

result whether the mangolds had been frosted or not.

It is probable that you could transplant the beet from a nursery bed in the same way as is sometimes done with mangolds. It has been claimed, however, that this practice does not

produce such a well-shaped root as direct sowing, and also that with certain varieties there is some risk that a proportion of the plants will "bolt" to seed instead of producing properly developed roots.

## Water-proofing Jute Cow Covers

L.L.O. (CAMBRIDGE):—

Could you supply me with particulars for a suitable dressing for water-proofing and preserving jute cow covers?

(1.) Would boiled linseed oil and lamp black be satisfactory, and is there any advantage in using the latter?

(2.) Would a mixture of Stockholm tar be any better?

FIELDS DIVISION:—

(1.) The following methods have proved satisfactory:—Dissolve 5oz alum in one gallon of boiling water, and 4oz sugar of lead in one gallon of boiling water. Mix together and stand over-

night; then pour off clear liquid and throw away sediment. Soak covers in solution and move about till thoroughly wet; then squeeze (but do not wring) partly dry; repeat the dipping, squeeze out again and dry.

(2.) Paint the stretched-out covers with a mixture of two parts of boiled linseed oil and one part of raw linseed oil well mixed together. This should be well worked into the canvas, which should be hung in a dry airy place until dry. Another light coat can be given if thought necessary.

(3.) Satisfactory results can also be obtained by spraying the canvas with tar and fat mixed together and applied as hot as possible.

## It Pays To House Implements

IT has been said—and with a great deal of truth—that the average farm implement rusts away far more rapidly than it wears away. Strange as it may seem, the average farmer will freely spend quite considerable sums on expensive farm machinery, use this equipment for the seasonal work on hand, and then leave it in a state of neglect until required again.

In the accompanying illustration these points are well exemplified. A mower and hayrake were bought for last season's harvesting, and, since then, have stood in a yard, where they have become partly overgrown by weeds. In this instance perhaps the worst feature was that within a few yards a perfectly sound shed was available and empty, while these valu-

able implements were needlessly exposed to the weather.

Implements are expensive enough in normal times—quite sufficiently so, at any rate, to warrant great care of them being taken. At present, the probability is that they will become more costly, and, perhaps, considerably more difficult to procure. Hence, it is very desirable that every effort should be made to prolong their life, and this can be achieved by housing them more efficiently.

Moreover, housed implements can be checked over during wet weather. Bright surfaces, such as plough mouldboards, disc blades, cultivator tines, etc., can be adequately smeared with old oil, worn parts can be replaced, and any temporary repairs in the

past season can be made good with more permanent fittings.

Housing will then serve a twofold purpose by protecting equipment and enabling the farmer to have his implements in first-class working order for the busy season ahead.

—C. WALKER, *Instructor in Agriculture, Thames.*



Money down the drain. Here is a perfectly good piece of machinery left to rust.

## 'THE BIRDS ARE SINGING AGAIN'



Word has just been received that Spring Steel, ordered in Nov., 1939 to manufacture 'Bevin' Harrows has just been rolled. We have still a very limited stock on hand, but as there is no certainty when our new stocks will arrive here, we advise you to order NOW in order to avoid any delay to yourself, which would be unavoidable by delayed delivery of the steel which generally happens.

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