## GROWING ROOTS

## John Fixter,

BY

Macdonald College, P.Q.

The importrace of the root crop, for the economical feeding of all kinds of live stock, is long en vperimental stage. Dairymen and beef producers find that when roots cr. is keep in better condition, and the flow of milk and the production of A th lessened cost. Poultry-keepers and hog-raisers also find that when t. no grass, roots are the best and cheapest substitute. There is nothing fed to animals that is more relished. Roots appear to act as a tonic and help to make all other dry feed palatable. There is about 90 per cent. of water in roots, but this water seems to have a most beneficial effect upon the digestion of the animals. The feeding of roots will enable the feeder to diminish the quantity of meal in the ration, and thus lessen the cost of production, as meal is much more expensive. Eight pounds of roots are equivalent to one pound of meal. Roots have a corrective effect upon all animals which are being forced, especially with cows that are producing large quantities of milk, and with steers that are putting on large quantities of flesh.

Roots may be successfully grown throughout Canada. The Dominion census statistics report an acreage of 236,622 acres with an average yield of 402.36 bushels per acre, valued at \$21,444,000. On the Macdonald College farm the average yield was 1,009 bushels, the highest yield being 1,150 bushels per acre. If the crop of the Dominion had been equal to the one grown on the College farm, the value would have been \$53,823,000. This is more than double the amount of the Dominion yield, and yet does not reach the limit of production. Farmers might with profit devote larger acreage to the growing of roots.

## Soil.

Roots will grow on all soils that contain a reasonable amount of plant food and where the water does not come too near the surface. Should the field chosen have different kinds of soil, select the light soil for carrots, the medium for mangels and the heavy for turnips. Mangels, or sugar mangels, usually give good crops on peaty soil when a light coating of barnyard manure has been applied.

## Place in the Rotation.

Mangels, carrots, turnips, and sugar mangels do;best when sown on an overturned clover sod. If possible select a field that has had but one season's hay crop taken off. 20150-14