

FARM WORK AND WORKERS

The two retired farmers of Stratford, Ont., who accepted the proposal of a man who wished to enlist, that they undertake to work his farm at wages of \$1.10 per day each, are what might be well termed "dead game sports."

Farmers who can afford to retire must be capable of producing at a greater rate than \$1.10 daily by their management of farm help or through their own efforts, and the willingness of these men to work at such a rate is proof of their patriotism. Many farmers will pay more than \$1.10 for farm help and will be forced in many cases to make up for the incapability of their helpers by their own extra efforts, yet the employer will consider themselves underpaid.

There are many things of farm work that only an old, experienced farmer can properly attend to, and in the present rush of farm work time cannot be spared for teaching the knack of chopping, mowing with a scythe, and possibly milking a cow, to greenhorns; so a great deal of such work will naturally fall to the lot of the retired farmer who returns to the land.

The old-fashioned hand jobs still have to be done in good farming, and the man who intends to farm thoroughly will be wise if he make it his business to learn how to do them, and he must not consider himself a superior person just because the older hands give him the running of up-to-date machinery rather than allow him to spend valuable time learning the fine points of important work that does not make so big a showing, though it is equally important. As things are now, farming will have to be learned backwards by the greenhorn, in the light of the old-time practice, and the man or boy who wishes to make himself useful on the farm should learn all he can about machinery and horses.

A thorough knowledge of the operating of up-to-date farm machinery, both horse and power-drawn, should be required of Agricultural school and college students, so that as managers or helpers on the farm these men could be of first-class use. With farm help as scarce as it is at present, hand-work will have to be avoid-

ed as much as possible, and hands who are incapable of anything else will have to accept wages in proportion to their value as producers.

It would be a pity and a great loss to the very important live stock end of farming if root and corn crops were neglected in the matter of hoeing, thinning and weeding, and it is here that women on the farms could do valuable work without danger of physical or other injury to themselves.—From "Mail and Empire."