THE FARM AND HOME.

VALUABLE POINTS ON THE MATTER OF PLOWING.

One of the Easiest Parts of Farm Work-The Desirable Size-Making Compost - Farm Notes and Home Hints.

Points on Plowing.

Here are a few points which if well carried out make of plowing one of the easiest as well as pleasantest parts of farm work. The first thing must be a good team—one that can be made to work right together, and not be half a length apart; team quick and easy to the bit, and that when you strike a stone do not either set back in the coilar or lunge ahead, but steadily hold onto their pull on your plow. Such a team as this can be driven as straight as a line can be drawn. Next to a perfect team comes a good plow, and in this day one cannot well go amiss, for the skill of manufacturers has given us a firstclass plow select of whom you may. To many and perhaps most farmers the team and plow in perfection would seem to be all that was required, and to take the field and go ahead is all right, and a fine piece of of plowing would be easily done. But there are several things yet that if not heeded would spoil the whole of the first two points. The manner of hitching to a plow and how you handle it are of far more importance than all other things combined. A short time since I saw a farmer plowing. and to watch his motions one would think he was training for a wrestling match by the positions he took with legs and arms. Becoming somewhat interested I went into his field to see where the trouble lay, says a writer in the Country Gentleman. He had a plow that was made to cut a furrow of from 11 to 16 inches and was using a set of whilletrees that had an evener 4 feet 2 inches long. His team drawing from a center were calling for that plow to take a furrow at least 24 inches wide, and to avoid this he was running the plow rooted on to the landscape to keep it somewhere near its width of furrow. Besides his team were as near the plow as possible and not hit the whilfletrees with their heels, and to get the depth he wanted he had hitched his team next to the top notch of the plow clevis, which put his plow on the point at the first move.

here were two mistakes that if remedied would make such a difference that this man could step in behind the same plow and team and hardly realize he was doing any work except to walk along and start in at the end of his furrow. His opinion of plowing was that it was the hardest work on the farm. To convince him to the contrary I sawed his evener down to 28 inches in length, and let out his traces or tugs two holes. making from 6 to 8 inches in length. This gave us a chance to put the whimetrees into the hole in the plow clevis that drew from pear the lower side of the beam and still get the depth wanted. The shorter evener left his plow to set level to the ground and the draft at plow clevis leveled it in the other direction. The look of astonishment on the man's face when he cut his next furrow showed something of what he thought about a little study on the matter of how to hitch to a plow.

Here is a good outline for getting ready to plow: Measure your plow from the rear of mold-board to the width of land-side—this gives width of furrows it cuts; use an evener twice the length of this measure. Set the wheel in notch that gives the depth you want. Let your team out in harness so their draft brings the wheel just fairly solid to the soil and you are in shape, provided you have plained. This is important for this

a good team to do good work easily. Never attempt to lay out a land to plow without measuring it off first. and set stakes to line your first furrows. Make yourself believe if possible that a straight furrow or a straight row of corn or potatoes will grow a better crop and you will soon become an expert plowman. would not plew land and around it especially to turn to left, and with my team (when the soil is just turned up light and soft) tread it all down so hard that it is never harrowed su ficiently to make it mellow like the rest of the field. Never quit a piece until you have put the earth furrow up in the dead furrow. In starting a back furrow the first two furrows should be cut only about one half the depth that you intend to plow. This does away with leaving a ridge across the field; do the same with the two sod furrows, and your dead furrow does not leave a ditch in the field, and when seeded down you will have a smooth, even surface for mowing machine or reaper.

The Desirable Size.

Is a large size always desirable? A Western writer says: "Randall said that carcass is the first point to be regarded, even in fine wooled sheep, for on its form and constitution depends the health of the animal." That was a very true saying, and, while I admire large sheep, my experience has been that medium-sized sneep generally have the best constitution, and they consume food in proportion to their size. Then, if three of medam size produce as much or more wool and mutton than two of large size, do they not pay equally as well? I fear that some of our sheep men are running wild on size, as they did a few years ago on folds or wrinkles. Fineness style, evenness of quality through the fleece, density and length of staple, are all very essential to constitute a good fleece. It is, and always has been admitted by fine wool sheep-breeders that a certain amount of yolk is necessary, and enough of the white or cream color to produce a dark surface is very desirable, but the yellow or beeswax gum is very objectionable. Although a gummy sheep may shear thirty or forty pounds. I have no use for him. The real intrinsic value is in the amount and quality of scoured wool produced by the sheep.

Miking Compost.

The French farmers have been in the habit of turning every kind of rubbish on the farms, and that can be gathered from any other sources, into fertilizers for the abundant crops they produce. And this habit explains why the average products of those farms are two or three times as large as those on this side of the water. Even the brushwood is collected with the coarse weeds and burned slowly in heaps covered with earth, so as to collect the nitrogenous matters contained. Thus the ashes afford soluble fertilizer immediately available, without the loss of the nitrogen of the otherwise wasted matters. This is a useful hint to farmers who are willing to study economy in every way and make valuable use of every waste thing around them.

The methods of making a compost is this: A layer of the materials gathered is spread on some suitable place and liberally sprinkled with lime. Some stable manure is then spread on this. This acts as the ferment to start the decomposition, which is rapid once it begins. Then another layer of the coa se stuff is spread, and earth from a field, or some place where the soil is rich in vegetable matter that is partly decomposed, then the lime, and then the manure. As even a mixture is made as possible, for the purpose of securing the mutual action of one upon another, which has been ex-

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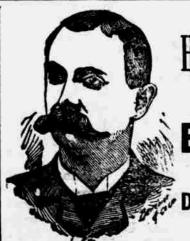
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