

be made of iron or steel, and although costing something more, will be more easily handled, and will last a life time.

3. We are pleased that S. proposes more perfectly to economize his land, and he will find soiling a great aid in that direction. It is much better to increase the productiveness of a farm than to buy an addition to it. The tendency with the most progressive farmers now, in the United States, is toward *intensive* farming.

E. W. S.

DE OMNIBUS REBUS.

The roots of corn—Mr. Tuok, Messrs. Dawes' foreman, finds the roots or stumps of the corn of last year very troublesome in the subsequent cleaning operations, and still more in the way of the turnip-sowing machine. How are they to be got rid of? Would it not do to pass the grubber over the field, pulling the roots up to the surface, and burn them? Of course this depends upon the time the corn is harvested. If the putting into the silo is delayed, as at the Cross' farm till October I see no cure for the trouble. It is not every one who likes to see his land disfigured by bulging lumps every two or three feet, and still fewer care to be obliged to stop the drill every five or ten minutes to free it from these impediments. I never saw a good farmer yet who was not extra careful as to the look as well as the actual condition of his land when the last finishing stroke was given to it. One curious thing connected with this enormous corn crop is this: the land on which it was sown had been in hops for many years. Now, as hops are manured every season and carefully cultivated, the soil must have been, one would suppose, in first-rate condition. Thinking thus of it, no manure was given to the corn. After the corn, oats were sown this spring, and a very poor looking piece of grain too; showing clearly that the monstrous crop of silo-maize, which was allowed to stand until the ears were fit to cook—in fact many a dozen bagfuls of them were carried off and cooked—acted as pretty strong exhausters of the soil.

When people compare the value of fodder- or silo-maize with that of mangels or swedes, they never seem to consider the very different state in which these plants, respectively, leave the land.

Mangels for sows.—Though I do not think mangels are good for in-farrow sows, inasmuch as I have known several instances of those roots bringing on premature labour, I make no doubt the flow of milk they produce after parturition must be favourable to the young pigs. The Messrs. Dawes, whose breed of Berkshires is so well known throughout the province, had a favourite sow, with a litter of 12 at her foot, and their man gave the mother mangels, raw, twice a day during the whole time of suckling. The treatment was most successful, as the pigs did well, and the sow, in spite of the constant dragging at her teats of the 12 little ones, never lost flesh.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Quebec, June 3rd, 1890.

To MONSIEUR LAURENT COMEAU,
Henryville, Co. Iberville.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter of 17th May, I beg to say that you will find in "The Manual of Practical Horticulture and Fruit-tree cultivation, by Dr. G. Laroque, of Quebec, (Quebec, J. A. Langlais, publisher) complete information on the culture of melons, vegetables, &c. This work

has the great advantage of having been written for our province.

Still, we may as well say a few words on the pruning of melons:

According to Dr. Hoefer, the most experienced gardeners now recognise the uselessness of those perpetual pinchings which only cause the production of a mass of shoots, crossing each other in every direction, and adding neither to the number nor the quality of the fruit, if we can judge from the experiments made *ad hoc*. Still, it is necessary to perform the operation of topping, by which the shoot proceeding directly from the germ of the seed, and the first that rises between the cotyledons, is pinched out. This shoot, if left to itself, would absorb the whole vigour of the plant, and would not allow any collateral branch to thrive. It would bear fruit, but very late, and the produce would have neither the size nor the flavour of melons borne by the laterals.

This stopping can be done even before the plant is turned out of the pot, but it is better to wait till it has settled comfortably in its new abode.

When once this operation has been performed, the plant may be allowed to grow and spread in perfect freedom, and no more stopping is needed until the melons are not only set, but large enough to allow those promising to be the most vigorous in growth to be distinguished. Having selected these, the fruit bearing shoot is to be stopped two joints above the young melon.

As vegetation progresses, and new shoots are thrust forth, they must be stopped, and each wound caused by the pinching of a shoot should be immediately sprinkled with very dry mould to promote its cicatrization.

We may add, in conclusion, that the cultivation of melons, which, in France and Belgium generally requires to be carried out in hotbeds, can be done in the open air in many parts of the province of Quebec with excellent results.

Very truly yours,

(Signed)

H. NAGANT,

Asst. Ed. Journal d'Agriculture.

Mr. Smith, who, stops his melon-plants a second time when the two side shoots (laterals) have six or seven leaves, has now—June 10th—right or ten frames full of fruit, some of which are from five to six inches in diameter, and will probably be ripe by the first week in July, if this fine hot weather continues. *Habitans*, from Ile Perrot, pass my house every fall with lots of yellow melons, grown in the open air, but I must be allowed to say that a melon ripened by the July sun is a better flavoured and more succulent fruit than one tardily matured in the latter end of September.

A. R. J. F.

A few Hints on Vegetable-growing. (Continued.)

Parsley.—I fancy every one who has a garden, however small, grows this indispensable pot-herb, but, as general rule, it is sown very much too thick, or rather, it is not thinned out at all. My plan is this: I soak the seed for 40 hours, and let it swell in a warm place in the neighbourhood of a stove till the white tip of the germ appears. Having prepared a piece of land and made it very fine, I sow the seed in drills, half-an-inch deep, and a foot apart. If the soil is pretty dry, I place a board over the drills and tramp it down firmly; but, if the soil is in the least *chung*, this is better omitted, as it is apt to make a crust form, through which the young plant will find it difficult to emerge. You cannot sow parsley too early, if the land is in good condition. When the rows are visible, hoe between them at once, and do not be afraid of hoeing deeply. Single-out, as soon as possible, to three inches,