

value consisted in their ability to prevent the adhesiveness of clay soils, for eighty-eight per cent. of these ashes is entirely insoluble in the strongest acids, and consequently not capable of furnishing food even to the lowest class of plants; the soluble silica is immaterial in amount, the alumina, which varies from three to four per cent., cannot be of any value; the iron which varies from four to six per cent. is of no value, as most soils contain all that is required. The lime in the ashes of the white ash coal, is about two per cent.; in that of the red ash, but sixteen-hundredths of one per cent.; the magnesia is not called for, while the soda is but one-fifth of one per cent., and the potash even of less quantity; indeed, we believe this to arise from the wood used in kindling the fires, rather than from the coal itself. The greatest value of coal ashes is in the phosphoric acid, being the fifth of one per cent., and of the sulphuric acid, which varies from a half to three-fourths of one per cent.; beyond these the ashes have no value, and the phosphoric and sulphuric acids contained in a ton is not worth ten cents. Therefore, coal ashes, except when required as a divisor for very tight clay soils, cannot be worth the cartage. In addition to the small quantity of inorganic matter capable of being used by plants, it is proper to state that it is not in a very progressed form, and, therefore, still smaller proportions than those noted can be appropriated by the higher class of plants.—*Working Farmer.*

AYRSHIRES AS MILKERS.—The *Springfield Republican* says Mr. Birnie, of Hampden, Mass., keeps a large herd of Short-horn and Ayrshire cows, and gives a decided preference to the latter as milkers. In proportion to the food they eat, he says no breed can surpass them in yield of milk. He has one Ayrshire cow weighing about 800 lbs., that has averaged more than her weight per month in milk since April last, and a two-year-old heifer, the daughter of the above cow, that is now in milk, and gives 20 lbs. per day.—*Genesee Farmer.*

ORIGIN OF PLANTS.—Should the following record interest our readers as it has us, it will fully repay the space it occupies in our columns.—*Porter's Spirit.*

Madder came from the East.
Celery originated in Germany.
The chestnut came from Italy.
The onion originated in Egypt.
Tobacco is a native of Virginia.
The nettle is a native of Europe.
The citron is a native of Greece.
The pine is a native of America.

The poppy originated in the East.
Oats originated in North Africa.
Rye came originally from Siberia.
Parsley was first known in Sardinia.
The pear and apple are from Europe.
Spinach was first cultivated in Arabia.
The Sunflower was brought from Peru.
The mulberry tree originated in Persia.
The gourd is probably an eastern plant.
The walnut and peach came from Persia.
The horse-chestnut is a native of Thibet.
The cucumber came from the East Indies.
The quince came from the Island of Crete.
The radish is a native of China and Japan.
Peas are supposed to be of Egyptian origin.

The garden beans came from the East Indies.

The garden cress is from Egypt and the East.

Horseradish came from the South of Europe.

The Zealand flax shows its origin by its name.

The coriander grows wild near the Mediterranean.

The dyer's weed is peculiar to Southern Germany.

The Jerusalem artichoke is a Brazilian product.

Hemp is a native of Persia and the East Indies.

The cranberry is a native of Europe and America.

The parsnip is supposed to be a native of Arabia.

The potato is a well-known native of Peru and Mexico.

The currant and gooseberry came from Southern Europe.

Rape seed and cabbage grow wild in Sicily and Naples.

Buchwheat came originally from Siberia and Tartary.

Barley was found in the mountains of Himalaya.

Millet was first known in India and Abyssinia.

ORIGIN OF THE BERKSHIRE HOG.—Benjamin F. Johnson of West Urbana, Illinois, in the *Illinois Farmer* gives the following sketch of the origin of the Berkshire swine:

"The Berkshire is a native of the South Sea Islands, where the population instead of pressing on the means of subsistence, the means of subsistence presses on the population. Vegetation is so luxuriantly vigorous and fruits and vegetables so extraordinarily abundant, says an authority: 'The South Sea Islands on their discovery, by Europeans, were found to be well stocked