

the case may be, and according as the Chinese or Imphee cane has been used. Instead of this clay process, filters containing animal charcoal may be used, as previously described. We have sometimes used clarifying agents, such as sulphate of lime, etc., but do not like them, and think it better to dispense with them, though they might be found of some service in removing the acidity of the juice.—*Agricultural Report.*

#### THE VETCH AS A FORAGE CROP.

**T**HES or vetches, although apparently but little grown by farmers in the United States, form in Lower Canada upon the more improved farms an important crop for summer feeding to cattle, and are considered a most useful and wholesome change of food for the working horses of the farm. I grew them last summer upon my weakest land, and I was convinced that hardly anything I could have sown would have given a return more generous. There is a species indigenous to Lower Canada, termed by Lawson of Edinburgh, the Canadian Lentil. This forage crop we find grown in all parts of Lower Canada. We find it upon the *terre neuve* of the Concessions, upon the farms of the habitant, yielding abundantly although grown without care, harrowed into the ground after being sowed with a few handfuls of oats. I mention this fact in order to remove an erroneous impression which some agriculturists with you have formed as to its being a difficult crop to grow. As to its resistance of drouth, its powers were fully tested this last summer, a summer during which the fall of rain was less than had been known for many years. The St. Lawrence had reached a point that rendered wharves useless, which in former seasons had afforded a landing to vessels requiring a great depth of water. The heat from June to September was constant and excessive, yet the crop of vetches was satisfactory, and upon my farm did the best of service in soiling my cows during the month of July, and it also afforded a second cutting in September.

The Vetch has thriven during the past summer of unusual heat and dryness, and in former seasons when drouth prevailed; and in such seasons it is that the vetch will prove itself of most value for the purpose of supplying green forage to stock. We regard the crop as one of paramount excellence, hardy, thriving upon poor soils,

where a fair crop of any other forage equally good would fail, resisting drouth, and fully repaying a thorough system of culture. If it cannot be grown in the United States, it is not from excessive heat or dryness. If it has not been grown successfully, the fault will, it is highly probable, have been in the seed. Lucerne grows well here, although we hear but little said of it in your agricultural newspapers. Its failure may be in part attributable to the same cause. We do not cultivate vetches in the admirable way in which they are cultivated in England. We find that we can grow good crops of them, merely sowing them broadcast, three bushels of vetches with one of oats. The oats are added to sustain the stems of the vetch, which otherwise would lie upon the ground, and a great part of the crop would rot. The weight of a full crop of vetches here, if the two cuttings were weighed green, would be found nearly equal to the weight of a crop of corn-stalks. They are relished by cows, and, in my dairy last summer, maintained the yield of milk produced by the previous feeding upon clover.

I consider the vetch, both the summer and winter variety, a most important forage crop, especially to dairy farmers in the vicinity of towns, for whom these letters have been mainly intended. In Scotland it is the practice to sow seed grown in England, being of quicker vegetation and producing a more vigorous plant. Might not seed grown in Canada be tried with equally good results in the State of New York? It would give me pleasure to send to the editors of your journal a few bushels of seed grown upon my farm, if any of your farmers in the neighbourhood of Albany wish to make a trial of the crop.

I subjoin a condensed account of the practice in the management of this crop in England and Scotland, and which is applicable to this country, by Mr. John Wilson, author of the article upon agriculture in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

*Vetches* are a very valuable forage crop. Being indigenous to Britain, and not fastidious in regard to soil, they can be cultivated successfully under a great diversity of circumstances, and are well adapted to poor soils. By combining the winter and spring varieties, and making several sowings of each in their season, at intervals of two or three weeks, it is practicable to have them fit for use from May till October, and thus to carry out a system of soiling by means