

The Agriculturist.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, LITERATURE, AND NEWS.

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"AGRICULTURE THE TRUE BASIS OF A NATION'S WEALTH."

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been inserted.

Varieties.

Good-by, Old Year, Good-by.

The bells ring slow, in muffled tones,
The chilling wind makes sadder moan;
The flowers are dead and all must die,
Good-by, old year, good-by.

The la gling streams run coldly now,
Stern winter reigns, with ice-crowned brow,
Fair summer is dead and you must die,
Good-by, old year, good-by.

Once you were young, but now you're old,
Our youth can't be bought with gold;
Your youth is dead—all youth must die,
Good-by, old year, good-by.

Your glory came, your glory's gone,
All glory fades, time breaths upon,
All grandeur and pride shall surely die,
Good-by, old year, good-by.

You brought us many glistening joys,
That glow and break like children's toys,
Our joys you have killed, now you must die,
Good-by, old year, good-by.

You brought us much of galling grief,
But, like our joys, it's smart was brief,
If joy must aye die, then grief must die,
Good-by, old year, good-by.

Thou wast a year of hundred years,
O glorious triumph that endears,
But, ah! as the others, thou must die,
Good-by, old year, good-by.

Thou hast must die the kernel lives,
So doth the truth each year we give;
Thou brought'st as much that will not die,
Good-by, old year, good-by.

Your Ain Fireside.

O wisdom is the hearth
Of your ain fireside!
There is nae place on earth
Like your ain fireside!
Let friends be'er see kind
Ye will never, never find
A place to suit your mind
Like your ain fireside!

There's balm for every wee
At your ain fireside!
Frae voices sweet an' low
At your ain fireside!
The trials o' the day
Are quickly chased away
By faces bright an' gay
At your ain fireside!

Nae patronizing look
At your ain fireside!
Nae frowning ill to brook
At your ain fireside!
For here Jock is king
Can whistle or sing,
Or in a crony bring
To his ain fireside.

How sweet to sit an' think
At your ain fireside!
Before the ruddy blink
O' your ain fireside!
While pelting rain an' win'
And the roaring o' the lin,
Ain't you ere snug with in'
At your ain fireside!

Oh, sweet when nights are long
At your ain fireside!
Tae croon a heartful song
At your ain fireside!
Till memories of the past—
That were too bright to last—
Their radiance o'er you cast
At your ain fireside!

Aye honour and revere
Your ain fireside!
The hearts are a sincere
At your ain fireside!
Nae feigned smile is there
The simple to ename,
For love prevails the air
O' your ain fireside!

"Old Ben Mason," of Indianapolis,
has just been sent to the poor house
at his own request. He went west
from New York forty years ago and
engaged in the hotel business. In
1866 he had made \$75,000; but
he invested in real estate and
speculated, and his money went till
a few months ago he found himself
poor. What was left he expended
in curing his diseases and securing a
rest, that he might have his mind,
which was clouded by anxiety, re-
stored; then went to the poor house,
where, he says, he has a right to ex-
pect care, for in his day he had paid
\$1,500 a year taxes to the county. A
man whom he set up in business, and
who is now worth \$75,000, declined
to help the old man to raise \$25.

A GOOD EDUCATION.—To read the
language well, to write a neat, legible
hand, and to master the first four
rules of arithmetic, so as to dispose of
at once, with accuracy, every question
of figures which comes up in practice
—I call this a good education. And
if you add the ability to write pure,
grammatical English, I regard it as
an excellent education. These are the
tools. You can do much with them,
but you are helpless without them.
They are the foundation; and, unless
you begin with these, all your flashy
attainments, & little geology, and all
otherologies, and sophisms, are osten-
tation rubbish. —Edward Everett.

A girl working in a paper mill at
Delphi, O., found \$100 among the
waste she was sorting. The pro-
prietor of the establishment took them
from her, but she sued him for them,
and the Supreme Court has finally
decided the case in her favour, hold-
ing that the purchase of waste paper
does not give the purchaser a right to
unknown valuables found in it as
against the finder.

The death of a New York police-
man is announced who was formerly
a Methodist minister and a man of
wealth, but who adopted the calling
of a policeman for the opportunities
it afforded him for reaching the
wicked.

Agriculture.

Value of Agricultural Journals.

There is a great deal of sound sense
in the address lately delivered before
a "Farmer's Club" in the influence
and value of agricultural journals.
It does not signify where the address
was delivered or who delivered it,
whether in this Province or the ad-
joining State of Maine, whether by
a practical farmer or by an agricul-
tural editor, more or less theoretical,
the gist of the observations made
in it are sound, and apply everywhere.
The scope of the address is that the
farmer who subscribes for and reads
an agricultural journal are far ahead
of those who do not, for they continually
receive hints from them which are
invaluable in practice.

So clearly and palpable have jour-
nals of this class demonstrated their
value, that it is often possible in pas-
sing through a rural district to dis-
cover by unmistakable signs the
farms at which such papers are
taken, and where they have found a
welcome home; and it is easy to see
that in the presence of these sheets of
useful knowledge, the whole aspect
of the farm is changed, and the result
improved. Manures and fertilizers
are more efficient, as well as more
abundant; the latest and best meth-
ods are adopted; a new impulse is
given to vegetation; and the very
roots of the crop strike deeper, and
spread wider than before, and even
the meadows assume a brighter shade
of green, and cereal grain a deeper
tinge of gold. And, finally, as a
crowning of evidence of what is here
claimed for the influence of the press
along with this new vigor of vegeta-
tion and more abundant yield, we
find also a reduction of cost that is
even more important than the rest.

It would be easy to refer by name,
if it were not invidious, to a score of
such papers, in either of which a
single number could be pointed out,
which for intrinsic value is worth, to
a shrewd farmer, the subscription of
a life time. Even single passages
could be here referred to in various
journals, in which the facts com-
pressed in a few lines are worth more
to an intelligent practical man than
a ton of guano or an acre of land, for
the acre of land is confined to one un-
changed spot, and the ton of guano
admits of only one application. But
the great facts of experience in
farming are not bounded by an acre,
and do not expire in one application.
On the contrary, they are devel-
oped by use, and grow by repetition.
They spread and multiply from farm
to farm, and from year to year, until
a continent is made richer by them,
and posterity heirs them as a treas-
ure.

No agricultural journal is perfect,
(what paper was ever issued that ex-
actly met the tastes of all its readers),
but instead of abusing it those who
find fault should try and amend it.
The only way to give such a paper a
distinctive local character is for
intelligent farmers to write the result
of their practical experience, to give
its readers the benefit of their obser-
vations on the farming operations in
their district and county; to make it
the medium of stating the difficulties
that arise in the course of their labors
with the view of drawing out answers
from those who have met and over-
come similar difficulties. If farmers
of New Brunswick more generally
subscribed for an agricultural paper,
and took an interest in it by aiding
to make it locally and provincially in-
teresting, they would do a great deal
to raise from its apathy and create a
current of thought in the agricultural
mind of the Province which would not
benefit their time honored calling but
benefit their time honored calling not
the following remarks from the ad-
dress mentioned are to the purpose.

The mere fact that a paper of this
class is not perfect is the last reason
in the world for neglecting it. If
you have discovered the defects of
your local paper, you are the very
man to help improve it, by taking
hold of it with a will. If you order
it at once, paying for a year in ad-
vance, you will be sure to read it,
and after reading a few numbers you
will find time occasionally to write
for it. But don't be afraid to criticize
and make suggestions. And, above
all, send in new facts, giving your
own experience and that of your neigh-
bors. In this way your example will
kindle a contagion throughout our
town and country, and you will have
the satisfaction of improving your
local paper, and extending its circula-
tion, while largely increasing the
sources of pleasure in your family,
and the sources of profit on your
farm.

The fencing of North Carolina is
valued at \$10,000,000, and the stock
at \$2,000,000. In other words, it
takes \$5 worth of fencing to protect
the crops against \$1 worth of stock.

Care of Stock in Winter.

The following is the plan adopted
by an experienced farmer in winter-
ing his stock, as stated by himself:—
To the farmers who have to feed
their stock half of the year, any meth-
od of economizing fodder is a ques-
tion of much interest. There are two
points to be considered; how we can
feed at the least expense, and have
our stock to do the best. The plan of
starving stock during winter is among
the things that were, but are not,
Spring-poor is a term we seldom, and
ought never to hear. Our farmers
are determined to feed well, cost what
it may. Hence the above question
comes up, how to feed well and eco-
nomically. The farmer who makes
these two points met is, or ought to
be, a successful farmer.

One of the various expedients for
cheap feeding is to make the best use
of our coarser fodder, such as straw
of various kinds, corn husks, stalks, etc.
Very much depends on the mode of
harvesting corn, whether the corn
fodder is of much account. In har-
vesting corn, two points will be con-
sidered by all good farmers—to har-
vest at such time, and in such manner
as to give the largest amount of sound
corn, and have the fodder most
palatable and nutritious for stock.

Cut it while the stalks are quite
green, and the corn partially ripened
or glazed, as some term it; put it up
in small stacks of from three to five
bundles each. Let it remain until
crushed, when it may be either husked
in the field, or carted to the barn and
husked there. The main point, after
securing the largest amount of good
corn, is to get the fodder in the best
possible condition. The way I have
learned that my course for several years
is as follows, and the oxen and cows
eat it with fine relish.

After I have done my threshing,
I take a layer of corn fodder and
spread it evenly over a space the size
I would have the mow, and over this
spread an even thickness of good,
early cut straw, and continue to do
this process alternately until the mow is
completed. It would not be strange
if the mow should mould a little, but
this will not prevent the cattle from
eating it readily. I have been feed-
ing from just such a mow this last
month. I have given my oxen and
cows about half their feed from this
mow, and the remainder good English
hay, and so far they have not left a
buskel basket full of waste from either
kind of feed. In addition to this, I
give my cows a small quantity of
shorts, scalded and mixed with skim-
med milk. My cattle are doing well,
and the cows give a good quantity
of milk for the season, and so far, we
have not used any coloring for the
butter, which we do as soon as we
see any want of it.

A farmer writing to the *Cultivator*
says, on this subject that "farmers
might spend more time with our stock
than we do, and profitably too if
rightly employed. Very many farm-
ers make it a practice to turn their
animals out of the stables in the
morning, and let them be out during
the day, whether it is stormy or pleas-
ant. Would it not be much better
in all stormy days to have them
watered morning and night, and put
back again into the stable, and so not
be exposed to the winter storms? It
is true it takes more time to do so,
but I think our animals are much
better off for the care. Sheep also
should not be allowed to lie out in the
cold rain storms so common in this
latitude. Many farmers hardly have
a shelter for them at all during the
winter, thinking that their covering
of wool will keep them warm. This
is true if we keep the sheep dry and
under cover in stormy weather; but
a sheep with a heavy fleece, wet to
the skin by fall or winter rains, is in
no condition to withstand the cold
wave that frequently follows such
rain storms. If these sheep had been
housed in the storm and kept dry, a
cold snap would not injure them.
Care should also be taken to give
each sheep a little grain daily from
the commencement of winter, and if
the feed is short and the ground not
covered with snow, it would be well
to begin feeding grain while the
sheep were running to pasture. I
have usually fed corn, sometimes corn
and oats mixed, but have had as good
success with corn alone as with any
grain, and I begin feeding lightly as
soon as the sheep come into winter
quarters. This winter I began with
a single handful of corn, to a breeding
ewe daily—not because the flock was
thin in flesh, but because I wish to
keep them fat for the better profit
in their produce of both lambs and
wool the coming spring. My experi-
ence teaches me that to do so, I must
begin feeding grain at the beginning
of winter, and continue it till the flock
is turned to pasture in the spring.

A model Texan gave his son-in-law
a wedding present of 80,000 head of
cattle.

Grape-Growing in Canada.

Is Canada adapted for the culture
of the grape vine? is a subject which
agriculturists and horticulturists are
now agitating. When Great Britain
with her milder climate finds it im-
possible to grow vines except under
glass, we should conclude that Canada,
with a temperature during the sum-
mer months as high as some parts of
the Southern States, and exceptionally
the South States, and exceptionally
promising field; but there are prop-
erties in the soil and climate of this
country which favor the cultivation
of the grape vine. A pure atmos-
phere and a limestone bottom are
essential, both of which Canada pos-
sesses to a greater or less extent. The
atmosphere is rendered clear by its
immense water source; as for instance
the mighty St. Lawrence and the
beautiful Ottawa, and we may add the
noble St. John, sweeping by our shores
regulate the atmosphere and purify
the air.

In view of the statement recently
made that Europe will yet depend on
America for vines, the question of
vine culture is destined to be an im-
portant one. In France there exists
a disease (*phylloxera*) among the vines,
which in time will prove disastrous
to the culture of the grape. The soil
on the Island of Montreal and vicinity
has properties that are not equalled
on the continent. As an illustration,
the famous apple grown on the Is-
land of Montreal and below Quebec
has a higher color, firmer flesh, and
a tartness that is unsurpassed by any
other species of the fruit. The fruit
grown in Western New York, although
fine, does not command as high prices
in the European markets as Canadian
fruit. In Scotland the buyers have
learned that the fruit imported from
Canada has the preference on the
market.

Grape-culture has been very un-
certain, although satisfactory at
times, in Canada, owing to the early
frosts, which often destroys the crop
before it is matured. Another great
obstacle to the grape is "mildew," but
this is not so much a pest as it was
formerly, as it is almost invariably
overcome by a pure atmosphere. The
production of grapes is not governed
by changeable seasons, as apples and
other fruits. The vines, as a rule,
bear abundantly every year. Another
advantage in growing grapes is that
they will bear the second year, and
do not require as much labor as any
other farming product. For instance,
one man if properly trained can prune
and lay down an acre of vines in a
day. Two men can cultivate and
secure for the winter eight or ten
acres of vines. The next point to
consider is the profit to be derived
from grape culture. Under the most
unfavorable circumstances an acre of
vines will produce from five tons up-
wards. Calculating a sale at ten
cents per pound, an acre would re-
alize a profit of \$1,000. In order to
be successful in grape culture, how-
ever, it is necessary to become ac-
quainted with the pruning of the
vine, which is very simple, easily
learned, and does not require the pro-
ficiency of a cultivator that other pro-
ducts do. The success of Mr. James
Morgan, jun., is worth mentioning in
support of the suitability of the
climate of Canada for grape culture.
Mr. Morgan sent a specimen of the
grapes grown in his garden at Ho-
bbsburg to the Philadelphia Exhi-
bition. His vines being an early ripener
and a diploma and bronze medal. The
success of Mr. Mezzies at Point Claire
with what is now termed the "Beau-
censfield" vine has also been gratify-
ing. His vines being an early ripener
bear on the 25th of August and are
not subject to injury by early frosts.
Mr. Mezzies being of the opinion that
grape culture will prove an import-
ant source of wealth to the inhabi-
tants of the island, has enlarged his vine-
yard at Point Claire, and has gone
into the business on a large scale.
There is a large amount of waste land
in the vicinity of Montreal, too ex-
pensive for farming, which is well
adapted as regards soil for vine cul-
ture, and which if utilized would
yield a handsome revenue to the
owners.—*Montreal Witness.*

HANDLING COLTS.—The colt should
be handled almost daily while with
the dam, and made familiar with men.
Great care should be taken to avoid
frightening it. It should be taught to
regard man as its greatest friend,
from whom it may always expect a
pleasant caress, or something agree-
able to eat. This is not only important
in reference to its future temper and
usefulness, but vastly important to its
rapid growth. Animals do not thrive
under excitement and irritation.

Great Britain last year imported
oranges to the extent of 3,333,781
bushels, with a money value of \$7,
738,825. This is an increase since
1866 of 2,379,781 bushels, showing
that the consumption in eighteen
years has multiplied threefold.

A horse was recently stung to death
by bees in Rockwall county, Texas.

Broom Corn—How to Raise It.

Broom corn requires nearly the
same quantity of soil and mode of
culture as Indian corn. It thrives
best on flat, loamy, or river bottom
land, but will grow satisfactorily on
any fertile soil. Corn stubble or
clover sod precede it with advan-
tage.

After thoroughly pulverizing the
ground in the spring with the harrow
mark out the rows 3 1/2 or 4 feet
apart, and if possible sow the seed
with a common garden drill, or want-
ing that, drop the seed as evenly as
possible by hand. When the plant is
two inches high, run backwards and
forwards between the rows with a
two-horse harrow, to kill the weeds,
loosen the soil, and give the soil a
start. Most people plant too thick
and hence no damage will follow if
some of the spears are torn up.
After this treat as ordinary corn.

The next thing is to prevent the
brush falling down and growing
crushed. This is done by bending
down the corn as soon as the heads
shoot out. Be careful not to bend
the stalks so low that the tops will
touch the ground, or so much that the
joints fracture, else the corn will be
ruined. Go over the ground and re-
peat the process until the heads are
all out.

When the seed has matured, cut-
ting must begin. The brush should
be cut just above the upper joint, and
the leaf removed. Take two rows,
and after cutting the brush, cut the
stalks near the roots, and lay them
crosswise between the rows to serve
as a bed for the brush so as to keep
it from mellowing on the ground.
This bed will serve for all the brush
taken from eight to ten rows, and
protect it from the moisture of the
earth. It will become dry after
laying exposed to the sun for two or
three days. Then bundle and stack.
Put about a dozen bundles in a stack.
Cover with stalks in the manner of a
conical tent, tight at the top and al-
lowing a free circulation of air
through the base to prevent heating.
Let the stack remain for two or three
weeks, until the corn is perfectly dry.
Then haul to the barn, and take off
the seed by means of a common
threshing machine. Reverse the
cylinder, any hold over it while re-
volving, as much brush as can be
grasped in the two hands. A man
with a boy to hand him the brush can
thus clean several hundred pounds of
it in a day.

The evergreen variety of broom
corn is generally preferred to the
other kinds. Its yield in brush and
seed exceeds other varieties, and is
in better demand. From two to four
quarters of seed per acre should pro-
duce on small soil, 700 or 800 pounds
of brush and 40 bushels of seed. For
feeding purposes, the seed is nearly
equal to corn. The brush, when of
good quality and in prime order,
meets with a ready sale to the broom
makers. The crop is easily managed
and highly remunerative.

A correspondent of the *Country
Gentleman* makes the following re-
marks on buckwheat as a crop:—
"I have often wondered why this
crop is not oftener grown by farmers
who have lands adapted to its pro-
duction. There is no crop more
easily grown and harvested, and none
more sure on land adapted to its pe-
culiar nature. Buckwheat delights in
a cool, moist soil, abounding in vege-
table matter, and will produce from
25 to 40 bushels per acre, under
favorable circumstances. Good soil
requires only half a bushel of seed per
acre. If the land is poor and dry,
three pecks to a bushel should be
sown. On very rich, new land,
twelve quarts is sufficient for an acre,
if the seed is hand threshed. All
grain is liable to be injured when
threshed by a machine, and buck-
wheat is especially so. It threshes so
exceedingly easy, that what is needed
for seed should be threshed by hand.
If a machine is used, raise the con-
veyers as much as possible, and then
meets with a ready sale to the broom
makers. It should be sown in the
fall when the chestnut trees are in
full bloom, or the first week in July,
on a mellow seed-bed. It is a crop
which will bear neglect more than al-
most any other. We sometimes take
off a crop of hay and sow to buck-
wheat, thus getting two crops in one
year, take off the buckwheat, and sow
rye and seed down. It is an easy
crop to harvest and thresh, and is
usually as profitable as any grain
crop. The straw is useless, except as
a mulch, or to plow under on hard
clay knolls.

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oranges to the extent of 3,333,781
bushels, with a money value of \$7,
738,825. This is an increase since
1866 of 2,379,781 bushels, showing
that the consumption in eighteen
years has multiplied threefold.

Sheep Husbandry.

This may seem a worn-out topic. It
is, indeed, a long time since Abel
kept sheep and the other boy raised
Cain; but the world moves in the
matter of sheep as well as of men.
Civilization and barbarism occur in
alternate succession, along with im-
proved and degenerate plants and
animals of every species, unless we
except a few sorts of wild game and
fowls that can maintain the greatest
perfection in the instincts and prop-
erties of nature. But if there is such
a thing as agricultural science, it is
even more certain that the science of
breeding domestic animals need study
—the practical knowledge of natural
history. Plants and animals in their
wild state are either constituted to
select their homes in the great domain
of life, or were placed in such homes
in the first creation of the species and
can not be removed by the hand of
man from the prescribed boundaries
of nature thus fixed. But plants and
animals designed for domestic use,
while capable of wide removal, are
also incapable of self-protection, care
and culture; and of all domestic
animals, perhaps not one needs such
constant care as sheep; and scarcely
any that seem more allied to the com-
pany of their owners, to seek the pro-
tecting care of the shepherd. Even
their kindred species, the reindeer of
the north, and the red deer of the
middle latitudes, in the wild state
will seek protection from man, from
the chasing wolf and the hunter's hound;
and it is undeniable that the kindly
offices of the shepherd's life softens
the asperities of his passions in kind-
ly bearing towards his own kindred
species.

But let others moralize and we will
turn to the practical advantages of
sheep raising in our own location,
compared with other kindred enter-
prises of stock raising. A few years
ago, the price of dairy products seem-
ed to invite all our northern regions
to the business of butter and cheese;
but this business has grown out of
proportion, so that the question of
the best paying industry is again, as it
will be hereafter, under review to be
decided by facts and figures, modified
by each one's location and circum-
stances. With but few exceptions,
mixed husbandry is the rule for all
northern farming. In most cases
grain-growing and stock-raising need
to go together in suitable proportion;
though in most cases one or the other
will be most important to reach, and
the market within their reach, and
so we will do in Maine, both in grain-
growing and stock raising. The re-
port of many farmers is that they can
not make the production of beef their
leading business. Good dairy cows in
many cases seemed preferable, but
here again, work gets such small pay
when we see the quotations of Boston
markets—common butter 5 to 8 cents.
Some farmers note with figures their
expenses and sales of products, and
accept the balance as the price of their
hay. In this way the price of hay
used on dairy cows in cheese fac-
tories, one or two years ago, was said
to be from ten to fifteen dollars a ton.
It would now most likely be much
less. In keeping sheep where suit-
able care has been bestowed, the re-
turns pay for the hay, and in all the
ups and downs of twenty years or more
has been, I think, from five to
twenty dollars a ton in this calcula-
tion. I suppose no account is made
of summer pasturing, on the ground
that they benefit the land equal to
the expense of keeping the pastures.
No account is made, either, of the
straw and other coarse, unpalatable
fodder and the long periods of bare
ground in early winter, when they
get their own living. All these items
in the habits and wants of the sheep
need to come into the account when
compared with other stock. Then
again there comes the more important
item—the saving of labor in keeping,
cleaning out, manure and watering
(though they need but to have water
accessible) and still more, the loss of
labor in the dairy rooms two or three
times a year. The products of the flock
are sure money and if we review the
fluctuations are less than in any other
agricultural interest. As to the varie-
ties of wool and mutton seem to be
careful observation. Peculiar
types of wool and mutton seem to
belong to each location. With us it
is good mutton and long wool—the
best for northern use. And now
comes the question, what to do with
our wool. The buyer is at our door
ready to take it all, with a keen eye
to the combing wool there is in it. The
combing wool trade is gleaming all
northern Maine and all Canada to
work into worsted goods. The most

of our wool is thus sorted and we get
the short, coarse, outskirts of the
fleece back for our common wear,
which chafes a little too much to be
comfortable. Now I have much to
say, that I want to wear myself as
good wool as I raise. Some that I
lovely scratches a little more than I
feel the need of. No matter to what
extent the business is carried, of sup-
plying the market with combing
wool, but what we have ourselves, let
us have as good as we raise. Let the
spinning wheel and loom or woolsen
mill, make our cloth from the whole
of our wool as we furnish it, and we
will support the manufacturer and
will all feel better.—*Cor. Rural.*

It is the design of the market
gardener to obtain two crops in one
year from a large part of his land.
The ordinary farmer cannot do this to
any great extent, because the crops
which he cultivates nearly all require
a whole season in which to mature.
As a general rule, the Northern farm-
er finds the season short enough
when he only tries for one crop. But
most farmers might utilize parts of
their gardens for the growth of a
second crop, and be gainers by the
process.

The space which was devoted to
early potatoes, peas, radishes and
lettuce, can be cleaned up and sown
to flat turnips, or set with rutabaga
plants. Although the double crop
will take more from the land than a
single one, the thorough hoeing and
pulverizing which will be necessary
to fit the land for the reception of the
seed or the plants, will be very useful.
By this means, a great many weeds
which have appeared may be killed,
while multitudes of seeds which are
waiting a favorable opportunity for
growth may lose their vitality by
means of the untimely exposure to the
heat of the summer sun. Part of them
will probably live and grow into vigor-
ous plants. Though weeds are always
a nuisance, it is better that they
should start now than it is to have
them remain as they are until spring
and then grow. If they start now the
season will be so short that they will
not get developed before frost comes,
but if they lie in the ground until
next year they must be constantly
hoed up, or pulled up, or else they
will ripen their seed and provide for
a succession of their evil kind. Even
if the garden has been kept quite
clean for a long time past, there are
probably many weed seeds in the
ground, and, as these retain their
vitality a long time, it will be safe
to expect that whenever the land is
stirred there will, very soon, appear a
crop of weeds.

To destroy these and thus save
labor next year, would almost pay
for the work of fitting the soil for
turnips and caring for the crops. The
turnips are also worth something.
Many families esteem both the flat
varieties and the rutabagas for table
use. The English farmer makes great
use of turnips for his stock. Many
farmers in this country consider them
valuable. Sheep are especially fond
of them, and cows and oxen which
are being fattened are said to gain
rapidly when fed with them. The
seed costs but little, and the cost of
raising a few bushels is very small.
The land should be either hoed over,
or, what is better, worked up fine
with a cultivator or pulverizer. All
weeds, potato tops, and other foreign
materials should either be buried or
removed. The application of a few
hundred pounds of bone dust per acre
will prove highly beneficial. Ashes
will also be useful though not as good
as the bone. Either of these fertilizers
should be harrowed in. Green
stable manure should not be used.
Well rotted manure from the barn or
hog pen, if made very fine and well
mixed with the soil, will increase the
quantity without seriously injuring
the quality of the crop.

For early use, either for table or
stock, the flat turnips are the best,
while for spring the rutabaga is very
far superior. The former can be
sown broadcast or in rows. If a seed
sower is owned, or can be hired for a
reasonable price, the latter method is
very much the best. This will allow
the weeds to be removed; and the
land can be occasionally stirred around
the plants, thus promoting their
rapid growth. If rutabagas are
grown, they ought to be sown in rows
or else transplanted. The best way,
if a seed sower can be used, is to sow
in rows, wide enough apart to admit
of cultivation, by horse power if