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Root Culture.

In a paper read before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, John Fixter, Farm Superintendent at Macdonald College, Quebec, takes the ground that dairymen and beef-producers find that when roots are fed animals keep in better condition, and the flow of milk and the production of flesh increase with lessened cost. Poultry-keepers and hog-raisers find that when there is no grass, roots form 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 dry feed palatable. Mr. Fixter points out that the average yield of roots over Canada is 402.36 bushels per acre, and that the yield secured at the Macdonald College Farm was more than 1,000 bushels per acre. He goes on to describe how large yields may be secured in every Province of the Dominion, and then tells how to successfully harvest and store the crop. This paper, which is issued in pamphlet form for free distribution by the Publications Branch of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, concludes by saying that the greatest success in growing roots will be obtained when the following are observed: A systematic rotation of crops; roots to follow a fresh clover sod; manure once in the rotation; thorough cultivation in preparation for the crop, and after the roots are sown.

HILLS NO DRAWBACK.

In giving a few notes on a Western Virginia race meeting, a writer in The Horse World struck a humorous vein: "Yaas, it's a trifle rough down heah in Wes' Virginny," said an old resident to me the other day when I observed that if the wrinkles were ironed out of this State I'd like it better; "but it's allus been that-a-away. Reckon the Lord knowed best. Anyway, he suttently was good to us. Jest give us so much land down heah he had to stack it up for us; didn't have room to lay it down flat. And I tell ye, Colonel, it's a restful country to look at, and in other ways. Any time one o' us gets a little weary, we uns jest take a little nip and go out in the back yard and lean up against our doggoned old jaam an' take a rest."

In many of the mountain towns I passed through between here and Wheeling, I noticed that all vehicles, no matter how light, had brakes attached to them. There were no exceptions, and a glance at the roads that wound off into the hills explained why they were in use. Doctor Mortimer Price, a well-known veterinarian of Flemingsburg, Ky., and a native of this State, is here attending the races. "Doc," as everyone calls him, was raised near Clarksburg, and tells me that it was no uncommon thing in his section of the State to see the pigs that fed in the forests on top of some of the mountains, coming down to their pens at dusk with their hind toes stuck in their ears, and using their hocks for brakes. Doc didn't explain how they got up on the mountain.

An old neighbor of the family tells me that when Doc was a boy—only a few years ago—his father gave him a plot of meadow-land to look after on top of a high hill. Being of an inventive turn of mind, "Mortie" stacked his hay around a pole about 20 feet high, with a few boards nailed on the bottom for a platform. When winter came, and the ground was frozen and covered with a light fall of snow, Mortie took his "mewels" to his meadow-plot on the mountains, and hitching them to the top of the pole, pulled the stack of hay over and proceeded to "snake" it down the mountain-side to the barn. Everything worked lovely until the stack of hay got going faster than the mules, and as there was no brake on the outfit, the whole avalanche plummeted down the mountain-side, tearing out several valuable fruit trees. The haystack crashed through the barn doors and rolled over into the bay, where it belonged. The mules in the meantime had become detached from the pole in the mad whirl down the hillside; one of them caromed off from a big oak tree and landed in the corn-crib, while the other skidded along into the mill-collar. Just where the Price landed on his progressive young son is an easy guess.—James Clark.

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