

As clover is a 'perennial plant, it dies in the third or fourth year. Its greatest yield is generally the next season after sowing, the next crop is less plentiful, and the third is small. The third crop makes valuable manure for the field if ploughed in as preparatory to wheat.

From the first or second crop we obtain a supply of seed, in which case we cut early for hay; the clover then blooms strongly in time to cut and house it before autumn, and yields a full supply of seed. A bushel of seed weighs from sixty to sixty four pounds. It is wrong to feed off a clover lot by cattle either the first or second year. As a general rule it is advisable to sow timothy seed with clover when we intend to continue a field in grass, for when the clover ceases the timothy will be in full vigor, and together, they make most excellent hay.

Toronto, 11th Feb. 1856.

AGRICOLA.

* The common red clover is a biennial. It comes into use in the *second* year of its existence. It then dies. There is a variety known as *Trifolium pratense perenne*, perennial red, but the seed is costly, and Stephens says,—“It is questionable that its permanency should counterbalance the greater cost of seed.”—[Ed.]

SHARPENING EDGE TOOLS.

Messrs. Editors :—A German scientific journal has the following, which has been translated for the benefit of those whom it concerns.

“It has long been known, that the simplest method of sharpening a razor is to put it for half an hour in water to which has been added one-twentieth of its weight of muriatic or sulphuric acid, then lightly wipe it off, and after a few hours set it on a hone. The acid here supplies the place of a whetstone by corroding the whole surface uniformly, so that nothing further but a smooth polish is necessary. The process never injures good blades, while badly hardened ones are improved by it, although the cause of such an improvement remains unexplained. Of late, this process has been applied to many other cutting implements. The workman, at the beginning of his noon spell, or when he leaves off in the evening, moistens the blades of his tools with water acidified as above, the cost of which is almost nothing. This saves the consumption of time and labour in whetting, which more-over speedily wears out the blades.”

In reply to the suggestion contained in the last paragraph, I would say, it has been the practice from time immemorial, perhaps, for mowers in France, to keep their whetstones—the blue, or rag-stones—steeped in vinegar and water contained in a bullock's horn strapped at the back around the loins, fastened with a buckle in front; the acetous, answering, no doubt, the same purpose as the muriatic or sulphuric acid. The scythes used in France are the German, with long, straight handles, and blades that are sharpened by *hammering* instead of *grinding* the edge; so that, in all probability, when the German scythe came into use the mode of keeping the whetstone in acidulated water accompanied it. The German scythe is a most formidable weapon; I have seen a French mower carry a swathe in a heavy crop of grass full ten feet wide, and make the most perfect work, but it is herculean labor, and could not, one would suppose, be continued for any great length of time; and if used in competition with the American scythe, with its peculiarly-curved short snath and fixings, would, I guess, be found wanting in every thing but length.

L. N.

A PHRENOLOGIST POSED.—A travelling phrenologist stopped at a farm-house, the proprietor of which was busily engaged in threshing. “Sir,” said the traveller, “I am a phrenologist. Would you like me to examine the heads of your children? I will do it cheap.” “Well,” said the farmer, pausing between two strokes, “I rather guess they don't need it. The old woman combs 'em with a fine-tooth comb once a week!”