THE CASTING AWAY
—OF—
MRS. LECKS AND MRS. ALESHINE.

(Continued.)

"I put that minister and his daughter in the two front bedrooms," said she to me, after hospitably greeting the three men, "which me and Mrs. Aleshine had run and got ready for the Dusantes, as soon as you went in your boat to meet 'em. The young lady was mighty nigh worn out, and glad enough of the tea and things, and to get into bed. But the gentleman, he wanted a soft-boiled egg, and when I told him I hadn't come across no henhouse yet on this island, he looked at me as if he didn't half believe me, and thought I was keepin' the eggs to sell."

"Which it would be ridiculous to do," said Mrs. Aleshine, "in the middle of an ocean like this."

"If he lets you off with soft-b'iled eggs, ma'am," said the coxswain very respectfully, "I think you may bless your stars."

"Ay, ay, sir," said the two sailors with black beards.

Miss Ruth Enderton and her father did not make their appearance until the next morning at breakfast-time. I found the young lady a very pleasant person. She was rather slight in figure, inclined to be pretty, and was what might be called a warm-colored blonde. Her disposition was quite sociable, and she almost immediately stepped into the fevor of Mrs. Lecks and Mrs. Aleshine.

Mr. Enderton, however, was a person of another sort. He was a prim and somewhat formal man, and appeared to be entirely self-engrossed, with very vague notions in regard to his surroundings. He was not by any means an ill-tempered man, being rather inclined to be placid than otherwise; but he gave so little attention to circumstances and events that he did not appear to understand why he should be incommoded by the happenings of life. I have no doubt that he made existence on board the disabled brig a hundred times more unsatisfactory than it would otherwise have been. With his present condition he seemed very well satisfied, and it was quite plain that he looked upon Mrs. Lecks, Mrs. Aleshine, and myself as the proprietors of the establishment, having forgotten, or paid no attention to, my statement in regard to our coming here.

As soon as she thought it fit and proper, and this moment arrived in the course of the first forenoon, Mrs. Lecks spoke to Mr. Enderton on the subject of the board which should be paid to the Dusantes. She stated the arrangements we had made in the matter, and then told him that as he and his daughter had the best accommodations in the house, each occupying a large, handsome room, she thought that he should pay fifteen dollars a week for the two.

"Now, if your daughter," she continued, "can do anythin' about the house which will be of real help, though for the life of me I don't see what she can find to do, with me and Mrs. Aleshine here, somethin' might be took off on account of her services; but of course you, sir, can't do nothin', unless you was to preach on Sundays; and not knowin' what denomination the Dusantes belong to, it wouldn't be fair to take their money to pay for the preachin' of doctrines which, perhaps, they don't believe in."

This financial proposal aroused Mr. Enderton's opposition. "When I came here, madam," he said, "I did not expect to pay any board whatever; and I think, moreover, that your rates are exorbitant. In Nanfouchong, if I remember rightly, the best of board did not cost more than two or three dollars a week."

"I don't want to say anythin', sir," said Mrs. Lecks, "which might look disrespectful, but as long as I've got a conscience inside of me I'm not goin' to stay here and see the Dusantes lose money by Chinese cheapness."

"I don't know anything about the Dusantes," said Mr. Enderton, "but I am not going to pay fifteen dollars a week for board for myself and daughter."

The discussion lasted for some time with considerable warmth on each side, and was at last ended by Mr. Enderton agreeing to pay board at the same rate as the two women and myself, and each week to deposit in the ginger-jar eight dollars for himself and daughter.

"You may not care to remember, sir," said Mrs. Lecks, with cold severity, "that Mr. Craig, and me, and Mrs. Aleshine puts in services besides, although, to be sure, they don't go into the jar."

"I only remember," said Mr. Enderton, "that I am paying an unjustifiable price as it is."

Mrs. Lecks and Mrs. Aleshine, however, were not at all of this opinion, and they agreed that, if it should be in their power, they would see to it that the Dusantes lost nothing by this close-fisted missionary.

After dinner—and I may remark that the new-comers were not consulted in regard to the hours for meals—Mrs. Lecks had an interview with the coxswain on the subject of board for himself and his two companions. This affair, however, was very quickly settled, for the three mariners had among them only one dollar and forty-three cents, and this, the coxswain explained, they would like to keep for tobacco. It was therefore settled that, as the three sailors could pay no money, as much work as possible should be got out of them; and to this plan they agreed heartily and cheerfully.

"There's only one thing we'll ask, ma'am," said the coxswain to Mrs. Lecks, "and that is that we be put in a different mess from the parson. We've now eat two meals with the passengers, and we and my mates is agreed that that's about as much as we can go."

After this, therefore, the three men had their meals in the kitchen, where they were generally joined by Mrs. Aleshine, who much delighted in their company. But she made it a point sometimes to sit down with us in the dining-room, merely to show that she had as much right there as anybody.

"As to the work for them sailor men," said Mrs. Aleshine, "I don't see what they're goin' to do. Of course they don't know nothin' about gardenin', and it seems to me that the best thing to be done is to put 'em to fishin'."

Mrs. Lecks considered this a good suggestion, and accordingly the coxswain and his companions were told that thereafter they would be expected to fish for eight hours a day, Sundays excepted. This plan, however, did not work very well. During the first two days the sailors caught so many fish, that although the fishermen themselves had excellent appetites for such food, it was found utterly impossible to consume what they brought in. Consequently, it was ordered that thereafter they should catch only as many fish as should be needed, and then make themselves useful by assisting Mrs. Aleshine and Mrs. Lecks in any manner they might direct.

I found it quite easy to become acquainted with Miss Ruth Enderton, as she was very much inclined to conversation. "It's ever so long," she said, "since I've had anybody to talk to."

She had left the United States when she was quite a little girl, and had since seen nothing of her native land. She was consequently, full of questions about America, although quite willing to talk of her life in China. Society, at least such kind as she had ever cared for, had been extremely scarce in the little missionary station at which she had lived so long; and now, coming from a wearisome sojourn on a disabled sailing vessel, with no company but the crew and a pre-occupied father, she naturally was delighted to get among people she could talk to. With Mrs. Lecks, Mrs. Aleshine, and myself she soon became very friendly, and showed herself to be a most lively and interesting young person.

I did all that I could to make Miss Ruth's time pass agreeably. I rowed with her on the lagoon, taught her to fish, and showed her all the pleasant points on the island which could be easily reached by walking. Mr. Enderton gave us very little of his company, for, having discovered that there was a library in the house, he passed most of his time in that room.

"You have made a very fair selection of books, sir," he remarked to me, "but it may readily be conceived, from the character of the works, that your tastes are neither ecclesiastic nor scientific."

Several times I explained to him the ownership of the library and the house, but he immediately forgot what I said, or paid no attention to it. When he paid his board at the end of the week, he handed the money to Mrs. Lecks; and although before his eyes, she put it into the ginger-jar, beneath the paper of fish-hooks, I know very well that he considered he was paying it to her for her own use and behoof. He was comfortably lodged, he had all that he needed—and very nearly all that he wanted—to eat; and I do not know that I ever saw a man more contented with his lot.

As for the coxswain and the two sailors, they had a very pleasant time of it, but Mrs. Lecks and Mrs. Aleshine would not think of such a thing as allowing them to eat in idleness the bread of the Dusantes. After they had been with us a few days, Mrs. Lecks told me that she thought she could show the coxswain and his mates how to dig and gather the garden stuff which was daily needed.

"To be sure," said she, "that work goes agin part of your board, but fishin' and bringin' in firewood don't take up quarter of the time of them sailors; and so that the garden work is done, I don't suppose it matters to the Dusantes who does it. And that'll give you more time to make things pleasant for Miss Ruth; for, as far as I can see, there isn't a thing for her to do even if she knows how to do it."

The three mariners were more than willing to do anything desired by Mrs. Lecks or Mrs. Aleshine, to whom they looked up with great admiration and respect. The latter was their favorite, not only because she was with them a great deal during their meals and at other times, but because of her genial nature and easy sociability. The men were always trying to lighten her labors, and to do something that would please her.

One of them climbed to the top of what she called a "palm-leaf-fan tree" and brought therefrom some broad leaves which he cut and trimmed and sewed in true nautical fashion, until he made some fans which were heavy and clumsy, but, as she said, they would stand half a gale of wind if she chose to raise it. The coxswain caught or trapped two sea birds, and having clipped their wings, he spent days in endeavoring to tame them, hoping to induce them, as far as the power in them lay, to take the place of the barn-yard fowls whose absence Mrs. Aleshine continually deplored. Every evening, the two black-bearded sailors would dance hornpipes for her, much to her diversion and delight.

"I've often heard," she remarked, "that in those hot cocoanut countries the tricks of the monkeys was enough to keep everybody on a steady laugh, but I'm sure sailor men is a great deal better. When you get tired of their pranks and their tomfooleries you can tell 'em to stop, which with monkey's you can't."

It was about ten days after the arrival of the missionary's party that, as I was going to get ready the boat in which Miss Ruth and myself generally rowed in the cool of the evening, I saw Mrs. Lecks and Mrs. Aleshine sitting on the beach in the shade of some low-growing trees. They were evidently waiting for me, and as soon as I appeared Mrs. Lecks beckoned to me; whereupon I joined them.

"Sit down," said Mrs. Lecks, "there's somethin' I want to talk to you about. Mrs. Aleshine and me have made up our minds that you ought to be hurried up a little about poppin' the question to Miss Ruth."

This remark astounded me. "Popping the question!" I exclaimed.

"Yes," continued Mrs. Lecks, "and me and Mrs. Aleshine know very well that you haven't done it yet; for both of us havin' been through that sort of thing ourselves, we know the signs of it after it has happened."

"And we wouldn't say nothin' to hurry you," added Mrs. Aleshine, "if it wasn't that the groceries, especially the flour, is a-gettin' low. We've been talkin' to them sailor men, and they're pretty well agreed that there's no use now in expectin' their captain to send for' em; for, if he was a-goin' to do it at all, he'd a' done it before this. And perhaps he never got nowhere himself, in which case he couldn't. And they say the best thing we can all do when the victuals has nearly give out, provided the Dusante s don't come back in time, is to take what's left, and all get into their big boat, and row away to that island, which I don't know just how far it is, that the captain of our ship was going to. There we can stay pretty comfortable till a ship comes along and takes us off."

"But what has all that to do," I asked, "with Miss Ruth and me?"

"Do?" cried Mrs. Lecks; "it has everythin' to do. When it's all settled and fixed between you and Miss Ruth, there'll be nothin' to hinder us from gettin' ready to start when we please."

"But, my dear friends," I said with much earnestness, "I have not the slightest idea of proposing to Miss Enderton."

"That's just what I said to Mrs. Aleshine," said Mrs. Lecks, "and that's the reason we let our irons cool, and come out here to talk to you. It's just like a young man to keep puttin' off that sort of thing; but this can't be put off."

"That's so!" cried Mrs. Aleshine; "and I'll just let you see how the matter stands. There is housekeepers who allows a pint of flour a day to each person, but this is for farm hands and people who works hard and eats hearty; and I've found that three-quarters of a pint will do very well if the dough is kneaded conscientiously and made up light, so that it'll rise well when it's put into the oven. Now I've measured all the flour that's left, and me and Mrs. Lecks, we've calculated that, allowin' three-quarters of a pint of flour a day to each one of us, there's just eight days more that we can stay here—that is, if the Dusantes don't come back before that time, which, of course, can't be counted on. So you can see for yourself Mr. Craig, there's no time to be lost, even considerin' that she hasn't to make up anythin' to be married in."

"No," said Mrs. Lecks, "just for us and three sailors, that wouldn't be needed."

I looked from one to the other in dumb astonishment. Mrs. Lecks gave me no time to say anything.

"In common cases," said she, "this might all be put off till we got somewhere; but it won't do now, Here you are, with everythin' in your own hands; but just get away from here, and there's an end of that. She's as pretty a girl as you'll see in a month of Sundays; and if she leaves here without your gettin' her, there's no knowin' who'll snap her up. When we've got to that island, you may see her once a week, but maybe you won't. She may go away in one ship and you in another, and there may be somebody right there, a missionary, for all I know, who'll have her before you have a chance to put in a word."

"And that's not the worst of it," said Mrs. Aleshine. "Supposin' them Dusantes come back before we go. There's no knowin' what that Mr. Dusante is. He may be a brother of Emily and Lucille. And what sort of chance would you have then, I'd like to know, with Miss Ruth right here in his own house, and he ownin' the row-boat, and everythin'? Or it may be he's a widower, and that'll be a mighty sight worse, I can tell you."

"No matter whether they're widowers or never been married," said Mrs. Lecks, "there'll be plenty that'll want her as soon as they see her; and if it isn't for the girl's own pretty face, it'll be for her father's money."

"Her father's money!" I exclaimed. "What are you talking of?"

"There's no good tellin' me anythin' about that," said Mrs. Lecks, very decidedly. "There never was a man as close fisted as Mr. Enderton who hadn't money."

"And you know as well as we do," said Mrs. Aleshine, "that in them countries where's he's been, the heathens worship idols of silver and idols of gold; and when them heathens is converted, don't you suppose the missionaries get any of that? I expect that Mr. Enderton has converted thousands of heathens."

At this suggestion I laughed outright. But Mrs. Lecks reproved me.

"Now, Mr. Craig," said she, "this is no laughin' matter. What me and Mrs. Aleshine is sayin' is for your good, and for the good of Miss Ruth along with you. I haven't much opinion of her father, but his money is as good as anybody else's, and, though they had to leave their trunks on board their ship, what little they brought with them shows that they've been used to havin' the best there is. Mrs. Aleshine and me has set up till late into the night talkin' over this thing; and we are both of one mind that you two need never expect to have the same chance again that you've got now. The very fact that the old gentleman is a preacher, and can marry you on the spot, ought to make you tremble when you think of the risks you are runnin' by puttin' it off."

"I've got to go into the house now to see about supper," said Mrs. Aleshine, rising; "and I hope you'll remember, Mr. Craig, when your bread is on your plate, and Miss Ruth is sittin' opposite to you, that three-quarters of a pint of flour a day is about as little as anybody can live on, and that time is flyin'."

Mrs. Lecks now also rose. But I detained the two for a moment.

"I hope you have not said anything to Miss Enderton on this subject," I said.

"No," replied Mrs. Aleshine, "we haven't. We are both agreed that as you're the one that's to do what's to be done, you are the one that's to be spoke to. And havin' been through it ourselves, we understand well enough that the more a woman don't know nothin' about it, the more likely she is to be ketched if she wants to be."

To Be Continued.

BELLEVILLE BOILER ON WARSHIPS.

Too Much Coal Consumed, Too Great Heat in Stoke Hole and Breakdowns.

The recent experience of the British cruiser Terrible on her voyage from England to Gibraltar and back, and the later failure of the two sister cruisers, the Diadem and Europa, to realize the speed intended by their designers, has brought the boiler question in the British Navy again to the front. These vessels are fitted with the Belleville water-tube boilers, which gave so much trouble in the case of the cruiser Powerful, during what was expected to be a record trip for a warship between England and China by the long route round the Cape of Good Hope. The matter is the more important because so large a proportion of the more modern ships of the British Navy is furnished with these boilers, that their proved inefficiency discounts to a very great extent, some experts say to an alarming degree, the real war value of the magnificent collection of vessels composing the British Navy.

But the trouble is not alone in the defects that appear to be inherent in the boilers themselves. There is the extravagant consumption of coal, nearly double that on the ships fitted with ordinary boilers. If the cost were the only question involved, this would not be a matter of so much consequence provided the results were adequate, but it is the quantity required to produce what so far have proved to be inadequate results, that has to be taken into account. To keep ships fitted with this particular type of boiler fully supplied with coal, the capacity of coaling stations will have to be increased; that in its turn, especially in war time, augments the risk of a fleet being crippled through the captures of colliers, whose number would have to be increased. Then the steaming radius of a ship is seriously diminished through the extra consumption of coal without equivalent gain in speed, which is now admittedly proved in the case of those vessels having the Belleville boilers.

There is, besides, the excessive heat, generated in the stoke holes of the ships fitted with these boilers, so great indeed that, as is the case in the Diadem, the Europa and others, the firemen become thoroughly prostrated. Nearly every attempt so far to get up the steam required to bring out the full power of the boilers, has had to be given up, either because of the danger to the ship, the engines or the men in the stoke hole.

The importance of this boiler question becomes the graver when the differing conditions of working ships at trial trips and in war are taken into account. In the one case the trials are conducted with picked firemen using handpicked coal; in the other the work will be done with ordinary crews with ordinary coal. The only explanation afforded of the persistence of the British Admiralty in continuing the use of the Belleville boilers in its ships is that the officials committed to them dare not acknowledge their error. As this error is persisted in in direct opposition to the recommendations of their own Boiler Committee, it would appear as though nothing short of a national disaster could stir the British public to recognize the danger involved, not only to British commerce, but even to the national existence.

THE PROOFREADER'S NEMESIS.

What's the matter? inquired the foreman, as he entered the sanctum for copy and noted the editor's bleeding nose, swollen forehead, puffed red eye, and tattered, dusty coat. Fall down stairs? No—only that, replied the editor, pointing with his finger to a paragraph in the paper before him. It's in our account of the Crapley-Smith wedding. It ought to read, Miss Smith's dimpled, shining face formed a pleasing contrast with Mr. Crapley's strong, bold physiognomy. But see how it was printed. And the foreman read, Miss Smith's pimpled, skinny face formed a pleasing contrast with Mr. Crapley's stony, bald physiognomy. Crapley was just in here, continued the editor, throwing one blood-streaked handkerchief into the waste basket and feeling in his pocket for a clean one, and he—but just send that fool of a proof-reader in here! There's fight left in me yet.

A POSITIVE QUIETUS.

Minister (who has just come from sick patient's bedside)—I've given religious comfort to the invalid, and I fancy all he requires now is a good, sound sleep.

Nurse—Oh, if you would only bring your last Sunday's sermon and read it to him.

A. P. E. ISLAND J. P.

INTERVIEWED BY THE PATRIOT'S SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

Overwork Brought on Neuralgia and Shattered Health Generally—Passed Many Sleepless Nights.

From the Charlottetown Patriot.

The Patriot's special correspondent 'Mac' being in the eastern section of the island on business, heard many complimentary remarks concerning Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, which appear to be the favorite medicine in all parts of Canada. Among those who are very emphatic in the praise of this medicine is Neil McPhee, J. P., of Glencorrodale, and our correspondent determined to call upon him and ascertain from his own lips his views in the matter. Mr. McPhee was found at home, and as he is a very entertaining and intelligent gentleman, our correspondent was soon "at home" too. When questioned about the benefits he was reported to have received from the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, Mr. McPhee said:—"About four years ago I got run down from overwork on the farm. As there is considerable timber land on my property, I thought I could go into making timber in addition to my farm work. The task however proved too heavy for my strength, and I soon began to break down. I contracted a severe cold, neuralgia followed, and I found myself in shattered health generally. I felt very much distressed and discouraged and spent many sleepless nights I tried several very highly recommended medicines, but received no permanent benefit from any of them. As Dr. Williams' Pink Pills were so highly recommended through the press, I thought I would give them a fair trial. After using a few boxes I found they were having the desired effect and I began to find my wonted health and strength gradually returning. I kept on using the pills until I had regained my former vigor and had gained considerable in flesh as well. Now I consider myself a healthier man and feel as well as ever I did in my life. I can conscientiously recommend Dr. Williams' Pink Pills to and person suffering as I was. I have the utmost confidence in their curing properties."

Rheumatism, sciatica, neuralgia, partial paralysis, locomotor ataxia, nervous headache, nervous prostration, and diseases depending upon humors in the blood, such as scrofula, chronic erysipelas, etc., all disappear before a fair treatment with Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. They give a healthy glow to pale and sallow complexions. Sold by all dealers and post paid at 50c. a box or six boxes for $2.50 by addressing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont. Do not be persuaded to take some substitute.

NOT SO CLEVER AS HE THOUGHT.

An Impudent Clerk's Adventure With Sir Evelyn Wood.

Impudence occasionally meets with its just reward, and possibly none would envy the feelings of the youth who, when Sir Evelyn Wood was appointed quartermaster-general of the British forces, attempted to show his wit at the expense of his wisdom.

Sir Evelyn was little known at the office, and it happened that some of the clerks in a certain room were engaged in "larking," when a quiet-looking gentleman walked in. The most impudent of the young men, thinking that the stranger was a visitor who had by mistake come into the wrong room, demanded in a peremptory voice:

"What is your business here?"

"My business?" repeated the stranger, in a tone of mingled surprise and sternness.

"Yes, sir, your business," persisted the clerk.

"It is with the duke," was the answer.

"He has been suddenly summoned to Windsor, and Lord Wolseley's in bed with the mumps," ventured the young man, bent on carrying on his joke at the expense of this inexperienced stranger, as he deemed him.

"Your name, sir!" demanded that stranger, in an imperative tone.

"My name is Plantagenet Zama, distant relation to her gracious majesty."

"Indeed! and mine is Sir Evelyn Wood. I am quartermaster-general to the forces, and I see now how her majesty is served."

The unfortunate clerk, who was not yet aware that his impudence had cost him dear, looked round with a grin, expecting to meet with applause for his talent, and became suddenly aware that all his companions were working away with the most extraordinary earnestness. Instantly the full force of the situation dawned upon him.

"Horrors!" he ejaculated. "I took you for a crank with a grievance!" and then he subsided.

WHERE WOMEN RULE.

We occasionally hear of towns in American and New Zealand in which the woman voter is dominant; but how many of our women readers are aware of the fact that in Great Britain itself there is a large centre of population in the same—shall we say happy?— condition? says the Westminster Gazette. There is Caernarvon, then, where the women voters on the local government register are no less than 63 per cent. of the whole. This is more than double the proportion existing in any other town, and the explanation given of it is that the industries of the town have greatly decayed, and its main dependence is up on its reputation as a health resort. Hence a large number of its householders are women who keep lodging houses.

HINTS FOR THE FARMER

3rd Edition

SHOEING AND FITTING.

The subject of fitting is so and covers so many different that it is impossible to treat it unless unlimited time and space en to the consideration; therefo will for the present, confine our to but one feature, viz., the hin ting, and in conjunction with th ject also treat, in a passing way formation and the necessity of ing it when attempting to fit a says a practical horseshoer in Horseshoer's Journal. In shoei horse any intelligent man will, starting the operation, first stud conformation. He will look first limbs, and then the position th occupy toward the limb. Then fo ing up his subject he will look a position the feet occupy on the gr He will find some limbs, I mea lower portion, for this is our point of observation, with long d pasterns, bound or curb hocked, ers short in pastern and straight ed. Some feet he will find long and low heeled, others the re with a short, stubby toe and up heels; again he may find the long and low-heeled foot to be wired or ped in. Then to the position. We find some toeing out, some occup a straight or direct position, and though the case is rare, decidedly eon-toed. Here are three distinc sitions that the feet occupy on ground. It may be asked, what ha limbs or their conformation to do the shoe or its shape? Simply thi shoe properly adjusted will serve purpose of sustaining the flexor aments according to the demand the case. For instance, the long and low-heeled foot will, as a rul found on horses with long past and as may be seen in many the same kind of conformation in lower part will generally be ac panied by a bowed hock; this is a mon case, and is, to some extent, expected when the general line of formation is considered. Now, in su case, it will be noticed that many ters will shoe with a long outside m shaped heeled shoe. The practice wrong one unless other conditions mand. If we find that the long-t low-heeled foot looks straight ab we should, to be correct in our p tice of fitting it, resort to the e length on both heels, and not on one heel alone. The latter method injurious, inasmuch as it tends throw the foot out of balance by f ind undue strain on the interior ments of the leg, and also creat a tendency to friction on the joint the foot bones. But when it is fo that the toe is long, and heel low the foot looks out after the man In cow-hocked horses, than we can, justice to the place, apply the outside heel to the shoe, turning nailing it outwardly as much as case may demand. Now, in the of the straight-pasterned and dir looking feet, the plain necessity is follow the lines of the foot and k the heels of the shoe regular even, neither being longer than other. We will notice, in all such es, that the limbs and feet occupy reet lines from the hock down to very point of the toe; regularity conformation is marked. The foot not too long of toe, the heels are m erately high and symmetrically shap the pasterns are short and well k and the hock is straight; 75 per ce of such conformation calls for an ev heeled shoe. In interfering, this k of conformation will generally be fou to strike almost centrally of the fo while in the other cases mentione is toward the heel that the dama will be done.

CLOVER AFTER WINTER WHEA

Failure to get a "catch" of clo after winter wheat has frequen been a source of great annoyance farmers using the old standard fo year rotation, especially in those s tions which have been cropped many years. This failure has been cribed to many things, generally lack of water, or the probably imag ary disease known as clover sickne The usual practice in the four-ye rotation is to apply a heavy top-dre ing of farmyard manure to the co in the spring, with, perhaps, a lig application of well-rotted manure the fall in connection with the t to five hundred pounds per acre, commercial fertilizer. This is suppo ed to answer, not only for wheat, b also for the clover and timothy cro to follow. So long as a good clov crop can be secured, a good timot crop is sure to follow. If the clov fails, the timothy fails also, and t rotation is broken with the result veral years unprofitable work to g the soil into good heart again. It is clearly understood that t talk of the farmyard manure goes the corn each year, the wheat recei the remainder supplemented commercial fertilizers. Now it shoul perfectly clear that the corn an great substantially exhaust manu and commercial fertilizer, and the clo must make out the best it can. soil is very rich naturally, the clo will make out well; in the long ru however, the soil becomes poor and th