THE GLEANER:

AND NORTHUMBERLAND, KENT, GLOUCESTER AND RESTIGOUCHE COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

OLD SERIES] *Nec aranearum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignut, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.* [COMPRISED 13 VOLUMES.

NEW SERIES, VOL. VII.] MIRAMICHI, TUESDAY EVENING, JULY 31, 1849. [NUMBER 40.

Agricultural Journal.

From the Canada Farmer and Mechanic.

HAY MAKING.

The season for making hay has now fairly arrived, and a few practical directions, embracing the whole economy of this important branch of farm labour, may not be considered uninteresting to a portion of our readers. The great point to be observed in curing hay, so that it may retain its natural green color, is to keep it from being exposed to the parching influence of the sun, and also, if possible, to protect it whilst undergoing its curing process, from being drenched with rains. The ordinary method of spreading the newly-mown grass thinly over the ground is *not to be recommended*, only under certain circumstances. If the grass be very heavy, and the weather likely to be unsettled, the sooner it is cured the better; but even under such circumstances, it would be well to make it up into cocks, containing two cwt. each, rather than to put it into the mow or stacks before it becomes thoroughly cured. The loss sustained by spreading newly mown clover, between evaporation and broken heads and leaves, must be equal to ten per cent. on the entire crop. To obviate that loss, the grass might be partially allowed to wilt in the swarth, say, from four to six hours during a tolerably hot day, and then it should be put into small cocks, containing each about half a cwt. of cured hay. If the weather be rather cloudy and unfavorable for making hay, there doubtless would be a necessity for spreading; but, in doing so, care should be observed to retain, if possible, its natural green color, which can only be done by making it up into cocks, each night, so as to prevent its becoming discoloured by the action of dews. When the practice of making up the swaths into small cocks is followed, it may frequently be found advantageous to put from four to to six of the small into large ones; but every farmer in this should be guided strictly by his own judgment, as to the state of the weather, the force of hands he can command, and the average value of hay in his particular locality should regulate the expenditure. It is however a matter that none will pretend to dispute, that a ton of well cured hay contains more nutritious matter for stock than two tons badly cured. In taking extra pains in curing hay, the great difference in value between a good and bad article should be remembered, and it by expending half a dollar extra in giving thorough attention to the business, a much greater return will be obtained, and a more ready sale; therefore it certainly would be judicious to make such an investment.

In countries where labor is high, and farm produce comparatively low, expedition in executing the operations on the farm is a matter of the greatest importance. For this reason there may be many cases in which it would not be judicious, on the score of economy, to employ the pains required in the foregoing suggestions. The revolving horse rake, the coil tooth, or some of the other patterns of this useful implement, should be employed in the process of curing hay on every well regulated farm. With this plement and a horse, a man may without difficulty, perform the labor of eight men. The economy in the use of this valuable invention does not simply consist of the money value of the labor saved, but by its use every farmer may safely reckon upon being able to cure his hay crop, let it be ever so abundant.

Where a large business is done, it would be well to scatter the grass evenly over the ground as fast as it is mown, and at the close of the evening the whole quantity cut during the day should be put in cocks containing about one cwt. each, where it should remain for a number of days to cure. The loss by evaporation will, in this case, be considerable; but if care be taken to put the whole that was mown during the day into cocks, before it is exposed to the influence of dews and rains, the hay will retain its natural green color. Mowing should, in most cases, be performed in the forenoon, so that the whole force could be employed in the afternoon in raking, cocking, and in driving in any portion that may be sufficiently cured for that purpose. By the aid of a rake and horse, a man will find no difficulty in putting together in rows from two to three tons of heavy hay per hour. Three men will find constant work to cock and hand rake as fast as it is put together with the horse rake. Many are disposed to think it too much trouble to cock their hay, and prefer taking it from the rows to the barn; but, by this means it becomes musty, and much deteriorated in value. It is dangerous experiment to put hay in the barn or stack in a partially cured state; but when necessity requires such a course, layers of straw should be spread at frequent intervals throughout the mass; and if this cannot be conveniently done, salt, at the rate of half a bushel per ton, should be scattered evenly over it as it is stowed away in layers of from two to three feet. Hay that is mown in the morning, and evenly scattered after the scythe, may be drawn into the barn the following day, provided that layers of other straw be scattered over the mower at intervals of from four to six feet each: the quantity of straw in proportion to the hay should be about twenty per cent. When this plan is practiced, the hay will require to be put in cocks, as much as if it was intended to remain in them a number of days; even fifteen or twenty hours sweating will secure it from becoming musty if scattered through the mass as above described.

There is no labor on the farm that is more severe than mowing and it is a happy reflection to find that the science of agricultural mechanics has come to the aid of the farmer, by which he is able to employ his beasts of burden to perform the heavy and tedious labour of swinging the scythe. William Ketchum, Esq., of Buffalo, New York, has invented a mowing machine to be propelled with two horses, which will cut one acre of heavy grass per hour, in as perfect a manner as could be done by the most skilful mower. We lately had an opportunity of minutely examining Mr. Ketchum's machine, and we are prepared to say that it is as perfect for the purposes intended as could be designed.

From the same.

CLOVER AND WHEAT CULTURE.

The Wheat growing farmers of Canada should bear in mind, that in consequence of the liberal commercial policy of Great Britain, the advantages formerly enjoyed in the markets of the mother country, are no longer exclusively retained for their benefit, but that foreigners, colonists, and British farmers, so far as the item of breadstuffs are concerned, are now placed upon a level in the English markets. It must be quite clear to every man who has knowledge of the vast agricultural resources of the north of Europe, and those also in the United States, that the prices of breadstuffs must range low in their average under the operations of unrestricted trade. The change in the Tariff Laws of Britain has, doubtless, had a serious influence in depressing the spirits of the wheat growers of this colony, and produced at the same time, an opposite effect on the minds of the farmers of those countries that formerly were shut out on account of the high tariffs of the British markets. The Canadian farmers to understand their true position, should be apprised of the fact, that the farmers of many of the grain growing countries of Europe and America, consider themselves abundantly well paid if they can realize for their wheat from two shillings to two shillings and sixpence per bushel.

The question to be determined is one of very simple solution, and the practical farmer must work it out practically on his own farm. If wheat cannot be grown profitably to compete with other wheat growing countries, in those markets where we send forward our surplus breadstuffs, then it is obvious that less of this great staple will be cultivated, and other branches of husbandry made to supercede it. If possible, the cost of production must be reduced, so as to enable the wheat growers to afford the article at a less price than they have formerly been able to do. The expensive system of making summer fallows, as we have on former occasions endeavored to impress upon the attention of our readers, must if possible be discontinued. The loss of a years rent of land, the extra expense of cultivation, and the loss of a crop are not required to secure to the farmer a crop of wheat, yielding some 20 to 30 bushels per acre, which affords sufficient inducement.

On a former occasion we gave practical directions at length, showing how to cultivate clover in connection with winter wheat, thereby to get a full average crop, with one half the labor required to make a summer fallow. The period has now nearly arrived when the correctness of the opinions therein set forth can be practically tested.

If the proper appliances were at hand, to execute the work in a business-like style, a clean clover sod, ploughed the last week of August, to nine or ten inches in depth, would be preferable to two ploughings; but as these cannot be had without incurring a heavy expense, it would be better not to risk it. A failure of crop occasioned even from causes in which the farmer might be notoriously in fault, would in the eyes of those who do not take the trouble to investigate them, be sufficient to induce the sufferer to repudiate the whole system. On this account it would be decidedly better to plough up the clover sward immediately after the grass crop is harvested, which, according to an average of seasons, would be in the early part of July. The sooner the plough is put to work, after the heavy crop is harvested, the better will be the condition of the soil for wheat. On most soils, a furrow of from eight to ten inches in depth should be made, which will require a strong plough and a heavy team to work it. By turning up two or three inches of new soil to the action of the atmosphere, a consistency will be given to the old soil, which had become too light for wheat; besides this, the roots of the wheat plant will strike more deeply than on a thin soil, thus lessening the risk of loss from the action of spring frosts.

When clover sward is ploughed in July, it should be allowed to remain undisturbed until the period when the second or seed furrow should be ploughed, which in most cases would require to be performed the latter part of August so that the seed could be sown the first week in September. By allowing the inverted sod to remain untouched with either harrow or cultivator during the months of July and August, wild grasses and roots of weeds will undergo decomposition, and be much more thoroughly destroyed than if it had been expensively worked with those implements. The second ploughing, or seed furrow, will turn up rather cloddy, to *sadden* the tastes of some farmers, but those who understand the habits of the wheat plant do thoroughly appreciate the importance of keeping land for winter wheat in a cloddy condition, provided that weeds and grasses be destroyed. A well-managed crop of clover, if hay be worth two pounds per ton, will pay the entire expense of management required for both the clover and wheat crops. This fact should be borne in mind, because it is of much greater importance than would at first sight be supposed.

If the farmers of Canada are so situated that they will be under the necessity of selling their wheat at a lower price than formerly they have been in the practice of, the true method to adopt is to so alter their mode of farming as to enable them to fairly to meet these altered circumstances, without allowing such, if possible, to check their ardour in effecting substantial agricultural improvements.

A CURE FOR THE POTATOES.

A Correspondent of the *Limerick Chronicle* writes as follows:—"I am convinced from practical experience, that manure is the principle generator of the disease in the potato, and from that conviction I would advise every potato grower to raise his tubers for his own planting upon a piece of good ground, well worked, but taking care to give no gross food, either vegetable or animal. It is obvious that the vitality of the plant is impaired by the blind kindness of nursing it off its legs and feeding it above its strength, and I contend that the likeliest method of reclaiming that vitality is to give the plant less to do for a time, and study a little closer its natural habits, until you get rid of the disease. Can any one tell me if they have seen this parasitical fungatic disease in the root or branch of a potato which had been entirely deprived of manure? or has any one seen the disease in the bogs, where the gross particles of the manure are absorbed, and held by capillary attraction in the poor spongy moss? I am sure any one must have observed the difference of flavor of the starved potato from the one which is grossly fed: the former is a ball of nutritious flour, when the other is a tasteless fungus."

From the Canada Farmer and Mechanic.

RULES IN RAISING POULTRY.

1. All young chickens, ducks, and turkeys, should be kept under cover, out of the weather during rainy seasons.

2. Twice or thrice a week, pepper, shallots, shives or garlic should be mixed up with their food.

3. A small lump of assafœtida should be placed in the pan in which their water is given them to drink.

4. Whenever they manifest disease, by the drooping of wings or any other outward sign of ill health, a little assafœtida, broken into small lumps, should be mixed with their food.

5. Chickens which are kept from the dung-hill while young, seldom have the gapes;—therefore it should be the object of those who have the charge of them, so to confine the hens as to preclude their young from the range of barn or stable yards.

6. Should any of the chickens have the gapes, mix up small portions of assafœtida, rhubarb, and pepper, in fresh butter, and give each chicken as much of the mixture as will lay upon one half the bowl of a small teaspoon.

7. For the *pip*, the following treatment is judicious: Take off the indurated covering on the point of the tongue, and give twice a day, for two or three days, a piece of garlic the size of a pea. If garlic cannot be obtained, onion, shallot, or shives will answer; and if neither of these be convenient, two grains of black pepper to be given in fresh butter, will answer.

8. For the *snuffles*, the same remedies as for the gapes will be found highly curative; but in addition to them, it will be necessary to melt a little assafœtida in fresh butter, and rub the chicken about the nostrils, taking care to clean them out.

9. Grown-up ducks are sometimes taken off rapidly by convulsions. In such cases, four drops of rhubarb and four grains of cayenne pepper, mixed in fresh butter, should be administered. Last year we lost several by this disease, and this year the same symptoms manifested themselves among them; but we arrested the malady without losing a single duck, by a dose of the above medicine to such as were ill. One of the ducks was at the time paralyzed, but was thus saved.

SAVE THE URINE.—The urine from cattle is worth as much as the solid droppings. Any farmer can easily secure the whole, both in summer and winter, by having a bed of turf or vegetable matter deep enough to catch and retain the liquid. The watery portion soon evaporates, while the solid matter amounting to about 12 per cent., is incorporated with the turf, and held till needed for use.