

The first prize was awarded to Mr. David Quantril, Hamilton Township, Northumberland Co., Ont. The plot selected for the experiment was manured in 1889 with barnyard manure at the rate of twenty tons to the acre, and planted with corn. In 1890, oats were grown and the land seeded down, and in 1891 hay was cut off it. The ground was plowed in the fall, and again on May the 12th of this year, eight inches deep. The furrows for the potatoes were opened up thirty inches apart and four inches deep, and 600 lbs. of Freeman's Potato Manure were sown in the drills and mixed with the soil, and 600 lbs. scattered broadcast and harrowed in. The kinds of potato sown were the Burbanks and the Rural New Yorker No. 2. Medium-sized whole ones only were used for seed. They were planted on May 24th, 960 lbs. of tubers being used, and they first appeared above ground on June 3rd. They were harrowed and kept clean by repeated scuffings and hoeings, and were dug by hand on September 20th, when the amount of merchantable potatoes proved to be 300 bushels, and there were besides 15 bushels of small ones. In spite of the unfavorable season, scarcely a rotten potato was to be seen.

The second prize was won by Mr. Henry Pickett, Clarkson, Ont. The soil in this instance was light sand, on which strawberries had been grown for the last three years. In 1889, twenty tons of barnyard manure were applied, and in 1891 the land was top-dressed with twenty tons of stable manure. The ground was plowed nine inches deep on the 16th of May, and the drills for potatoes marked out thirty-two inches apart and four inches deep. In all, 2,200 lbs. of the potato manure was used, 600 lbs. being sown broadcast and harrowed in. 400 lbs. were sown before plowing, 600 lbs. were dropped in the drills, and 600 lbs. were worked in over the crop. The Freeman and Rural New Yorker No. 2, cut two eyes to a set, were the varieties sown, the seed being cut the day before planting, which was done on May 26th, the total quantity of seed used being 930 lbs. The total number of hills in the plot was 9,360. The 11th of June was the first day on which they commenced to appear above the ground. The ground was harrowed twice, and scuffed and hand-hoed three times. The wet weather early in the season, and the drought in July and August, had an appreciable effect in lessening the yield, which amounted to 251½ bushels of saleable potatoes and 30 bushels of small ones. They were dug with forks during the period from October 20th to 24th.

The next in order on the list was Mr. John Armour, Victoria Road, Ont., who planted the Rural New Yorker No. 2 variety, cut to one and two eyes, the drills being thirty-four inches apart and four to six inches deep, the amount of manure applied being 1,200 lbs. The total amount of tubers harvested was 264½ bushels, of which 255 bushels were fit for marketing—a larger quantity of these than was obtained by the second-prize winner, but the total of large and small together is less.

The next two in order of merit were Mr. Francis Peck, Albury, Prince Edward Co., Ont., and Mr. J. M. Thomas, Mohawk, Ont.; but their yields were considerably below the other three mentioned. A good return was that of C. H. Hulet, Norwich, Ont., whose total was 299½ bushels; but, as he had applied a quantity of barnyard manure in the spring, he was ruled out of the contest.

This season has been a very poor one for potatoes, and the yields here recorded are by no means what might be expected in a fairly favorable season.