

good potatoe, and we very much admire the American custom of eating them to breakfast.

Last year we bought the very best potatoes, delivered in the city, for two shillings a bag, of eighty pounds. This year very inferior are nine shillings. At this price they are not a mere necessary of life, but a luxury, which few can afford. The farmers will be very indifferently remunerated by the high price of the limited stock they have to spare.

The potatoe disease is about the most incomprehensible thing of modern times. Speculation has been exhausted on it. All kinds of theories have been started. It is not our business to enter into them, the more as we have never seen one that was satisfactory.

The disease, whatever it be, seems to us to be very much in the nature of a cholera or endemic fever. We remember one very striking instance. Some seven years ago we were the guest of our good friend R. H. Norval, Esq., of Beauharnois. There had been no taint of the potatoes, which were excellent. But in the morning, the girl who had been sent to gather them for breakfast said she could scarcely find a sound potatoe. It was the day of the County Agricultural Meeting held at St. Jerome; and when the farmers came from Durham, Russelltown, Hemmingford, and the extreme parts of the county, they all stated the same thing, that that morning they had found their potatoes blighted.

We copy the following from an English paper. It has always been our opinion that the tap rooted plants ought to be grown in Lower Canada to a much larger extent than they are, the more especially that since the failure of the potatoes and the wheat we are thrown principally for productive export on store farming.

It may be a question whether the carrot or the parsnip is the most productive. They both have this most excellent quality in our exhausted soils, that they strike down their roots much lower than the exhaustion, and, as the Chemists phrase it, decompose the silicates.

So far as our own opinion goes we should prefer the parsnips to the carrot. It is not so bulky but it is a much more nutritious root, containing a larger portion of sugar. Both are in reality subsoil ploughs, for the roots descend from twelve to fifteen inches

below the exhausted surface. There is no doubt that with deep ploughing they would be much more productive than they are. The principal objection we have heard against them is to pulling them, though that need not be serious here, where the cost of agricultural labour is comparatively low, and the value of animal food very high.

Both these roots have this advantage that they supply, if duly economized, a large quantity of farm-yard manure. They ought not to be sold off the farm, excepting at high prices, and to be replaced like potatoes, hay, and straw by imported manure.

In the North of England and the South of Scotland, where the field culture of carrots and beets is extensive, they are taken out of the ground the same way as potatoes. That is they are planted in ridges not broadcast, and the plough is past along the ridge so as to turn them up, and there is nothing for the Farmer to do but to throw them into the waggon. In this process there is a little necessary waste, but there is a great saving in labour. And if pigs are turned into the field afterwards, we do not know that anything is lost.

There is one singular difference between the parsnip and the carrot. The latter though naturally a biennial, invariably perishes here in the winter. We never saw one survive. But the parsnip, though of the same umbiliferous family, survives the winter, and what is more, sows itself in the spring. We are perhaps intruding on the profession of our medical readers, but we often had a very strong suspicion that in the second year its roots become poisonous, like those of its near relative, the *cicuta viçiosa*. So strong is our opinion to that effect, having heard of so many deaths, that we can account for it no other way, that we have never ventured to taste it.

The mode of storing recommended in this paper, is one totally unsuitable for this country. The frosts here are so intense that they would utterly destroy any roots stored in the manner described. The severest frost ever known in England could not give the faintest idea of ours. The frost in Britain rarely penetrates in its soil as many inches as it does feet in ours. There is no protection here for roots except in well protected root-houses or cellars. But still we are afraid the necessity for ventilation is very much neglected. It should never be forgotten that roots are living things, and

throw off elements highly poisonous to themselves and to those who breathe them.

ON THE CULTURE OF THE FIELD CARROT.

BY A PRACTICAL FARMER.

There are numerous varieties and sub-varieties in the carrot tribe. Like all other plants designed for field culture, it has, as usual through many gradations, and under the fostering care of scientific growers it has been wonderfully improved in its nature and the abundance of its produce. Such is the productiveness of the carrot crop under the best culture, that few others can equal it. The potato crop cannot yield so large a return per acre, nor will the food of the potato bear a comparison in its fattening qualities with the carrot, besides its freedom from disease. It will also bear comparison with either the mangold wurtzel or turnip crop; it is a far more valuable crop than either of them, and will yield pretty near as much weight of food per acre. The carrot crop has been known to produce 40 tons per acre, and frequently 30 tons are obtained. The average yield, however, on good soils and fair crops is from 12 to 25 tons per acre.

Variety.—The varieties generally grown in field culture are the Long Orange field carrot, the Improved Altringham carrot, and the White Belgian carrot. I have grown these varieties, but am quite at a loss as to their respective merits: I believe them to be of equal value. I certainly had most profit from the White Belgian, but it was more owing to the soil and season than to the variety; moreover, the red varieties appear to retain most favor with the public, and, of course, meet with a more ready sale at fuller prices: for farm service this is immaterial.

Soil.—The soils best suited to the profitable culture of carrots are deep rich loams of moderate consistency, and rich reclaimed bogs: good sandy loams are well adapted for their culture: light sands and gravels, if well manured and pulverized to a considerable depth, will produce good crops; indeed, any soil of sufficient richness, and that can be cultivated to the depth of 8 to 12 inches, will bring admirable crops.

Preparation of Soil.—To insure a crop of carrots the land must be thoroughly worked and well pulverized to a considerable depth (not less than ten inches will suffice by any means); it must be cleaned as much as possible from all root weeds, and the annuals must, if practicable, be made to vegetate, and then be destroyed before the carrot seed is sown, otherwise much difficulty ensues. The manuring should consist of old well-fermented dung; and if applied early in the spring, and then ploughed in and well incorporated with the soil, all the better: it will tend much to prevent the growth of "fangs," instead of the long roots. Should this be inconvenient, the common ordinary manuring may take place immediately before sowing, to be well and deeply ploughed in and rolled down with a rather light field rol-