

or other long voyages, the first method is used and perhaps the best method known. JOHN WEATHERLY. *Geneva, N. Y.*

*Country Gentleman.*

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#### A MODEL FARM OF THE EMPIRE STATE.

One of the most interesting agricultural articles we have read for some time is the statement of G. W. Coffin of America, Dutchess Co., N. Y., to whom the New-York State Agricultural Society awarded the second premium of \$30 for good farm management. It will be found in the Transactions of 1854, just published.

#### Management of Grass Lands.

The farm contains 108 acres, 90 of which are improved. The soil on about two thirds of the farm, is a limestone loam; on the other third it was what is generally called black slate. Mr. C. thinks the best mode of improving the soil is to keep it stocked down to grass, taking care in pasturing not to allow too close feeding off, and such portions as have furnished the winter stock of hay, should receive a dressing of manure as soon after the hay has been removed as convenient. August the best time. A thick mat of grass left on the land in autumn, answers the double purpose of protecting it from the searching winds and biting frost, affording a rich bed of manure as well adapted to its growth as any that can be applied. In seedling clover land to grass, he is careful to give it a complete and thorough "breaking down," and a bountiful supply of timothy and clover seed.

#### Experiment with Manures on Grass.

Mr. C. tried Peruvian guano, superphosphate of lime, plaster, and ashes, as manures for grass, with the following results:

Lbs. hay per acre.	
Without any manure of any kind, . . .	2060
400 lbs. of Peruvian guano, . . . . .	4080
800 lbs. of plaster, . . . . .	2680
400 lbs. of superphosphate of lime, . . .	3040
Unleached ashes, 26½ bushels, . . . . .	3840

The cost of a ton of hay produced by the various manures over and above the natural yield, was, with guano, \$9.60; superphosphate, \$18.23; with plaster \$10.83; with ashes, \$3.60.

Superphosphate of lime was used on corn, a table-spoonful to the hill. *It had no apparent effect.*

#### Culture of Indian Corn.

Mr. C. has tried various methods of preparing seed corn, by soaking and rolling in different substances, but has abandoned the whole, and plants as it comes from the cob. He prefers "applying stimulants on the young plants as soon as they make their appearance." He uses plaster and ashes for this purpose—one part of the former to two of the latter, mixed, a small handful applied to two hills. He runs a steel tooth cultivator twice in a row, each way, a man following with a hoe to set up the injured corn and attend to such weeds and grass as are in and near the hill. As soon as the plants attain the height of about six inches, they are thinned out to four in a hill; another dressing of plaster and ashes is then applied, same quantity as at first, and by the time the corn is from 12 to 15 inches high, it has received its last cultivation by horse-power. We should have said that Mr. C. usually plants his corn on sod land that has lain down from 8 to 10, or even 15 years. He does not plow

till the last thing before planting. This gives the corn an equal chance with weeds and grass. Plows from 4 to 6 inches deep, harrows lengthwise of furrows, and marks with a drag 3 feet a part each way for medium sized varieties of corn, and farther apart one way for larger.

From experiments, Mr. C. finds that the most grain is obtained by cutting up corn at the ground and stocking.

After six years' careful experiment, with a view to ascertaining the relative value of seed corn from different portions of the ear, Mr. C. is compelled, against all former notions, to yield the palm to that from the *small end*. On different soils with like treatment, it, has out-yielded that from other portions of the ear, *in every instance* where care was taken to select those ears that were well rounded over at the little end—the increase reaching as high in some instances as at the rate of 1000 lbs. (22 bushels of ears per acre) Five times out of six, the *larger ends* have yielded more than the middle.<sup>25</sup> Have any of our readers made similar experiments? and if so with what result?

Mr. C. sows from one to two acres of corn for fodder, which is used to good advantage when pastures become dry in August or September. He turns over green sward from first of June to tenth of July, and sows at intervals of two weeks. Makes broad furrows, 3 feet apart, and scatters from 50 to 60 grains to the foot covering by passing the harrow once across the furrows.

Four times as much cured fodder he says, can be produced in this way as is generally taken from the same amount of ground in hay.

Mr. C. tried an experiment in suckering corn. When the suckers first began to appear, they were taken off alternate rows. They soon grew out, and were cut again; the third time cutting finished the growth. The corn was husked at the usual time, 50 hills left to grow without suckering, produced 47½ lbs.; 50 hills from which the suckers had been taken off, produced 57½.

#### Root Crops.

He raises four to five hundred bushels of carrots per acre, by turning a rich piece of greensward, and sowing in drills 18 inches apart, about the 1st of June. In this way he has little trouble with weeds. Ruta bagas, Mr. C. says, have failed for the last few years, in consequence of a rot similar to that of potatoes.

Guano was applied to oats, at the rate of 200 lbs. per acre. It advanced their ripening about six days. The same amount of superphosphate had no apparent effect.

Mr. C. plants his potatoes on corn stubble, and although not quite exempt, they are less affected by the disease than those of his neighbors. He attributes this to the absence of all rapidly fermenting substances. The potatoes, however, are small. He made an experiment on potatoes, with the following results:

10 hills without any manure, gave . . .	13 lbs.
Do with handful of fresh ashes . . .	6½ "
Do with handful of compost hen	
manure, . . . . .	19½ "
Do with handful of plaster . . . . .	19½ "

The manures were applied in the hill at the time of planting; the ashes proving too strong, but each of the others increased the yield at the rate of about 50 bushels per acre. We are surprised that plaster should have had as

great an effect as compost, though we have known it to act very beneficially on light, dry soils.

#### Irrigating Meadows.

There is a never failing stream of hard water running through the middle of the farm, a distance of one hundred and thirty rods, and in that distance falls sixty feet. It is taken from its entrance on the farm, and conveyed in an open ditch, along the sloping grounds that descend towards the natural stream, and turned out so as to spread over about five acres of meadow. The meadows are near the barn, and are fed down in the fall and spring, until they exhibit a prospect of no great yield of hay. The water is turned on generally the first week in April, and changed, from week to week, to different places until the fore part of June; when it is allowed to spread out upon a pasture lot.

"So enormous," says Mr. C., "has the growth of grass become by the last of June, that we often cut the heaviest portions, and secure them before the month is out. Three tons per acre have been cut from the watered portions, while that adjoining without water or irrigation, would scarcely yield a ton, though the soil and grasses were of the same nature." This is a gratifying result, and one which accords with the experience of all those who judiciously practise irrigation on grass lands. The Hon. A. B. Dickinson states, as our readers may recollect, that *hard water*, is valueless for irrigating purposes. The above is evidence, if such were needed, to the contrary.

#### The Dairy.

Mr. C. keeps five Cows. In the summer of 1852, an accurate account of their produce was kept from the 15th of April to the 15th of November. The number of lbs. of butter produced in this time, (214 days,) was 820½. Which, at 21 cents per lb, make . . . \$176.08  
5 calves sold at \$5 each, . . . . . 25.00  
2 quarts of milk, for family-use, per day, 214 days, at 2 cents, . . . . . 12.84  
Allowing each cow to produce 100 lbs of pork from skim milk, sold at \$8. . . . . 40.00  
3 quarts of milk per day for family, for 60 days, at 3c. . . . . 5.40  
Milk sold in 60 days, at 3 cents per quart . . . . . 36.25  
50 lbs. of butter made in winter, at 23 cents, . . . . . 11.75

\$307.32

This is \$61.26 per cow. Who can beat it?

The cows during the grass season have nothing but pasture. After the frosts began to appear, they were fed pumpkins twice a day, until they had eaten 20 cart loads. Hay and corn stalks form their winter food, except an old cow, that furnished the family with milk and butter through the winter—she had four quarts of corn meal and buckwheat bran, mixed, per day.

#### Sheep.

Mr. C. keeps thirty full blood South-Down sheep, and twenty Cotswold; the former sheared 3 lbs. 14 oz. of wool, and Cotswolds 6 lbs. In 1853, sold the wool altogether at 41 cents. In 1854, was offered 3½ cts. South Down wool is generally worth from 2 to 4 cents more than the Cotswolds. Mr. C. says:—

"I seldom have a ewe that does not produce one lamb, certain, and sometimes three.