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The Rural Post.

LINDSAY, FRIDAY, FEB 28, 1879

FARM AND FIRESIDE.

[CONDUCTED BY A PRACTICAL AGRICULTURIST.]

Two Kisses.

When I made a visit home,
You stole up stairs, good fortune leading,
I was, or rather thought I saw,
My sister in the study reading.

With soft, slow tread I forward crept,
With softness of mischief most impudent;
Stopping over the arm chair's back,
Softly kissed the gentle student.

Startled to life, with burning face,
And a brother's kiss polluted,
Indignant "Bess took my sister to,
That (mean) Amy I'll salted!

Of course I then began to beg
She would excuse my having kissed her;
Say that upon my word
I thought it was my sister.

Then, with a look half of pity,
Half of reproach, she said, "Tom,
Was the error, was not the weather,
Not from a very blushful pair
Could we all rather show together."

Amy, who her mischief saw,
Where for the second time I kissed her,
Quick, looking up to me,
"Tom, pray, couldn't we your sister?"

Farmers' Excursion to the Model Farm.

The suggestion in THE POST last account that the farmers of the county should get up an excursion to the Model Farm at Guelph has not been lost sight of. Our excellent friend, Mr. Donald Jackson (Stone Mills) mentioned the matter at the last meeting of the North Mariposa Farm Club, and it was received the hope that steps would be taken at any early day this season to carry out the suggestion. Well, it depends largely upon the farmers themselves. We believe the excursion would be a capital thing, and it could be managed successfully and at a small expense. In our opinion it would be better to devote two days to it, so as to allow more time at Guelph. One day would make it too much of a hotter skelter affair. Special trains could leave Fenelon Falls or Kinmount, and Coboconk early in the morning, and reach Guelph by noon at least, and, returning, could leave Guelph next day at three o'clock, getting home in fairly good time. Special hotel rates and a low railway fare could be secured. If a sufficient number of our leading farmers will express by postal card their approval of the idea of an excursion, we will with pleasure consult the railway authorities and get any further information that may be necessary. If the members of Rose Valley Division Lodge were to go in a body, with their friends, not members of the Lodge, the success of the excursion would be assured. The College authorities would be only too glad to do everything in their power to make the visit profitable and interesting, and the people of Guelph and the farmers of Wellington would give us a hearty welcome. We have one suggestion more to add, or rather repeat, and that is, that a considerable number of our farmers should spend a couple of days or so on the stock farms and among the herds of Wellington, and not only pick up ideas but also fine cattle. In fact if a battalion of our Grangers were to follow the example of the Glengarry men in the troublous times of old, who went down to Lower Canada foot soldiers and came back mounted, and each with as many cattle as he could gather, the results would be profitable to our stock of cattle.

Improved Stock Necessary.

[To the Editor of The Rural Post.]

SIR, I am much pleased to see you take an interest in farming and devote a portion of your columns to our calling. I am afraid we do not realize our true position in this section. We have good land, and that is the foundation of a farmer's prosperity. I would strongly recommend my neighbours to watch the signs of the times and not be over anxious about how much cheaper they can get articles through the Grange than in the regular way. I am very much in love with the old motto, "Every man to his trade." We may get "a draw," as they call it, in some things, and get nipped in others. I think it would pay us to raise every calf that is dropped this spring, and not raise them in the style usually adopted in this section, but feed them and house them properly, and keep them growing summer and winter and turn them out at three years as good as they are now at five years. I hope we will see the community alive to the benefit of working into a stock of Durham grades. I have seen a great deal about the shipment of cattle to England but I presume not one head went from Ops and Mara, and why? Simply because we pay no attention to breed and feed. It must be long by care and cutlay, but the more cattle we feed the more grain we raise. We should drive our produce to market on feet and not draw it through in the shape of grain. If by this rambling writing I offer no one of our farmers to make them realize the importance of attending to the cattle business I will feel I have not written in vain. There is nothing so good as example.

[illegible] Feb. 20, 1879.

Salt as a Manure.

The advantages of salt as a fertiliser are under discussion, and we submit the following from that excellent authority, the *Germantown Telegraph*:—

We have applied salt to our garden day at intervals of from six to eight years, for twenty-five or thirty years. We could not discover that it had any particular effect. We believe, however, that it had good effect, besides destroying insect life. We use it almost annually on the asparagus beds, as most persons do, and know that the plant greatly thrives upon it. In wheat fields it tends to stiffen the straw and acts thus as a protection against storms, which lay low so many fields. It also attracts moisture, and in times of drought acts favorably in this way. But that it is a manure in the sense, or that it will allow itself to be the real crop is removed, we do not believe. It is a question for the observing farmer to decide whether it is not in the application that pays. In England it has long been experimented with in every way, as a fertilizer, and the farmers there are as much in the dark about it to day as they were at the beginning. The *Mark Lane Express*, regarded as good authority there, says that there is no clear evidence even as to the mode of action, as the results are so varying that they are vacillating and contradictory."

Farmers' Clubs.

The reports in THE POST of the North Mariposa Farmers' Club meetings show that there is plenty of talent and material for making gatherings of this kind successful, if only a sufficient number will heartily co-operate in the matter. If it's left to three or four they will soon pump themselves dry, and the benefit will be insignificant compared with what could result if each farmer in the neighbourhood would make it a point to observe, study, reflect and say something at these meetings. We are inclined to think that our friends in North Mariposa are trying to do a little too much in having weekly meetings, and that once a fortnight, or once a month, would be much better. We hope the example of North Mariposa will be followed by the farmers of the central section of the township, and that a large and strong club will be formed to meet in the Town Hall at Oakwood. There is no reason why the directors of the township agricultural society should not take the preliminary action in the premises, and very many reasons why they should. A club could be formed at Oakwood strong enough to meet in the afternoons, immediately after dinner, so as to have a thorough discussion and get home comfortably at night. This plan is adopted by the successful East Whitby Farmers' Club, some of whose discussions have been reprinted in THE POST. We commend this suggestion to the attention of our friends in Mariposa, and in the meanwhile give the subjoined list of subjects suitable for discussion at these meetings. It will be seen that there are fifty-two topics, one for each week in the year:—

Forests and climate.
Tile draining and drainage of soils in general.
Fall ploughing.
Clover as a fertilizer.
Uses of plaster of Paris.
The best implements.
The best agricultural books.
The best agricultural papers.
Arrangement of farm buildings.
Laying out a country home.
Road-making.
The fence question.
Corn culture.
Soiling cattle.
Rye for winter pasture and early spring feed.
The oat crop.
Are turnips profitable?
Beans as a field crop.
Pastures and meadows.
Seeding down to grass and clover.
Root crops in general.
Rust in wheat.
The Hessian fly.
How to grow an orchard.
Pruning: how and when to do it.
Best varieties of apples.
Small fruits for the family.
Farmer's gardens.
Best breeds of horses.
Oxen for farm work.
Co-operation in dairying.
Management of pigs.
Large and small farms.
Capital required to farm to advantage.
Rotation of crops.
General farm management.
Bee keeping.
Care of poultry.
Sheep husbandry.
Farm accounts.
Taxation of farm property.
Pet exemption.
Market fees.
Direct trade with the consumer.
Transportation in its relation to agriculture.
Farming as an occupation.
Best breed of cattle for this region.
Creameries.
Mutual insurance.
Protective and revenue tariffs.
How can we improve our country schools?
Our township governments, can they be improved?

Causes of Unprofitable Farming.

The subjoined twelve reasons "why farming does not pay," given by the *Prairie Farmer*, should receive due consideration from all farmers in this section, more particularly at this time when prices are down to the lowest notch. We trust there are none such bad farmers that they can take each reason as a cap that will fit, but there are few who will not admit that some of the paragraphs could be taken home with advantage and remedied:

1. The enormous loss which many farmers sustain from the neglected condition of the manure piles.
2. The exposure of farm machinery to the inclemencies of the weather.
3. The loss which is sustained in keeping more animals than the owner can properly provide food and shelter for.
4. Raising scrubby and indifferent animals, when good ones could be raised at the same cost and twice the profit.
5. Tilling more land than can be properly cultivated, thereby raising on two acres that which might be more profitably raised in one.
6. Making specialties of certain crops, to the ultimate exhaustion of the soil.
7. Disposing of the crops in the condition in which they are raised instead of converting them into beef, pork or mutton.
8. In neglecting to properly attend to the little details of the farm.
9. In not keeping a strict account of the transactions of the farm.
10. In not using proper judgment in disposing of the produce of the farm, and the purchase of machinery and other necessaries.
11. Purchasing provisions which should be raised at home.
12. In not having machinery enough to properly harvest and save the crop.

Winter Treatment of Cows.

In feeding his herd of Ayrshires, J. D. W. French, of North Andover, pursues the following method of winter treatment, which could be followed on a smaller scale by many of our farmers with advantage. One cause of the indifferent cattle and small profits in stock-growing and dairying in this county is the lack of proper care of the stock in the winter. First get good stock, then feed well and take proper care and there will be money in it.—"From November 1 to about the middle of May milking begins at 5 a. m. and 5 p. m. After milking in the morning each cow is given one feed of good hay; after that is eaten, ten quarts of cut mangels and turnips, or mangels alone. The cows are then carried, cleaned and bedded. At 11 o'clock a. m. watering begins. At noon each cow receives a foddering of corn fodder or poor hay; at 4 p. m. a foddering of good hay and two quarts of corn meal (the corn is generally ground with the cob.) After the evening milking the cows are bedded and then left for the night. This feed is not excessive, neither is it intended to force the cows into giving unusually large quantities of milk. The dry cows do not receive any grain. The amount of hay fed per day is from twenty-five to thirty pounds."

"Save the Mother."

Your mission is to Humanity, when two strangers met in a hotel frame of mind were any guide of the old Tree Oracle, vigorously disputing whether "two was or could, being made to do one, that would be more it to a passing third party, who quietly replied that he not know, but he was sure of one thing, that "Mrs Winslow's Soothing Syrup" was the best preparation for the mother of all, Parent Family Medicine, and was positively the best remedy he knew for children of every age and disease, especially or wonderful for cutting teeth. Thus it has stood the test of ages, and has been the mother's friend and blessing to her children