

and warmth, will make them comparative giants. The concentration of manure and its consequences, are plainly exemplified at our flower shows, where enormous masses of flowers and foliage are produced by one solid foot of prepared earth. In a state of nature forty times the quantity of soil would fail to produce similar results. No doubt the frequent application of moisture, when requisite, assists in producing this effect; but a knowledge of this fact should stimulate us to study irrigation, and apply our liquid manure to the roots when the plant is in vigorous growth, instead of wasting it in our horse-ponds. I know and can appreciate practically the effects of such applications.

—The necessity for diminishing the fixed expense by an increased produce, is illustrated by the statement of a first-rate north county farmer, who says that if he spends £1 per acre, or £600 per year, for artificial manures, he makes a profit—if he omits it he makes a loss. If stock is too dear, or you are short of capital, plow in green and root crops—particularly on heavy land.

—I may be asked why I attach so much importance to drainage. Why, you might as well ask me, why I attach importance to circulation, vital or momentary. Stagnated water, or stagnated air, are as ruinous to the plants as they would be to our own vitality. Fix a cork in the drainage-hole of your flower pot, and you will soon have a practical illustration of my meaning.

Essential Preliminaries to Profitable Farming.

A thorough knowledge of your business, practical and theoretical.

Ability to buy in the cheapest, and sell in the dearest market.

—To select the most able workmen of industrious and honest habits.

—To apportion rightly your land and capital.

—To maintain in economical efficiency the motive power, whether horse or steam.

Deep, frequent and clean cultivation.

Drainage of land not naturally filtrative.

Shelter for stock.

Efficient machinery and farm implements.

Ample (and judicious) use of purchased food and manure.

Rigidly correct farm accounts, posted daily from the cash book and journal.

Estimates of the cost and return of each crop in detail.

—Before I hired a farm I would take with me a laborer, and dig a hole in every field, to the depth of two or three feet, that I might know the character of the subsoil, for herein lies the prospect of your success or failure. The agricultural pie-crust, or plowed soil, to the depth of five inches, always looks pleasant enough and dark, but inside the pie you will too often find a most miserable contrast, inconceivably at variance with the deceptive surface which has been so long cultivated and aerated. There is nothing more instructive than the contents of a 5-foot drain cut through a field. Mere contents, when exposed to day-light, appeal forcibly to agricultural common sense with reproachful truth. It is in that five feet of subterraneity that you must look for your agricultural profit or loss; and yet I have seen many farms hired without a spadeful of earth being moved or examined; and I have seen many farmers, in a very brief period, leave farms so hired, minus their capital.

GERMAN ECONOMY.



LATE tourist in Germany describes the economy practised by the peasants as follows:—

"Each German has his house, his orchard, his roadside trees so laden with fruit that did he not carefully prop them up and tie together, and in many places hold the boughs together by wooden clamps, they would be torn asunder by their own weight. He has his corn plot, his plot for mangel wurzel or hay, for potatoes for hemp, etc. He is his own master, and therefore he and his family have the strongest motive for exertion. You see the effects of this in his industry and economy. In Germany nothing is lost. The produce of the trees and the cows is carried to market. Much fruit is dried for winter use. You see wooden trays of plums, cherries and sliced apples laying in the sun to dry. You see strings of them hanging from the windows in the sun. The cows are kept up in the greater part of the year, and every green thing is collected for them. Every little nook where the grass grows, by the roadside, river and brook, is carefully cut by the sickle, and carried home, on the heads of women and children, in baskets, or tied in large cloths. Nothing of the kind is lost that can possibly be made of any use. Weeds, nettles, nay the very goose-grass which covers the waste places, is cut up and taken for the cows. You see