

ECONOMIES IN FARMING PRACTICE.

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THE economies in farming practice touched upon in the following notes are applicable to conditions in this country, and some of them already obtain here. It is claimed, however, that their adoption more or less generally, as governed by conditions, would be of all-round benefit. In treating various aspects of the subject a certain element of repetition with regard to previous *Journal* contributions by the writer has been unavoidable, but there are many factors in agriculture which continue to require the giving of periodic prominence. A definite sequence has been followed, so far as possible, in the presentment of the different factors in economy.

Land insufficiently drained is occasionally met with in process of treatment with lime and fertilizers. To the practical farmer this readily appeals as largely a waste of money and time; and this is the correct view to take, for land that is waterlogged or practically so will not make sufficient use of either lime or fertilizers. The land must first be treated from the physical standpoint before it can be treated from the chemical point of view. Fortunately, this error in farming, involving as it does wasteful expenditure, is not a prevalent one; but a practice that is somewhat akin to it is perhaps more common—the working of the land when too wet. Needless to state, this is a great mistake. Rather than work land when it is wet the farmer would be better employed seated within the house. The cultivation of wet land promotes a bad physical condition of the soil, the particles adhering together in great aggregates rather than in more or less single-grain structures, and these aggregates upon drying out promote a baked, clodded condition. On the other hand, the working of certain soils—refractory clay soils in particular—when slightly moist, facilitates the operation and promotes the desirable single-grain-structure condition.

The purchase and haulage of lime in form suited to the soil and situation is an important economic phase of the second essential factor in soil-treatment. Where there is a choice of using either burnt lime or carbonate of lime (ground limestone) for soils requiring lime, the latter form should be used in all cases, provided (1) that the price is not more than half to two-thirds the price of the burnt form, (2) that the freight is negligible and the haulage from the railway is not a big item, (3) that