

to the beam of the plow, with a weight on the end of chain. This chain drags the leaves down into the furrow and they are entirely covered. This, I am satisfied will return as much to the soil as the potatoes have taken out. (1) This will cover the cultivation of early potatoes.

For later or fall potatoes there are several methods one can follow. They can be planted on poorer and dirtier soil as they have more time to grow in, and they help to make up the land. For late potatoes, the manure should be plowed down either in fall or spring, not put in drills for two reasons; 1st, if the land is loose, in a dry season manure in drills will make it too dry, and 2nd, if the potatoes rot, it might cause them to rot more.

The quantity of manure depends on the nature of the soil, from 20 to 30 cartloads per acre. I would strongly advise plowing for potatoes from meadow or pasture, (2) but the land must be plowed and harrowed very early the season before to allow the sod time to rot. Some condemn the harrowing, I find it helps to rot the sod, but the furrows and rigoles must be kept clean. On such land, potatoes will be much more productive and of a better quality. But where they are to be planted in stubble which is dirty, I would advise two plowings in the fall to lighten the soil and clean it, and also plow and work in the spring.

In about ten or fifteen days, harrow down the drills with a light pair of double harrows, leave them three or four days, then mould up again with the double mould-board plow. The next day or so harrow them down again. This harrowing and moulding will only do the potatoes good, and save much hoeing, which is a great economy.

The selection of the seed potatoes has a great deal to do with the crop. The seed should be changed often, getting it from an entirely different soil. It is not necessary to buy for all the crop, just a few bushels to provide for seed. Nearly every farm has two or three kinds of soils and the change can be made at home. When doing so, plant large and nice uniform potatoes, which will prevent the seed from degenerating. In any case where a farmer plants small or middle-sized potatoes, care should be taken that the product should not be mixed with the seed potatoes.

(1) Doubtful. Ed.

(2) We, on the contrary, hold that potatoes, like all hoed-crops, should be the first crop of the rotation. Ed.

They should all be disposed of and not planted again for they will produce an inferior crop, both in quantity and quality. (1) The hoeing should be well done, and for moulding, where the land is heavy the double mould-board plow can be used to advantage. Where the ground is light use the cultivator with mould-boards. Where the land is wet and cold, as in clay, it is necessary to drill for the planting light and cover deeper. If heavy rains come on, the seed is kept up out of the water and cold wet soil. Many farmers have no light or dry soil suitable for potatoes; these could very much improve their land by subsoiling. Not to bring the subsoil to the surface, but to plow 6 inches deep and follow that with another team having a rooting plow, or iron plow with mould-board off and a broad sock on, going at a depth of 6 or 7 inches or more if possible. This would improve the quantity and quality of that and several succeeding crops. (2)

For some years the potatoes have been infested with the potato beetles, which from present appearances are likely to remain. At first, we fought them by picking them off by hand, then came Paris green and water in watering-cans. Then land plaster and Paris green in tins with perforated bottoms; next the wheel-barrow distributor taking two rows; followed by the horse distributor taking four rows, but the latest and best is the spray pump. It is the cheapest and most effectual. The pump is arranged on a hogshead, containing 120 or 140 gallons of water. Two rubber hose pipes with spray-nozzles are affixed and the apparatus placed in a cart. One man pumps and the other directs the spray. It takes from six to eight drills wide. We put in from 4 to 6 lbs. Paris green per hogshead. The usefulness of this pump does not stop here, it can be used at the same time in applying the Bordeaux mixture for preventing rot in potatoes. It can also be used in spraying fruit trees. A good one costs \$15.00. In localities where not many potatoes are planted several farmers might club together to get one. One hogshead of water and Paris green will cover four acres of potatoes.

GEORGE BUCHANAN.

Côte St. Michel, Montreal, P.Q.

(1) When we first went to Sorel, the farmers used to plant whole potatoes no bigger than "chats," or acorns! Ed.

(2) The effects of subsoiling heavy, undrained land never lasts through more than two seasons. Ed.