or running to the manufacturer or dealer for needed repairs which they forgot to procure when they were last in town. Some parts of the implements or machinery are broken by the recklessness of incompetent hands; other parts are allowed to rust or wear out, and no thought of renewing them is taken till the crash comes. If the manufacturer was so negligent, and forgot to keep the necessary repairs on hand, what would become of his reputation and his business? In such cases self-interested motives should control the customer as much as the dealer. Of course it is impossible to guard entirely against accidents, but every farmer should endeavor to find out the vulnerable parts of his tools, implements and machinery. We have seen farmers who resort to borrowing from their neighbors under such circumstances; such men usually have just enough spare time to do the borrowing, having none left to do the returning until the long winter's evenings come round. There is in every neighborhood at least one farmer who purchases at cheap auction sales sufficient tools and implements for his own use and for the use of all the other farmers in his vicinity.

We have fortunately survived the time when it was thought that any resort to labor-saving machinery was the offspring of laziness. The force of necessity has happily dispelled this superstition, farmers having now to compete with the world like people in other pursuits. But there are still many relics of barbarism and much false economy practiced on the farm. Many farmers will mow all day long with a dull sickle or scythe because they have no time to grind them, or perhaps their grindstone is out of repair, or having none, their neighbor is too far away, or the boys are too busy to turn the crank. In such cases the field work is performed at a great expenditure of time and muscle, the depreciation of the implements is

more rapid, and breakages are far more liable to occur. Advanced farmers keep two stones of different grits, perhaps also a self-adjusting one with friction wheels and treadle, and often keep besides an automatic sickle grinder.

Particularly during the threshing season are these errors very palpable. If we were to make a choice of threshers, we should unhesitatingly select the man who is best fortified against breakages. Such a man is almost sure to be competent in every other respect. A breakage occurring in the threshing machinery not only deranges the plans of the farmer, but also those of his wife; it keeps a dozen of the neighbors idle and disorganizes their arrangements, and it disturbs the month's programme of the threshers themselves. We have also seen threshers lounging round telegraph and express offices, and if the repairs did not come first express, they would repair to the manufacturer with a list of grievances the length of which was quite out of proportion to the time they had at their disposal. The manufacturer is supposed to suffer disturbance at midnight in order to dance attendance on them; and if there is not an express train held in readiness to convey them back, then there is something radically wrong with the laws of the land. Prudence is better than such kind of pluck. If such threshers would sit down some wet day and count the total cost to themselves and to all concerned, of a cylinder pinion obtained under such circumstances, and post the debits on his machine, we venture to predict that three-fourths of such performances would be averted, and they would cease to grumble because they couldn't get more than two years credit for their repairs.

India Wheat.

A well informed writer in the New York Sun asserts that it may be confidently predicted that at no distant day the exports of India wheat will be second only to those of the United States. The pressure of competition, he says, will be severe and long on all who enter the wheat market. India will sow better seed, use better tools, and before long will have cheaper modes of inland transit, and the American elevator with which to handle her grain. The English and the French are both making a very light system of railway of from 2 to 2½ feet gauge, which is much used in countries south of the equator. This system costs only from \$1000 to \$1200 a mile.

Indian wheat is to-day an important factor in European grain markets and has become the principal check to speculators in this country. Therefore it is asserted that the American grain grower will have to reduce the cost of production, and be content with small profits. The millers are urged to send a quality of flour to Europe with which competition will be impossible. In that case we shall have the advantage of production and manufacture, with the residuum left for cattle food. Actual tests show that the percentage of gluten is much larger in American wheat, but India wheat is drier than ours and makes more bread. Yet the preference is for the American article in point of color, and general characteristics of the bread. Our future strength in the European wheat market is in sending flour instead of wheat.—[Mass Ploughman.]

The Cut Worm.

This insect, which has again commenced its annual ravages in many parts of the Province, attacks many forms of vegetation. Several species of the genus *Agrotis* have been found. There are black, brown, and striped forms. The larvæ are from one to two inches in length, having a variety of shades of brown from light ashen gray to almost black, with a lighter stripe along the back. They have a smooth, greasy appearance, developing into moths which usually fly during the night or on cloudy days. Their wings have various shades of gray and brown, the under pair being lighter, and when fully expanded the wings extend from 1½ to 2 inches. Late in summer the eggs are deposited upon plants near the ground, the larvæ soon appearing. They burrow into the ground, where they remain during the winter, first feeding on the tender roots, but when the weather becomes more severe, they burrow deeper and remain torpid till spring. When the warm weather sets in they openly attack the plants by night, hiding during the day. The full grown insects finally enter the ground, where they form cocoons of earth and appear as moths late in summer.

Late fall plowing will expose the larvæ to destruction by frost and birds. If the field is thoroughly summer-fallowed, scarcely any can escape extermination. Their ravages should be closely watched, and where the plants are found cut a hole may be punched in the ground with a pointed stick; here they will be found hidden the next morning, when they can be easily destroyed.

School Children Studying Agriculture.

At a recent agricultural show in Chartres, France, many children, both boys and girls, exhibited copy books containing descriptions of the best methods of budding and grafting trees, specimens of insects injurious to vegetation, of the different grasses, and the various kinds of wheat and other grains grown in the district—all illustrated by simple, yet finely executed drawings. These things are taught in the industrial schools established by the government in all parts of the country. In some of the departments of France, agricultural text books are in daily use in all the rural schools, and the pupils are taught the difference between the useful and the useless in insects, birds, weeds and grasses. We notice that the propriety of similar teaching in the rural schools of Great Britain is being agitated by several distinguished English gentlemen. What have our own farmers who so largely contribute to the school fund of this country, to say to a similar innovation in the instruction given in the public schools? A little talk from them on the subject in these columns will do no harm.—[Prairie Farmer.]

A hog weighing 989 pounds is on exhibition in Philadelphia.

Last winter ten per cent. of the stock in British Columbia perished.

Nearly 5,000,000 cattle have been driven north from Texas during the last seven years.

According to a German authority one hundred and fifty-six different kinds of cheese are manufactured in Europe.