

The Canada Farmer

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Work for June-July.

The late Spring will have retarded farm operations somewhat, but we question if to a very injurious extent. If crops had been more forward in the last week of May they would have suffered severely from the frosty nights at that period. As it was, not much damage was done. The general tenor of our information is, that crops look better on the whole in Canada than on any part of the continent; and, as we are secure from any invasion of locusts, we can afford to extend our heartiest sympathy to those Western farmers who have suffered, or apprehend that they will suffer, from the devastation of that formidable enemy.

There will be no lack of work to be done during this month, and the effect of the crowding into it of some of last month's work will be that some things will not be done at all. The man who has his work systematized will be the one who can see most readily what can be dispensed with.

Corn-planting should be all done by the time this will reach our readers. If from any cause it should have been delayed, the earliest-maturing varieties should be planted. Hills which have been killed out from any cause should be replanted; and while doing this, and during the after-culture, a sharp look-out should be kept for cut-worms. Time being now of consequence, it may pay better to drill than to hill the late corn. To hurry it up, corn planted by hand may be soaked in tepid water for a day before planting. Previous to planting, dust the wet grains over with plaster, which will stimulate their growth.

Swedes should be sown about now. Drill about two and a half pounds of seed to the acre, in rows two and a half feet apart. About two hundred pounds of superphosphate to the acre will force a heavy growth. The seed-bed should be moist, mellow and fine; roll as soon as sown. Thin out the young plants to about a foot apart. Sugar beets and mangold-wurzel should have been sown earlier, and should now be ready to thin out.

Pass the cultivator over every ten days or so, through the potato and root crops, and do not allow a weed to lift its head. After using the cultivators, clean them and put them under shelter. The same will apply to all tools. Have a place for everything, and when a tool is not in use see that it is not pitched away to some place where an hour's hunt will not find it again when wanted.

Buckwheat should be sown about now. If for turning under, it should be sown thickly. Plough under when in blossom. As a cleaning crop, buckwheat has no superior. Its quick and dense growth not allowing weeds a chance. For a crop, sow later, and preferably on light, sandy soil. Three pecks to the acre are sufficient.

Every spare minute and all rainy days should be used in preparing for haying and harvest. See that you have a full stock of implements, and rather have too many than too few. See that there are on hand plenty of harvest stores of all kinds.

A common error with the hay crop is letting the grass get too ripe before cutting. Hay intended for sale to the city dealers may be allowed to become riper; but hay for his own stock the farmer should cut when the grass is in blossom. In that state, it will furnish the most nutriment to his stock, and be most easily digestible. Every farmer who uses a mower should use a tedder also, by the use of which the grass may be dried and ready for raking before the dew begins to fall. Hay should sweat a little in the cock. The moisture will pass off in loading and carrying. A slight fermentation in the barn will put it all right. Clover should only lie in the sun long enough to wilt thoroughly. It should then be stirred and placed in high, narrow cocks. As soon as it sweats, it should be spread and carried to the barn.

At shearing time, notice should be taken of those animals which give a fleece of inferior weight or quality, and they should be culled from the flock. Old ewes should be taken out and their places filled with young ones of better

quality. Mark all such as are to be disposed of at a favorable opportunity. Examine for signs of foot-rot or scab, and isolate any animals that show signs of either of those infectious diseases. Ticks will be found on the lambs, on which they will have gathered from the sheep. Dip the lamb in some approved sheep-dip. There is one made now in which carbolic acid is an ingredient, which is thoroughly efficient. Put a broad band of tar across the face of the sheep, below the eyes; this will prevent the gad-fly from laying her eggs, from which come the grubs, the cause of much mortality.

Let the milch cows have good pasture, and do not let them be worried by the companionship of unruly colts or vicious horses. The yield of the cows should be noticed, and any unprofitable member of the herd should be "bounced" on the first opportunity.

Farmers who breed pigs should use none but pure-bred boars. Now is the time to buy a young boar cheap. Let the young pigs have all the milk that can be spared.

In the orchard, the newly-set grafts will want looking to. Shoots should be removed from the stock. The grafting-wax should be at hand to remedy all deficiencies. See that newly-planted trees have not got out of the upright. From now to the end of June is a good time for pruning, and pruning at this time tends to encourage the formation of fruit buds. Trees which make a large growth of wood every year, and have given little fruit, should be shortened in. Orchards of young trees should be cultivated. Some crop that requires constant tillage should be planted between the rows. Keep a sharp look out for destructive insects, and lose no opportunity of lessening their number.

Runners should be removed from those strawberries which are to bear fruit. The plants should be mulched to protect the fruit from sand or mud. Mulch put on after rain will preserve moisture during the bearing season, and increase the crop.

Caterpillars and leaf-eating grubs should be picked off the currant and gooseberry bushes, and currant branches showing signs of the borer should be cut away and burnt. Suckers should be cut away.

Cabbages, cauliflower and brocoli should be planted from time to time for succession. Carrots and parsnips should be kept free from weeds. Corn should be planted or sown every two weeks for succession. The later in the season the earlier the sort that should be sown. Squashes and cucumbers should be sown in well-manured hills, four feet apart; winter squashes, six to eight feet apart.

Do not cut asparagus too low. Gardeners cut it so far because the public know no better than to buy a lot of uneatable stalk. For their own use, they let it grow six inches above ground, and then cut it at the surface. Only those who have eaten it when thus cut know how delicious asparagus can be. Do not cut after peas come in. Manure well before the tops grow.

Leave no pools of stagnant water lying around the house to breed mosquitoes and malarial fevers; and no heaps of decaying vegetable or animal matter should be allowed except on the manure pile. Eat all the fruit and green vegetables that you can lay your hand on. Diarrhoea is oftener brought on by lack of fruit and vegetables than by an over-supply. And finally, do not overwork either yourself or your help.

The Use of Paris Green.

Prof. Riley, State Entomologist of Missouri, has written an exhaustive article for the New York Tribune, upon the subject of the use of Paris green for the destruction of the Colorado beetle. We summarize his conclusions as follows.—Referring to the experiments of the Potomac Fruit Growers' Association, [CANADA FARMER for March, p. 54.] he says that they used Paris green in the proportion of one to six of the diluent, instead of from 25 to 30 of the latter, and that it was no wonder that the vitality of the plants was impaired. He thinks those experiments of little value when pitted against the experience of the Mississippi valley farmers.

The fear of evil influence of Paris green on the soil, Prof. Riley thinks to be unfounded. A pound of green uniformly spread over an acre would amount to sixteen hundredths of a grain per foot, if it all reached the soil unchanged, which it does not, for part of it is acted upon by the digestive organs of the insects, its victims. This

might be added annually, even allowing it to remain unchanged, for half a century, without any serious effects on plants. But, according to Prof. Kedzie of Michigan College, it does not remain unchanged, a portion of it being converted into an insoluble and harmless precipitate with the oxide of iron which exists very generally in soils.

Some persons, says Prof. Riley, think that the soggy and watery potatoes now so common, are due to the influence of this poison—an idea which, he says, is proved to be erroneous by the fact that soggy potatoes are complained of where no poison has been used. The bad quality is more likely to be due to the depredations of the insects, for no plant can be healthy when its leaf surface is being preyed upon.

Prof. Riley says that a proper use of the poison has been and will be a good blessing to the country; that a plant could not absorb enough to injure a man without itself being killed; and that the idea that the earth is being sown with death by using this poison, may be dismissed 'as a pure phantasmagoria'—nevertheless and notwithstanding which big word, the CANADA FARMER sticks to its advice previously given, viz.:—Not to use Paris green, where hand-picking can be practised, or any other remedy can be used. Fifty years is a long time, certainly, during which Paris green may be applied before it converts fruitful land into a wilderness, but we fancy few farmers would be willing to use an agent which would defertilize their farms in twice that time. And Prof. Riley seems to have forgotten the one useful thing which the Potomac Association experiments proved, viz., that other plants than potatoes do take up the poison unchanged—which one item of positive evidence showing the use of the green to be dangerous, should weigh more than the testimony of twenty chemical analyses showing merely that the poison has not been found in the tubers of potatoes.

The Ocean Transit of Live Stock.

Complaints having been made in the London press of the inhuman treatment of live stock in transit by sea, Mr. James Martin, Assistant-secretary to the Live Cattle Importation Company (Limited), writes describing some novel arrangements for obviating the evil complained of. The Company which he represents is at present engaged in importing cattle and horses from Texas into England. This is done by the use of 'tween-deck fittings, by which it is said the animals are secured against injury during boisterous weather, and with the smallest possible amount of loss by death or wear and tear. The 'tween-deck fittings when put up form a range of pens with slings and suitable fastenings in which, he says, the animals are conveyed with comparative safety, and even comfort to themselves, and with economy and profit to the shipper.

Food and water can be supplied to them and when the weather will permit the whole apparatus can be so adjusted as to permit the reclining or lying posture so necessary to all animals, and especially to those fattened for the Metropolitan Meat Market. By simply turning a crank, the entire range of slings can be lowered, and the animals thus permitted to lie down. A cargo of horses and cattle from Texas is daily expected to arrive in Southampton. Mr. Martin says—"The loss in bulk and deterioration in quality which horses and cattle suffer in transit, especially in prolonged ocean passages, are well known to shippers and dealers in stock, and it is to remove this formidable difficulty in the way of a successful prosecution of the traffic that this Company has been organized."

Some day, the carrying of live stock by water will be as ordinary an occurrence as now is the carrying of human passengers. A vast trade will then open up for Canadian farmers, who can feed cattle for the English Market on cheap Western corn, not only realizing a good healthy product on the beef, but gaining, beside, a desirable quantity of manure of which our farms, as a rule, are sadly in need. Even now, if tough, stringy Texans can be sold at a profit in England, with the present imperfect modes of transportation, we can see no reason why prime Canadian cattle, which would bring twice the money per pound, cannot also be exported at a profit.

ATTENTION IS DIRECTED to the advertisement of Oak-Hill Stock farm, Iowa, the property of Mr. Milton Briggs, the well-known breeder.