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Orchard Grass.

SIR,—You would much oblige if you would tell me the best time and best way to sow orchard grass, and how much seed I should sow in a half acre.

P. R., Tyrell.

[We quote the following from the *N. Y. Tribune*, which coincides with our views:—"Having had a number of years' experience with orchard grass, I will state some things I have learned about sowing it and growing it. In the first place, it is so good a grass, and lasts so long in the ground, that it pays to seed it well to begin with. I have seeded several pieces, and done it at different times of the year, and have found that what was sown the latter part of August did much the best; so much so that I would not depend on any other time of seeding, and when the ground is once well stocked with it, it will seem to run out any other grass or clover and permanently occupy the ground for a long term of years. I would recommend manuring the lot this spring; then, if the soil is strong enough to bear it, plant to early potatoes, that can be dug by the 1st of August, and the ground fitted to sow to orchard grass by the middle of the month. Or, if it can be afforded to sow it to peas or oats to plow under, it can thus be fitted for the grass early, as before stated. If a good seed-bed is made and the season favorable, two bushels will seed an acre very well to the grass alone, and not in connection with any grain crop. Sown at this time of the year the weeds seldom grow to interfere with it, and it obtains so good a start as to stand the winter well, and yield a full stock of grass for mowing the following year (or following spring, I might say), for it gives its best full crop for mowing about the last of May, after which it would be best to use as pasture. It should be sown from the 15th of August to the 1st of September, and I have sown clover with it at the same time, which did well for a year or two. I have also sown about two bushels of oats with it to grow up with the grass in the fall, and stand for a winter protection to it, and then its deadened leaves will act as a mulch over the ground in the spring, helping to give it an early start."—H. IVES, Genesee Co., N. Y.]

Varieties.

SIR,—It has been said that "variety is the spice of life"—so though my productions may not be very important, they may add to the variety, should you deem them worthy of a place in your interesting paper.

In your last number, on "Flax Culture," you say: "About twenty years ago the cultivation of flax may be said to have commenced in Ontario. Before that the only flax grown in the country was some small plots sown by the colonists for home use."

It is in reference to these "old times" I wish, by your permission, to make a few remarks.

In those olden times it seemed as indispensable to provide clothing and bedding as to raise wheat for bread, and consequently, when the price of cotton was fifty cents per yard, and scarce even at that, as was the money in this then wooden country, we, the pioneers, calculated as much on raising and manufacturing flax for summer clothing, bedding, bagging, &c., as we did of utilizing the wool from our sheep (spun by our women) for our winter use; and as we accommodated ourselves to our circumstances, we lived in simple, frugal style—were healthy, happy and independent, not even feeling the want of the fabrics now manufactured in our own country, and still more imported and piled up in the stores of our cities, towns and villages all over our now improved country. What changes time has wrought! I have myself raised and cleaned hundreds of pounds of flax by hand, and I am aware there are others, I presume thou-

sands, still living, of similar experience, but improvements have succeeded each other and perhaps steam has been the greatest agent in revolutionizing the world.

I have seen the day when there were not even steel springs to ride on; now the power of steam drives the cars on the rails with almost lightning speed, and instead of two mails passing through from Quebec to Maldon in a year, as at a former time, it now passes through in a few days by the power of steam. Cotton, formerly manufactured and woven by hand, and brought here and sold at fifty cents per yard, is now manufactured and woven by steam, and sold here at ten cents per yard. Traveling by land or water is now accomplished with speed by steam, and its power has almost superseded the hand work of the mechanic, and what was formerly done in weeks or months by hand is now performed in a day or two by steam power—and hence the over production at times.

I am aware that in these later times our Government has expended considerable sums of money in employing agents to pass through the country to instruct the farmers how to raise flax, but I then thought that it was only a waste of money. But as improvement is still the order of the day, I hope to see, ere many years pass by, some enterprising individuals or companies erecting factories for supplying at least the coarser linen fabrics, cordage, &c., now imported, thereby affording to farmers the necessary inducement to go again into the flax-raising business, to some extent, by the prospect of a home market, thus retaining our money in the country and affording employment to our mechanics; but I never expect to see the flax-raising business so generally introduced into this country in proportion to the population as it was formerly.

In a back number of the *ADVOCATE* I noticed reference being made to cellars built rat and mouse proof.

My cottage was built with field stone in 1857. The cellar was dug eight inches on each side larger than the house, and five inches deeper than the bottom inside; this trench was dug eight inches into the cellar all around, and then flagged or laid with flat stone so close that a mouse could not get through. On this pavement the wall was built, having a projection of eight inches both outside and inside, so that mice or rats going down next the wall, as they not unusually would do, would come on the pavement or eight-inch projection, and not knowing how to get round it, would return out again. The wall and every part of the house was carefully built, so that no place of harbor should be found for these vermin. And no mouse or rat has ever gone through or under the wall. Mice have at a few different times got in the cellar by the door being carelessly left ajar in the evening, or the screen being left out of one of the windows when the sash was up, but as they found no place to harbor, they were soon caught; and we have no rat or mouse in the house, cellar or garret.

P. F., Burlington.

Turnip Culture.

SIR,—As the time is drawing near when farmers in general begin to think of stirring their land for roots, I thought that a few practical hints as to the best mode of cultivating turnips might not be out of the way.

For several years past I have been very successful in this line of farming, and my success is owing to the following rule of cultivation:

In the first place, I plow my ground in the fall, and in the spring, if it is old land, I give it a good covering of well-rotted compost, which I plow under. I then harrow and roll it, and let it lay until I want to sow my turnips.

When I want to sow I plow the ground very deeply; then cultivate, harrow and roll it until it is free from lumps of all sorts. If stony, I take good care to pick them all off, as they are a nuisance when sowing. I generally put about a pound and a half of seed per acre, in drills about 24 or 28 inches apart.

I always roll after sowing the drills, if the ground is any way dry, so that it will retain the moisture and thus throw a quick, healthy growth. Once the plants appear, I watch to see whether the bugs cut any of the leaves, and if they do, I take my sculler and thoroughly work the ground between the drills, which is sure destruction to the pests.

When the plants are large enough to thin, I again run through them with the sculler to cut up any weeds or thistles that may have sprung up between the drills. I then thin them to about 10 or 12 inches apart.

Between haying and harvest, if time allows me, I again cut out the weeds with the hoe, and scuffle the ground, in order to keep it loose, and if the ground is not thistly this will suffice; but if very thistly I again take the hoe about the middle of September, and if the thistles are well cut out this time the ground is in first-class condition for a crop of spring wheat the ensuing year, which will be free from thistles, wild oats or any other weeds with which our West Gwillimbury farms are infested to so ridiculous an extent.

New soil requires the same process of cultivation, with the exception of barn-yard manure, in place of which I supply lime or ashes, which enrich the ground, as well as to do away with numberless grubs which would otherwise destroy so many young plants, and thus hinder the evenness of the crop.

I also heard of another mode by which the plants may be preserved from the ravages of the fly, and which I mean to give a trial. This is simply to put about a tablespoonful of turpentine to a pound of turnip seed.

I cannot say as to the verity of the latter mode, but the former process is a fact of experience, and if followed out would do away with the report of so many failed crops of turnips. I would like this to be laid before the large number of intelligent readers of the *ADVOCATE* through its columns.

S. W., Lloydtown.

SIR,—Now that Canadian horses bring first price in the English market it may interest your readers to trace the successive steps by which we have attained that celebrity.

Early in the settlement of Upper Canada it was enacted that every stallion be assessed at \$1,000, a sum then equal to two good average farms, thus insuring a good class of sires.

The first of these were the Foxhunters, Postboy and Wild Arab, the stock of the latter better known as the Nimrod breed. Alibey, Prospect, Manolepen, Trueten, and other thorough-breds. For general purposes, Sir Archer, imported from Virginia with a drove of excellent mares and geldings, Royal George, Brilliant, Duroe, Tamworth, Anglo Saxon &c.; and for heavy draught the Clydes, and some French from the Lower Province.

The arrival of the military gave an impetus to the raising of riding and buggy horses, and since then the continual drain of our best animals rather lowered the standard, till the American war swept away the refuse. To prevent the occurrence of a similar depletion, and to insure the continuance of the success already attained, I would suggest that every entire horse, over two years old, be taxed \$50, as no inferior animal would then be kept to deteriorate our now far-famed breed of horses.

CENTOUR.

SIR,—I sometimes think I should like to offer a little correspondence occasionally. I have had twenty years' experience as an agriculturist, and observe closely many things in connection therewith. I have adopted a system of drainage which I find very satisfactory after several years of trial, and which, I feel certain, would afford satisfaction in very many cases where better material cannot be readily obtained. I have some 4,000 feet of this style of drain in use, and some of it laid 10 years, and to all appearance as good as when first laid down, except, perhaps, a few feet from the outlet where the lumber is exposed to the air, and which can easily be renewed when necessary.

My plan is as follows:—I get Hemlock Lumber, (which should be cut out of green logs), cut into the following widths, viz: 3, 4 and 5 inches wide, and 1 inch thick. I nail the 3 inch and 4 inch together at right angles, using about 6 nails in the 12 feet length. I then invert them on to the 5 in. piece and nail on each side sufficient to hold together, about 4 nails on each side. The shape is something like this: and gives an internal area of say 4 square inches more or less. Now a man and boy with a hammer and nails at each end, and a saw at one end to saw off any uneven lengths of lumber can readily make from 30 to 40 of the 12 feet pipes or tubes in an hour, then cart rails to your drain and lay them alongside the ditch, which requires to be dug straight to facilitate the laying, and also to have an even bottom. Now, all being ready, two hands can lay them in very rapidly, keeping the joints well butted together, and if any joints are too open, lay a small flat stone or chip over it to prevent the rail from washing down, then cover in the soil, and my word for it,