

**The Russian Wheat Crop.**—The estimate of the Russian spring wheat crop given by the Central Statistical Bureau, of St. Petersburg, for sixty-three governments is 31,700,000 qrs., which, added to the estimate of the winter crop previously issued, 19,266,000 qrs., makes a total of 50,966,000 qrs. The figures for the spring crop do not include the production in Siberia; but, taking the area now covered by the report for 1893 and 1897, the total for last harvest comes out at about 15,000,000 qrs greater than that of the preceding season.

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**Fresh Manure** may with advantage be used for crops which have a long season of growth, while rotted manure, with its more available plant food, will give better results for such as gather their food and reach maturity during a shorter period. Excess of fresh manure tends to rankness of growth and the undue development of foliage, and is frequently the cause of lodging in grain and too much top or leaves in root crops.

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**Peas and Oats** cut green make good silage, or if dry cured make admirable hay. The peas are so heavy, however, that unless the weather is so clear and dry as to enable the peas and oats to be cured like clover, it is quite difficult to dry this fodder properly. Green rye does not make good silage. Of course it can be kept in that form, but it has a tendency to make stock scour badly. We would rather feed the rye direct to stock in its green state or after it is about half hayed. Or if cut before the grain has formed, the rye will make a very passable hay for winter feeding.

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**Care of Horse's Hoofs.**—The horse's foot should be given attention from birth. Trim into shape with pincers, provided for this purpose, using a rasp or knife to finish with. If the hoof is inclined to be

one-sided, correct this by trimming. On an ordinary farm there is no necessity for shoeing unless the hoof is brittle or tender in some way. More injury is caused by indiscriminate shoeing than any other way. The horse's hoof that has never been shod will stand ordinary farm usage without any difficulty, provided, of course, the horse does not inherit a tender or diseased foot.

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**Milk in England.**—The English farmers are having a good deal of trouble over the milk question. Foreign milk is sent from Sweden, France and Holland, in such quantities that the price of English milk is often cut down to almost starvation point. Another thing that hurts the English milk trade, is the importation of condensed milk, which is made from skimmed or separated milk. The producers demand that all cans of condensed milk must be plainly marked to show how much of the contents must be used to equal one pint of English milk. If the English farmer adds water to his milk, he is fined. If he sells separated milk as new milk, he is also fined. These Englishmen want the condenser to stand on the same footing, and they are right in making a standard and compelling a manufacturer to come up to it. There is an old English saying, "Never buy new milk from a butter farm." Probably most people who buy condensed skim-milk have an idea that they are buying the whole article. The English farmers understand, also, that thousands of their customers do not know what good milk is. They will have to begin a system of education, and show the people in town and city that milk ought to be a food as well as a beverage. Much the same thing is true in this country, for thousands and thousands of our townspeople have no idea how much better off they would be if they would spend a portion of the money now spent for meat and other articles of food in pure, rich milk.

### Cultivation of Growing Crops.

PROP. CHARLES W. BURKETT.

It is a good practice to cultivate growing crops before they are planted. Get the soil in good condition, so that the seed has a perfect seedbed and then even before the plants appear, we find it the best practice to go over with a fine harrow or weeder, to destroy the young weeds that always get the best start, because they start right from the top of the ground, whereas the seed for the crop is an inch or more below the surface.

This harrowing always leaves the surface in fine condition. Keeping down the weeds is the all-important thing with any growing crop. The weeds not only rob the plants of the needed fertility, but use a large amount of water, which is so necessary during the growing season. It is not a question as to how often we cultivate, but how thoroughly. The essential things are the destruction of the weeds and the breaking of the crust that forms after a rain.