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Notes by the Way.

FARM-WORK FOR JUNE.

As the season is such an early one and the weather has been so propitious for the carrying on of all sorts of farm-work, it is fair to suppose that all the grain has been sown. Oats, by the bye, were well out of the ground at the Priests' farm, Sherbrooke St. West, on Monday, April 30th.

If any grain remains to be sown, it would be well to remember that, as late-sown grain has no time to tiller, more seed should be given to the acre than if it were sown earlier. In our own case, if we had any pieces intended for, say, oats, unsown by the first of June, we should put them in rape instead, and feed it off with sheep. Even if the rape did not come to a great crop, the treading of the sheep would do the land a marvellous deal of good. One reason why the white-straw crops go down so easily in this part of the world is that the land never gets the valuable pressure of the sheep's foot; consequently, the hold of the roots of the grain on the land is precarious, and it takes but little wind and rain to scrawl the standing crop all abroad. No roller, however heavy, will compress the land like the pointed hoof of the sheep. We cannot too often repeat what that good farmer, Wm. Rigden, told us in 1852: "If I sow wheat after vetches mown for green-meat, I get but a poor yield; but where the

when the former is gone the second-cut clover will be ready to take its place, and so on.

Potatoes, in such an early season as this, have of course been horse- and hand-hoed. All that remains to do is to keep the horse-hoe going as long as it does not injure the plants, to earth up very slightly, though as broadly as possible, and to keep the crop free from the beetle. Should a very heavy storm of rain occur after the young tubers are formed, look sharply after your water-furrows and ditches. There should be a furrow ploughed inside each headland of the piece, when the horse-hoeing is finished, and an access dug, every 20 or 30 feet, from this furrow to the ditch.

The swedes should be sown as soon as the land, manure, &c., are ready. For marketing, late-sown swedes are the best, though by no means the greatest yielders.

As fast as the vetches, &c., are consumed, break up the land and sow something else. The second growth may come if the weather proves showery, but its quality is poor, and besides the good the land will derive from the stirring and cleaning an acre of fresh-sown rape will be worth thrice what the second-growth of the other is worth.

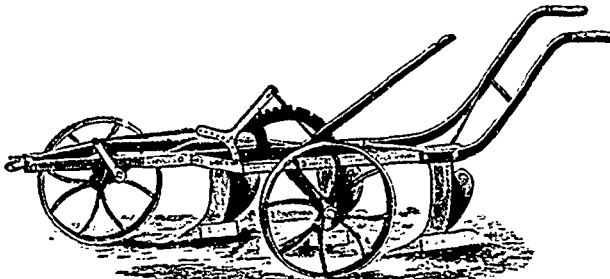
Clover will be fit to mow for hay about the 24th of the month. We do hope to see more second-crops this year than were saved last year. If some of the heads are rather later than the rest, do not wait for them, but mow, turn the second day, put

Never let the foal to the mare when she comes in hot from her duty until she has had time to cool off.

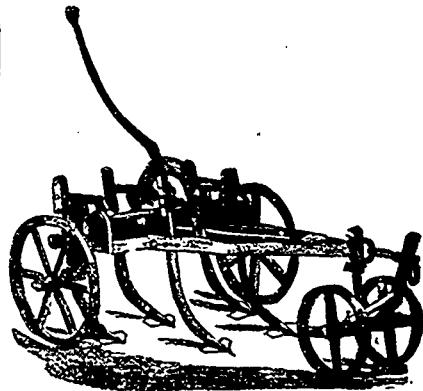
Cows are now in full milk, and should be kept up to it. Plenty of extra food in the form of maize, clover, vetches, &c., should be ready for them in case of the pasture getting bare.

The weaned calves need great attention this month. The milk—skim-milk with a little linseed crushed and steeped in boiling water—should not be too hastily taken from them, and a nice, fresh pasture, divided in two, must be provided for them. How often do we see pot-bellied, big-ribbed, scare-crows of calves gnawing away at the stubs of an old worn-out timothy meadow! That is not the way to bring up the future mothers of the herd.

Swine.—The young pigs, now, we suppose, from 2 to 3 months old, will be grateful for all the whey and skim-milk the calves do not need. Clover and vetches, supplemented by a few pease, which they will soon learn to crack up readily, with the dairy-refuse, brought back by every farmer from the factory, we trust, will push them along nicely till "shacking" begins: i. e., the run of the stubbles after harvest. Of course no progressive farmer keeps any of last year's pigs over. The sows are, we suppose, in pig again, due to farrow at the latter end of September probably, though the earlier in the month the better. These should be kept



THREE-SOCK PLOUGH.



COLEMAN'S DRAG-HARROW.

vetches come off in time to sow turnips or rape, even if the crop is only a moderate one, and I can get the sheep hurdled on to them, I am sure of a good crop of wheat afterwards."

Buckwheat is generally omitted on our best farms. It makes the land foul for many a day after. We suppose we have a prejudice against it as, in England, we never sow it except under the covert-sides, as food for pheasants. If this grain is grown, the new sorts, Japan, and Silverskin (?) should be sown instead of the old kind.

It is probable that a good deal of the clovers put in last year will prove faulty in plant. Now, if anything tends to make land foul it is allowing a bad plant of seeds to stand; mow it as soon as the majority of heads are in bloom, break up the land, harrow and work it till fine, and sow  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a bushel of Hungarian grass, and cover in with light harrows, or, if you have one, with a chain-harrow, finishing with the roller. If sown by the 25th of June, it will be fit to cut for hay by the middle of August. Mow early, as Hungarian grass soon runs through its stages and becomes hard and woody.

By the 12th of June the red-clover ought to be fit to cut for green meat. Your horses will be glad of it, and what they throw out of the cribs will delight the pigs. If you have provided a piece of oats, pease and vetches, this will succeed the clover, and

into cock as soon as fit, and be careful in opening the cocks to do it gently, so as not to shake the leaf off. It is treating clover, for hay, like timothy, that makes our clover-hay so inferior. It may be laid down as an axiom that, if clover put into cock the same day it is cut does not heat and rot within 24 hours, that clover has been allowed to stand too long. If cut, as we say, about the 24th of June, the second crop should be fit by the middle of August. By the bye, in our diary for 1893, we find the following:

August 15th; Grier mowed clover-2nd cut and put it in cock the same afternoon!!!

August 16th; Clover in cock heated and mildewed. Had to turn it out as soon as dew off; turned again after noon; all leaf off!

The horses will have had pretty hard work for the last six weeks, and it is not over yet. As long as there is any work to do, they should be well fed, and when is there not work to do on a properly managed farm? A few pease added to their oats, with clover or vetches, when the latter are in bloom, will be good for them; and on Sundays, a run in a good pasture will freshen them up wonderfully. At all events they should never be allowed to fall away in condition before they are wanted for the mowing-machine and the harvester.

Mares, with their foals, should do but little work, and that light work,

in fair condition, but by no means allowed to get too fat, for an over-fat sow rarely brings fine pigs.

This terribly hot day—May 2nd, 80° F. in the shade—makes us fear the sheep are suffering, those that still have their jackets on. It is a difficult business to decide upon in this country whether to wash the sheep before shearing or not. It is hardly safe to wash yet, for the water is icy cold, and, even if the flock is small, it takes a good deal of trouble and fuel to warm water enough for over a score of sheep. We are sure, from long experience, that sheep do better if washed before shearing, but in this country, the first spell of fine weather is often succeeded by a fortnight of chilly winds, and a wet fleece, with a brisk N. E. wind blowing through, it is not conducive to the sheep's health.

At all events, if washed, the sheep ought to remain unshorn, for a week or ten days, in a clean pasture; and, after shearing, should be dipped in one of the liquids sold for that purpose: Betts' is as good a composition as we know of. Both ewes and lambs should be dipped again in September.

If you are really intending to keep sheep as they are kept in England and as some wise people in the States and in Manitoba are purposing to do, you will find that the short-wools will be your best bargain. South downs, Hampshire-downs, or Shropshires; you cannot go far wrong with either of