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soiling food. Timothy (*Phleum pratense*) is worthy to be placed at the head of the grasses. It is adopted to perhaps a wider range of soils than any other, and yields bountiful crops. The large or pea-vine (*Trifolium pratense*) does not materially differ from medium clover in nutritive qualities, but yields a larger crop, and matures with timothy.

MILLET AND HUNGARIAN GRASS.—Millet (*Panicum millecucum*), on a dry, rich, and light soil, will furnish an abundant yield of green food of the best quality. But it is not adapted to heavy soils, which do not easily pulverize. It can be sown from the middle of May to the first of July, broadcast, one bushel to the acre. For soiling, should be cut in bloom. Hungarian millet or grass (*Panicum Germanicum*) belongs to the same family as millet, and has been raised quite extensively in some sections for winter fodder. But on the proper soil, deep, rich, and in fine tilth, it produces a most abundant green crop for soiling, and is a well-balanced food. Its quality as a soiling crop is quite similar to millet, and both have a value, when grown in perfection, equal to that of any other soiling crop. Excellent milk is produced from either, when in blossom.

FODDER CORN.—I mention this last, though not least in value. I regard the different varieties of corn as standing highest in the list of soiling crops, not that its nutriment is highest, but because it is adapted to a wider range of soils than any other crop, save, perhaps, oats. I regard sweet corn as the best variety for this purpose—first, the early kinds of sweet corn, then the early evergreen to be followed by the late evergreen. Three pecks of good seed, planted with a drill, 24 to 32 inches apart, and cultivated two or three times, without hoeing, on good land, will give a crop of great value. Of the common kinds of corn, the small eight-rowed variety is as profitable as any in the Northern, Eastern, and Middle States. This should be planted in the same manner as sweet corn. If corn is sown thick (which I do not regard as the best plan), then you may properly commence feeding when in flower. But if planted so far apart that a large portion of the ears form, then commence feeding when in the milk. If one has a good power cutter, it will pay to cut the stalks, ears and all together. In this condition there will be no complaint of the milk or flesh-production of fodder corn.

#### Produce the Best.

Let every farmer who is laying his plans for the coming season resolve to produce the best of the sort or kind he is growing or making, be it vegetables or fruits, grains or grasses, hops or tobacco, butter or cheese, hay or straw, or whatever else it may chance to be, whether cattle or sheep, pigs or poultry. On looking over the market reports of the present week, we find, in reference to hops, that it is because of their inferior quality that exporters refuse them. With regard to this crop, we have often seen it stated that the hops grown in the United States are not well grown, nor well picked, nor well cured, every one of which defects is preventable. Will hop growers, in planning for the coming crop, see to it that so far as it is possible for them to do so, all the causes named above, tending to render the goods inferior in the market, shall be prevented? Keep in mind that it is the production of good, well cured hops, that makes this department of husbandry profitable. Resolve to grow none but the best, and be sure that no condition necessary to produce this result shall be neglected on your part.

The same is true of potatoes, apples, cranberries, etc. The prices of potatoes last week were reported as follows: The Davis Seedlings, eighty to eighty-five cents a bushel; Garnets at eighty-five to ninety cents; Prolifics at ninety-five cents to one dollar, and Jacksons at ninety-five cents to one dollar; Early Rose sold at one dollar and five cents to one dollar and fifteen cents per bushel. The difference between the labor and cost for producing a bushel of the Davis Seedling and a bushel of the Early Rose would not be perceptible; yet the difference in the price of a bushel of these varieties is thirty-five cents. New England apples are selling as low as one dollar and seventy-five cents a barrel, and Western apples are selling at two dollars and a half and upwards (wholesale prices). Ordinary cranberries sold for six dollars a barrel, and fine Cape cranberries from nine to ten dollars a barrel.

Of butter, the prices ranged last week from fifteen to thirty cents a pound, the latter figure being for a choice article, of which description there is but little in the market, while of the inferior kinds the market, as it almost always is, is greatly

overstocked. Of cheese, fine factory was quoted from fourteen and a half to fifteen and a half cents a pound and upwards; common, or what is called fair, twelve and a half to thirteen cents a pound. Such is the state of prices with regard to dairy products. Who can tell how much more dairy-men would annually realize if they produced none but the best quality of goods?

Look at the reports of the live-stock markets, the wool markets, etc., and the same tendency to overstock the market with inferior products prevails. Would that we could persuade farmers to put forth renewed efforts, with the opening of the season for 1877, to produce none but the best of everything that they grow or make to sell. Thus might they make farming a good paying business, as it is when skilfully conducted.—*Am. Cultivator*.

WHAT IS THE MOST PROFITABLE?—Enquiries are frequently made as to which is the most profitable branch of farming. It depends on contingencies. In some places corn-growing and pork-raising, in others wool-growing, and in others dairying are steadily profitable one year with another. Where circumstances, such as rich corn land, healthful dry pastures, or abundant grass, with pure water, favor one or the other of these specialties, it is best to fall into them, and keep to them. But for general purposes, special crops or employments are rarely suitable, and mixed farming is the best reliance. This implies the culture of roots, grass, and grain, chiefly for feeding to the stock, and only partly for sale. The aim must be to distribute the produce so that a good portion come back as soil manure, and the soil is kept improving constantly in fertility and freedom from weeds. Then immediate advantage can be taken of any exceptional condition of things, and if grain does not pay, meat and wool may be made, and if grain happens to be high, it may be sold, and some other cheaper feed be bought to replace it. A sharp farmer, who has some capital, and can turn about at short notice, will never be caught in a poor year without at least average profit from his business.—*Aman Agriculturist*.

#### Selecting Seed.

Races of plants, however good, may, like cattle, be either stunted and starved by poor food and want of care, or have their properties of size, quality of flesh, and early maturity, still developed by generous feeding, continued throughout successive generations. Thus the "nursed" root not only shows the ideal towards which all aim in degree, but represents in simply a somewhat exaggerated degree what has really been accomplished by the most eminent seed-growers, and so accomplished quite as much by judicious nursing—or, in other words, feeding—as by any other process. Now, it cannot yet be said that the exhibition of such results is needless. The time is not yet come when such developed and well nourished seed is commonly used throughout the kingdom, any more than it is yet come for every farmer to use, as he should do, a pure-bred bull. Countless numbers still buy their seed—we will not say of a local seedsman, since many such select their seed with as much care as the leviathan houses, and are by such means gradually making a reputation of their own—but of vendors who take no efficient care that the quality is any better than ordinary. The results are of a corresponding character; and such men need to be shown that by such procedure they incur a startling loss.

With all that is said about "nursing," on the other hand, it is quite certain that while no nursing in the world will produce the mammoth roots we see at every show from such poor seed as yet forms the supply of more than half England, so the "nursing" processes themselves tend more and more every day to translate themselves into ordinary farming. Nearly all the great improvements in agriculture have been first worked out in small and special plots; and only by degrees is it discovered in what manner and degree similar means may be employed in the open field. The heavy root-crops already raised by the employment of expensive manures, were in the first instance raised by the special nursing of experimentalists; but it was rapidly discovered similar treatment even paid, when applied with knowledge and skill. It is more than doubtful if those limits of the forcing process which yield profitable results have yet been reached; and we need not point out how much every consideration of this kind is enhanced, when the problem is bound up with the other one of raising and developing new and fine varieties.

It has sometimes occurred to us that root competition on a new system would be beneficial. Suppose farmers were invited to compete for prizes awarded to the heaviest crops off a given measured area, full particulars of seed, treatment and cost being required; such would not supersede the old root shows, but in our opinion would be very useful. The obvious difficulty as to ascertaining the exact facts might, we think, be got rid of by some system of certificates from either the clergyman of the parish, who is usually willing to co-operate with his farming parishioners, or some of the county officers. We have a strong conviction that such defined contest would have a much better effect than the present vague competitions of "prize farms;" but whether or not this be so, we believe root showing has much life in it yet, in spite of the rascality of a few, and much work yet to do, in spite of the good work it is admitted to have already done.

#### Salt as a Manure.

A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman*, residing in Brant County, Ontario, writes as follows concerning the use of salt as a manure:

"Having seen a communication in your last issue upon the application of salt as a manure, I fully endorse the good results from its use, as expressed by your correspondent. In Brant county, where I reside, its non-application will soon be the exception and not the rule, as a material benefit accruing to those who have used it, is such as to make us feel that our success in growing good crops, particularly barley, depends to a considerable extent upon its application. Experiments have been tried, such as leaving strips in a field without any salt, resulting in such a contrast as to cause any one not knowing the facts to wonder at it. But the most noticeable difference within my knowledge is where a farmer sowed the salt with an attachment on a grain drill for that purpose, by which, not working properly, some drills were salted and others not, making the barley field at harvest time present a rather ludicrous appearance as the salted drills were of a brighter color, taller and ripened fully a week earlier than the others.

"We find we receive the most benefit from an application of about 240 pounds per acre. We sow broadcast on the ground after ploughing or before cultivation, as the case may be, working it in with the grain. There is no question with us whether we shall apply it or not. Of course last season barley was generally a pretty light sample, yet in this vicinity we grew a considerable quantity up to the standard, and which I may say almost invariably received the aid of salt; bringing the highest market price, while the lighter grades could hardly find a purchaser.

"So far as the cost is concerned, we can get good, clean salt at \$3 per ton, costing at our rate of application about 48 cents per acre, surely a very cheap manurial agent. It is considered that salt very generously absorbs ammonia, yet it is not thought to be a permanent benefit, as in the decomposition the ammonia is liberated freely, although it is retained long enough to be of benefit to growing plants. At all events, our experience is where it has been applied to grain, the straw is stiffer and brighter; heads larger and better filled; weighs heavier, proving it to be by practice as well as by theory a very valuable manure."

#### Foreign Farm and Stock Notes.

In the following correspondence of the *Western Farm Journal* there are some useful hints for us. We are always increasing our own knowledge by adding to it the experience of others.

Saxony possesses a soil much resembling that of Belgium, and barley and rye are the chief crops cultivated, the climate being dry. To keep up the fertility of their soil, the Saxon farmers employ much bone dust, guano, superphosphates, &c., but in a specially associated manner. When the rye is in flower, yellow lupine is sown; at reaping time the lupine has well taken root, and grows vigorously after the rye has been removed. When the plants are in flower, generally about August, they are plowed in, the commercial manures distributed and the soil thus prepared is re-sown with rye. In dry climates and for light lands, this mode of manuring is to be recommended.

In Spain, an ox or a cow consumes annually 60 pounds of salt; a horse 30, and a pig 16. The Swiss say, it is impossible to have good meat or milk, without salt. The latter is cheaper in Switzerland than in France, and yet it is France supplies the Swiss markets with salt.