

spring and late planting, as it was with us. June 89.8 points, July 81.6, August 70.1, "which is the lowest condition ever recorded in these reports."

Barley.—82.8 points—greatly injured by drought in the N.-W. States, and in Kansas.

Cotton.—The average number of points for this crop in the eleven producing States is 91.1—so we shall have plenty of cotton-seed cake to make up for the loss of corn and oats.

Potatoes.—"The consolidated county returns of our correspondents make the August condition of the potatoes the lowest ever reported. The average condition for the crop of the whole country has fallen off 14.3 points during the month, and new stands at 77.4. Such a decline in one month is unprecedented, and illustrates the disaster which has overtaken the crop over a large district. The only approach to the present depressed prospect was in 1887, when the average declined from 93.2 in July to 80.8 in August and 61.5 at time of harvest, the average yield per acre being only about 57 bushels."

One thing is certain, and in view of this terrible state of things among our neighbours: we are pretty nearly sure of a plentiful aftermath. Those who have a second-cut of clover would do well to ensile it, if they have the means, if not, it should be made into hay at once, for all kinds of imported cattle food must be dear this winter. There are already great complaints of the potato crop in Ireland, and both corn, oats, and, in fact, all grains and pulse, are rapidly rising in the English market, which must, sooner or later, tell on ours.

Price of cheese.—Surely, there must be some mistake in the quotations of the cheese-market! Eight and a-half cents is given as the highest price in the Montreal market, and yet a Montreal grocer charged me twenty cents a pound for a very moderate cheese on the 18th of August. The cheese, he said, was Canadian Cheddar. I am not much acquainted with the grocery business, but it seems to me that with a profit of 150%, the trade should be a highly remunerative one.

A. R. J. F.

SEASONABLE NOT. S.

CUTTING OATS GREEN.

In the spring, attention was called in this column to the advisability of cutting oats green which are intended for home consumption. Now that harvest is approaching it may be useful to once more ventilate this idea, which cannot claim to be entirely a novel one. The cutting of oats and beans before they are ripe has long been practised, as, for example, by the late Mr. Mechi, who advocated the system. Since ensilage has been a prominent method of storing green fodder, the system of cutting oats green and placing them in silos has also been advocated, especially by Mr. Eckroyd. The plan is, therefore, not an original novelty by any means, and this is in itself some recommendation, because it does not come before us as a mere fancy.

The principle upon which the cutting of oats green is based is that after corn of any kind has bloomed, it no longer takes nourishment from the soil or air but only from itself. Starch, albuminoids, fat, &c., have accumulated in the stems, leaves, and roots, and at this particular stage of growth a migration or shifting of component parts begins to take place, and the nutrient properties of the plant concentrate themselves in the seed. Etiolation, or blanching of the stem and leaves, takes place, and the "blood" flows to the head. There is no increase of weight, but rather the reverse, as water is evaporated. There is no increase of nutrient matter, but only a concentration of them in the grain. If this teach-

ing, which is now inculcated by chemists and physiologists, is correct, we may well ask why we should allow the repairing process to go on? It certainly, at first sight, seems a little rash to cut a fine crop of oats when quite green, but if the above principles are to be relied upon it might just as well be out then as later. We believe in the theory just propounded. We do not think that wheat, barley, or oats, are ever of greater nutritive value as stock foods than after, say, the grain is half-formed. In the case of barley or wheat, the money value is much increased during ripening, but in oats intended for horse keep it is not probable that the money value is increased by ripening. Every farmer knows that oat straw is at its best before it is ripe, and all we ask is to extend this principle just a little further and cut them green. We should then advise drying them in the air, and stacking them with a view to cutting them up with chaff for horses, cows, and other live stock.

THE ADVANTAGES OF THIS METHOD

are very considerable and may be summed up as follows:—First, harvest operations would be simplified, as pressure of work would be relieved at a very busy season. Secondly, the land would be cleared early, and a better opportunity would be secured for cleaning the ground and at once getting in trifolium, early vetches, or other fodder crops; or even of sowing stubble turnips. Thirdly, the weeds would not be allowed to seed; as thistle, docks, and charlock run riot during the ripening of a crop, and tower above the heads of the corn in a manner which is exceedingly provoking to witness. Fourth, a crop cut in this manner will be more easily secured, and be less exposed to such risks as blowing out, or damage from wet. These are very solid advantages, which might be well set against any fancied, or real, increase in value from ripening.

EXTENDING THE PRINCIPLE.

If the above reasoning is accepted, it is not difficult to push the same principle a little further. Where a large head of stock is maintained, it is desirable to consume as much of the crops at home as possible. Buying cake is just as expensive as growing fodder, and the condition of a farm is better kept up when a small proportion of grain finds its way to market. We, therefore, have for long advocated lowering the corn area, and confining it to land in high condition capable of yielding really remunerative crops.

Again, if an oat or barley crop is to be grown for home consumption, it is converted into beef, mutton, wool, and milk, and it certainly would seem good policy to grow crops capable of making the largest amount of these saleable commodities, and not to restrict ourselves to grain. We think that a good piece of mangel or of swedes after turnips is just as profitable as straw crops intended for home use. If not, we would ask why not? In neither case is the crop to be directly realised, but indirectly as already indicated. The crop which would yield the most beef, mutton, milk, &c., is the best for the purpose, and the expense of growing roots after roots is not greater than that of growing oats after roots. They might be placed side by side as follows:—

EXPENSE OF GROWING SWEDES AFTER TURNIPS.			EXPENSE OF GROWING OATS AFTER TURNIPS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
1 plough.....	0	10 0	1 plough.....	0	10 0
4 drags.....	0	4 0	4 drags.....	0	4 0
2 harrows.....	0	1 0	2 harrows.....	0	1 0
Drilling.....	0	2 0	Drilling.....	0	2 0
3 lbs. of seed at 8d.....	0	2	3 bushels of seed at 2s.6d.....	0	7 0
2 cwt. superphosphate...	0	6 0	Rolling and harrowing...	0	2 0
3 horse-hoeings.....	0	3 0	Harvesting.....	0	15 0
2 hand-hoeings.....	0	9 0	Thrashing and marketing...	0	7 0
	£1	17 0		£2	9 0