

The Farm.

The Farm Employer and Employee.

One thing I believe a farmer has a right to expect of his help is that for the time they are engaged for his service they will make their employer's interest their own as regards the care taken of the live stock, as well as the tools and farming implements under their charge, and the manner in which they perform the work required of them. That is, I mean in reference to the work performed, that they shall do it in a systematic and workmanlike manner, and with a view of making their time count to his advantage, so far as is reasonable in justice to themselves. But should their employer direct in arranging for any piece of work that it shall be done in a certain way and according to a definite plan laid out by him, it is, it seems to me, a plain duty of the employe to do the work as he is directed to do it, even though he believes or even knows that another method will accomplish better results, and at the same time more easily and quickly.

Of course, if a laborer has tact and ability, he will have plans and methods of work peculiar to himself, and by which oftentimes he will be able to accomplish more in certain directions than can be done in any other way, and ordinarily his employer will not be slow to recognize these points of superiority; but there will come occasions when there will be a conflict of opinion between employer and employe as to the best way of doing certain things. In such cases the rights of the employer demand that his plan should be the one adopted, unless he should voluntarily relinquish it; and at such times the proper course is "to obey orders if you break owners."

On the other hand, the hired man (or woman, as the case may be) has some rights that his or her employer is bound also to respect. Indeed, it was a recent conversation with a young man who works out as a farm laborer, on the subject of hired men's rights, that suggested this article. He said that on one occasion when he began the season's work, the first day he was not called from the field where working with the team, for dinner, until nearly 2 o'clock, and the supper came proportionately late, while the "chores" (the farmer having a dairy of considerable size) dragged along well into the evening. He made no complaint; but the following day, when the hour of 12 o'clock noon by his watch had come, he unhitched the team, put them in and fed them, and went to the house and sat down, and rested until dinner was ready. Then, although having had a late dinner, when supper time came he did the same. This he repeated for two or three days, saying nothing as to the irregularity of the meals, and the farmer in turn saying nothing on his part; but after that time, as he expressed it, "the dinner came around at noon all right, and supper in good season."

Though it may be said that every farmer has a right to have his meals at such hours as he sees fit, which every one will admit is true when his individual interests are concerned or affected, it is, it seems to me, equally certain that his hired help have a right to say they will not work until the middle of the afternoon without their dinner, nor until sundown or thereabouts in the long days of summer before they have their supper.

On the question of hours of labor to be performed, too, the laborer has without doubt a right to assert himself if more than is reasonable is required of him, with a vigorous protest against such requirements; though what shall constitute a day's work upon the farm is to some extent a mooted question. But with a disposition on both sides to yield somewhat to the rights of the other, there need be no variance between the farmer and those in his employ that shall lead to any difficulty or any real conflict of interests.—(E. J. B., in Country Gentleman.

Lime in Agriculture.

Lime has long been known to possess an definite agricultural value, and has been

employed as a dressing for both arable and pastoral land probably for centuries. But it is only within comparatively recent times that the nature and scope of its functions in the soil have been fully and accurately traced and published. Of course, it is quite probable that further important discoveries may be made, but the nature of the knowledge recently acquired regarding the actions of lime in soils of various descriptions indicates that little scope remains for fresh developments.

In an excellent article on "Lime and Its Uses in Agriculture" which he contributes to the current volume of the Highland and Agricultural Society's "Transactions," Dr. A. P. Aitken explains lucidly the effects that result from the application of lime to different classes of soils. One of the most important advantages of lime is that it stimulates the activity and aids the inestimably valuable work of the nitrifying bacteria in the soil. Without a certain moderate amount of lime in the surface soil where these organisms live and labor their fertilizing services may be partly or entirely lost—a loss which we are told is greater than can be easily comprehended by the unskilled in science. The function of lime in this case is to neutralize the acids formed by the organisms in the course of their nitrifying operations, and thus render their working effective and the soil inhabitable by them. Indiscriminate liming, however, is carefully to be avoided, because though lime is indispensable to the nitrifying organisms an excessive quantity is fatal to them. What the organisms require is not that the soil should be alkaline, but that there should be a base present to prevent its becoming acid.—(London Morning Post.

Agricultural Brevities.

Tomatoes which have an imperfect blossom end are most susceptible to rot or black mold, and care should be taken to grow the smooth fruited sorts.

If experiments of several stations may be considered conclusive, seeds from the tip of the ear of corn germinate more surely and yield better than those from the center of the cob.

Among the new blackberries is the Mersereau, which, it is claimed, is without an equal for hardness, besides being of brilliant, sparkling black color, fine form and flavor and very productive.

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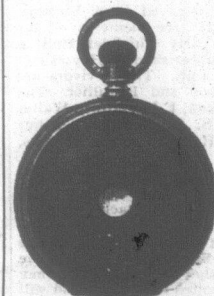
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Tuesday was the hottest June day on record in New York, the mercury going as high as 98.