



**The Field.**

**Corn for Fodder.**

It is very doubtful whether any other green forage plant can be named, which, in this climate, yields so large a product per acre as Indian Corn. For soiling purposes, its value is very great. Sown about the first of June, so as to incur no risk from frost, it grows with wonderful rapidity, its broad long leaves drinking in from the sun and air the nutriment suited to its nature. It is valuable too as a crop for fodder, but the difficulty is so to cure and stack it as to avoid mildew and rot. This, however, can be done by proper care and attention. In the first place, to have good fodder, corn must be cut before the leaves and stalks begin to dry up;—in fact while it is yet green. So soon as the corn is glazed, it may be cut without detriment to the grain. The proper time may easily be ascertained by this rule even when corn is sown broad-cast, as there will always be stray stalks around the edges of the patch, which will mature ears. The second step is, to put the stalks up in shocks. Where material, such as oat straw, &c., can be had for bands, the best way is to make the bundles of a handy size, and then stack them somewhat after the manner in which grain sheaves are made into shocks. After husking, if a crop of grain has been the main object, or in the case of broad-cast corn, when the stalks are pretty thoroughly cured, the third part of the process will need attention, viz: storing up for winter use. A great blunder is often committed, that of stowing away corn stalks after the fashion of hay in a mow, in the barn. This is infallibly to spoil the whole. No matter how dry corn fodder may appear, there is always enough moisture in the butt of the stalk after standing for weeks on the ground, to insure heat and mildew, when closely packed in a barn. It is better to make a stack in a convenient place close to the stables and sheds, and to build it in as loose a manner as is consistent with due protection from the weather. A good plan is to fix a stout pole some 15 feet long into the ground, and set the bundles around it, capping the whole so as to shed rain. Another good way is to make the stack entirely with corn bundles, first setting a row of bundles perpendicularly with the butts firmly against the ground, then a row on each side with the tops pressing firmly against the first row, and inclining at an angle of about 60 degrees. Next a tier on each side resting on the bands of the last row. Then begin at the ground again and carry up a tier on each side as before, taking care that the last row of each tier shall cap the rick. Put up in some such way as this, so as to expose the stalks to the air, and yet protect them from the rain, they will keep fresh and good, and when the snow is on the ground, and winter's reign established, they will be greedily eaten by sheep and cattle, for both of which they form very nutritious food.

**Couch Grass.**

A RECENT number of the *London Agricultural Gazette* begins its leading article by asking the question? "What is the plant which most occupies the attention and engages the interest of the British farmer?" Strange to say, this is the reply to the question: "It is *Couch Grass*." This question and answer not only indicate that British farmers are excessively troubled by this pest of the soil, but it is one of many proofs of that anxiety and diligence in regard to the extirpation of weeds, which many slovenly Canadian farmers would do well to take both as a rebuke and a lesson.

Couch grass is already very troublesome in many parts of this country, and the greatest pains ought to be taken in order to annihilate it. Yes, annihilate is the word; nothing short of utter extinction will do, and that is no easy task. The *Genesee Farmer* referring to this nuisance, speaks of a noted farmer who had had considerable experience with couch grass, and who was asked by a neighbour the best way to destroy it. With a merry twinkle of the eye, he replied, "Fork it up carefully, so as not to leave a particle of root in the ground. Then put it on the top of a stump, where the sun can scorch it. Then take a stone and hammer it out flat.—If the wind does not blow it off the stump, I think it will die in the course of the summer or winter following." In this jocose method, the wonderful tenacity of life which characterizes this species of grass, was well brought out. It can only be got rid of by a war to the knife of downright extermination.

**Bones.**

THERE is a wealth of manure of the best quality in bones, and they should by all means be preserved, and turned to good account. Even the small quantity comparatively, which is thrown away as the waste of the family kitchen, is by no means to be despised. There are various methods by which they may be prepared for application to the soil. Most bones may be broken up by a heavy iron hammer or mallet, but for immediate effect it is desirable to reduce them to a state of greater fineness, in fact, to bonedust. They may be burned, and then readily reduced to an impalpable powder. Piled up with wood, they burn easily, and it is said a wheel-barrowload of wood will burn a ton of raw bones, leaving a mixed white and coaly mass, which is very easily broken up. Bones may be prepared for use by fermentation. There are various ways of doing this. The bones, either whole or broken into large pieces, which is the better mode, may be thrown into a box, barrel, or hog-head, and let down into the ground in a moist place, where the drainage of the cow-yard, the urine from a privy, soap-suds, dish-water, or any water containing organic matter, liable to become putrescent, may keep them constantly moist. Any other refuse animal matter may be thrown into the same receptacle. In

default of a suitable vessel, a hole in the ground will answer the purpose. Let it be two or three times as wide as it is deep, and if the bottom be of clay, it will be all the better. A coating of fresh stable manure to the depth of eight or ten inches, will hasten the process. Some coal dust, or charcoal finely broken, put under the manure will absorb the escaping ammonia and prevent an offensive smell. In from four to six weeks, the hard bones will have become so soft, that a spade may be forced through them easily. They should now be mixed with loam, decomposed muck, or any well-rotted manure, and applied to the land. Another process is to pack away the bones in a hog-head or box, and mix good, unleached wood ashes with them, (about a bushel of ashes to a barrel of bones will do) pouring water or soap-suds over them. After five or six weeks, the water may be allowed to evaporate and a decomposed soapy mass will remain which may be dried, pounded up and applied to the soil. Or the bones may be collected in a pot, tight box, or barrel, and covered with lye. This will reduce them to a soft pulpy mass. Here you have precious stuff.—Dilute it and you will have the very best liquid manure. Or if preferred, it may be mixed as above directed, with loam or muck, and applied in that form. Every farmer and gardener, should rigidly economize the bones. Let none be lost. It is better to plough or dig them under, than do nothing with them. But by the above methods, all of which are simple and practicable, this valuable manure, so much of which is now wasted, may be turned into speedy and profitable use.

**MANURE SPREADER.**—An ingenious American has invented some machinery by which a load of manure can be well spread upon land, without hand labour. The waggon used for hauling it has a moveable bottom, and is provided with self-acting forks, which tear the manure to pieces and draw it upon a conical screen, by which it is regularly distributed upon the land. The *Scientific American* says that, "the machine forms a very efficient and convenient one for the purpose."

**Hungarian Grass.**

SOME farmers persist in ranking this product among the humbugs of the day, but there seems to be ample evidence going to show that on suitable soil, it is one of the most valuable of forage crops. A writer in the *Country Gentleman* who has raised this grass for four successive seasons, says he has never failed to have "tremendous crops." He adds, "I can show positively, that I have raised five tons of cured hay to the measured acre." He recommends it highly as a winter food for horses, and on the whole considers it the most valuable grass crop he can sow.

For the benefit of those who are disposed to try this comparatively new product we append some brief directions as to the mode of cultivation. Prepare