

necessitated to take upon him duties of another calling. It is not a commingling of occupations that is wanted, but a better understanding of the rights of each calling. If those of one calling are inclined to oppress their fellows of another, representative remonstrance is the first remedy to ply, unless there is some simple mode of check-mating, as in the present instance. When British farmers generally sell their stock by live weight, the butchers cannot fatten unreasonably at their expense. Whether our Canadian butchers are building enormous dwellings and swelling their bank deposits at the expense of the farmer, it is not for us to say; but it is for us to say that they should not be allowed to do so by the latter. Unless for shipping purposes cattle in this country are usually sold by the lump, and rest assured the butcher is usually a better judge of weights and prices than the farmer. The butcher kills and weighs them every day, the farmer once a year. The scarcity of weigh-scales often tempts farmers to sell by the head, but the remedy for this is in their own hands. Weigh-scales are largely manufactured, and one scale will suffice for the wants of a neighborhood (see advertisements in our columns), where villages are not at hand. We have more than once already called attention to this matter, and shall continue to do so till the practice of selling stock intended for the block by weight becomes generally practised. We would like to see our butchers prosperous, but we are equally anxious to have the farmers' rights conserved, or we might more correctly say, to have them live within the dwelling of their privileges and not upon its threshold.

Retrospect and Prospect.

During the two years of the past the JOURNAL has been weighed in the balances of public opinion, a scale where the adjustments are so exceedingly delicate that the slightest variation will send the beam up or down, but where the equilibrium is sure to be restored, and a weight scored that is infallibly correct. By this stand we wish to be weighed—and what is our weight? why, a much larger subscription list than was ever given to a farm paper in Canada in a similar period; an advertising patronage quite ahead of any farm paper now in the Dominion, and numberless expressions of the estimate of the valuable work we are doing for the agricultural interest of the country, and the way in which we are doing it, from the ruler to the hard-working farm servant, for all of which we have abundant reason to be thankful and grateful.

During the bright new year upon which we have entered, we shall leave no stone unturned that our patrons may enjoy even a better repast than hitherto. In the departments of stock, the farm, the dairy, veterinary, poultry, the apiary, horticulture, and the home, we shall continue to give *original* articles, readable, intensely practical, and of that high order that will stamp some of them with the brand of permanent literature.

Increased attention will, if possible, be given to the departments of the *farm*, the *dairy* and the *home*, without detracting from the interest of the other departments, through more careful simmering of subjects. Scotland, England, the west and Northwest, and the Provinces will still furnish their correspondents, and the agricultural doings of the eastern and western worlds will still be given in nutshell dimensions in the *jottings* page.

While remaining neutral in politics, we shall advocate with increased earnestness agricultural education, and the gathering of statistics by whatever government may be in power. The former, properly done, elevates agricultural life, and by the aid of the

latter the great pulse of the nation's health may at any time be felt.

We shall importune all our patrons to excel, whatever their line of agriculture, furnish them repeatedly with best methods, do our utmost to complete the union of the Shorthorn herd books, continue the war against scrubs with unremitting ardor, and view with disgust the adoption of any retrogressive advocacy, because it may please a majority of the people lagging away behind in the ranks of the rear.

Encouraged by the past, and hopeful for the future, we set to work to redeem the promises that we have just penned, with the pleasant thought that most of our patrons will accompany us throughout this year, and also a large company gathered by means of the efforts they are making in the direction indicated.

Stop the Leaks.

On the voyage to a distant port the ship does not make nearly so good speed when a portion of the crew must be continually at the pumps. Once stop the leak and the vessel not only becomes lightened, but the hands required to work at the pumps are released for other work. So is it in farming, in all the branches thereof. Unless the greatest industry and economy are used, the little leaks will run away with the profits. Let the leak be ever so small, but ten cents a day in any one line, and in a single year this amounts to \$36.50. If half a dozen of these leaks are going on at one and the same time, the loss amounts to \$219 which would be a nice little profit for an average farmer to put in the savings bank at the end of the year. On most farms it would not be difficult to find several of these leakages running away with the farmer's gains, and leaving him to wonder why he does not make more progress.

The *manure* leakage is one of the commonest, and at the same time one of the greatest on many farms. Almost every one of us must plead guilty here. In not one instance in ten is manure kept under cover, and where it is not so kept it is too often left lying in the yard till toward the close of the season, when from the leakage through oft repeated rains its value is very much impaired. Some of its best properties have gone into the air. Some have eaten up themselves from over-heating, and others have run away in streams to waste fertilizing agencies that are so much required on the farm. Providing a cover for the manure would obviate this difficulty. Though it necessitates outlay, it is outlay that would refund itself in a reasonable time. English experiments have demonstrated the superiority of covered manures, in the greatly increased returns from its use as opposed to manure not kept under cover.

Another method of obviating the difficulty is drawing to the field and applying as soon as possible after it is made. When intended for top dressing this is easily done, but if wanted for ploughing under, there are certain times when the weather and the state of the land preclude the possibility of applying it thus.

A third remedy is to pile it up, throwing that made on each successive day on the top of the pile, which is kept flat, and with a basin throwing back upon the heap daily the liquid that exudes from it.

In any case, inattention to the manure heap is a source of great loss. It will not avail though much stock be kept and of the right kinds, unless the manure is cared for when it is made, the land will not become properly enriched. One might better rob the farm by selling all the grain and putting the proceeds in the bank than to turn it into manure through stock-keeping and then allow it to lie and waste, an eye-sore

and a source of serious inconvenience. No, the air of Ontario is sufficiently strong for every one of her inhabitants to breathe without the intermingling of large quantities of ammonia escaping from the manure heap, and its waters are sufficiently pure without the comminglings of filtration from the manure heap.

Then there is the leakage from the *exposure of stock*. Very few of us are aware of the extent of this leakage. Mr. Moscrop, in England, has stated that under cover in that climate, animals fed separately gained as much in weight in a given time on one-eighth less feed than those not so protected. If such is the case in England, the loss from exposure in this sterner climate must be much greater. But putting the leakage at one-eighth of the feed given to every animal in the country not properly housed, and in the aggregate it must run up into hundreds of thousands. It may not be possible for farmers brought up differently or struggling amid financial difficulties to have protection to their liking for stock, but with proper exertion surely some form of protection may be provided, even though it should only consist of a shelter made of logs or slabs. If the loss of the feed were the only evil, there would not be so much room for regret, but the suffering of the exposed animals from privations arising from exposure are such as could make one wish the passive creatures had been given a tongue to proclaim their wrongs.

The leakage from the needless exposure of *farm implements* is a serious one. One man will run a mower for half a dozen seasons, and will then only make a change because some improved machine has been invented, which, it may be, lightens the draft or does more effective work. Another will use a machine from the same shop but two seasons, and it is done. The difference may arise in part from the greater care which the one man exercises in using the machine, but usually it is caused more by the difference of the treatment, when not in use. Implements required on the farm now-a-days take up a good deal of room to keep them housed, but those who will not provide it must suffer greater loss in the corroding and decaying influences of the weather on their implements. The leakage from this source is very considerable on many farms, and, like most other forms of leakage, it is in the power of the farmer to prevent it.

The leakage of *disorder* is a very vexatious one. Time upon the farm is often very precious, and is always valuable. No other calling, perhaps, provides labor so constant and unremitting, so that time can be employed to good advantage at any season of the year. When there is no fixed place for keeping the implements of the farm, especially the minor ones, in case of emergency or during any one of those sudden changes that recur so frequently on the farm, from the veering of the weather vane, an implement is wanted on short notice, but its whereabouts is wrapped in mystery. No one can tell anything about it, and so it may be, several men are kept waiting while the search is being prosecuted. There should not only be a place for every implement on the farm, from a reaper to a pruning-hook, but the provident farmer will do his utmost to see that everything is put in its place when not in use. In some instances there are grave difficulties in the way. While some work-hands are orderly and observe the instructions, others are negligent in the extreme, and will take no pains to put a thing in its place. When the farmer, however, does his own work mainly with the aid of his family, he is quite inexcusable if he cannot at any time tell just where to get any implement that he may require. Where these are not kept in order, there must be loss of time in searching for them, which means loss of