

been farming. Hay (pressed) this year, is 20 tons at \$20 per ton; probably the average price for the next six years will not exceed \$16, and will not fall short of that.

**NEW BRUNSWICK.**—Mr. Robb, Secretary of Board of Agriculture of New Brunswick, issued an address to the Farmers of that province to place them on their guard against cattle disease. He says:—"No cases are reported in any of the British Provinces, we may expect to hear of them, and it is of highest concern to us that it should not be introduced into New Brunswick. What the disease has been to potatoes, murrain or pneumonia is to horned cattle. Portugal the cause of the latter seems to be less remote, although its cure is as difficult as that of the former malady. It seems to be purely contagious, and thus, by proper precautions, it may be kept at a distance at all events. There would seem to be no safety but in the absolute exclusion from the Province of all cattle from suspected countries. Raw meat may also be treated as dangerous. The consideration of private gain or convenience will justify the least risk in this matter. Butchers, of all kinds, are hereby admonished most seriously in regard to the importation of all cases as soon as known, and urged to report the same to the proper authorities."

**PHILIP CORN IMPROVING.**—In a recent communication, E. H. Gilbert, Esq., of Nevada, informed us that he last year raised 525 bushels of ears of King Philip Corn on four acres. It was planted about the 12th of June (the severe frost.)—the rows being 3 feet apart each way. The crop was hoed once, but cultivated three times. Mr. Gilbert, according to the experience of himself and other Livingston county cultivators, this variety of corn has greatly improved within the last few years. The ears are much larger (a third) than formerly, and the crop more productive, though a few days later in maturity. Has the same improvement been noticed in other sections where the King Philip is a comparatively new variety?—*Rural Worker.*

**SALES OF SHORTHORNS.**—Three large sales of short-horns have taken place in Kentucky this year. Mr. Sheffer, B. Warfield and R. A. Alexander have each in turn, afforded buyers an opportunity. A correspondent of the *Ohio Farmer* justly observes: "I will find that some animals sold cheap, from \$5 to \$50, while others brought as high as \$100; and it was invariably the fact that the good animal was offered, the price was not inferior to one wanted. But I think it is enough to say that the average at Mr. Sheffer's sale, in a large herd of cows, heifers, and calves, was about \$90; at B. Warfield's, \$70; and at R. A. Alexander's, \$150.

The reason, I think, why the average was so low, in all, was the fact that so many were offered at one time, which over supplied the market.

### Potatoes under Straw.

Having seen, more than twenty years ago, reports of extraordinary success in raising potatoes by covering them with straw, I was induced to try a small experiment, which I will relate.

A plot in my garden about fifty feet square, of well manured clayey land, was spaded up and made fine and smooth. It was then marked out in shallow drills two feet and a half apart, and potatoes (of the pink-eye variety) planted whole two feet apart in the drill, and barely covered with earth. The whole patch was then covered with light, dry wheat straw, which had been very much broken by its passage through a thrashing machine, and the same spread lightly and evenly with a pitchfork to the depth of about two feet. Several showers occurred soon after the potatoes were planted, which settled the straw very considerably, and in due time the vines came up through the straw, and soon covered the entire surface with the rankest vegetation.

Nothing more was done to the patch till the vines were killed by frost in autumn. Not a weed appeared among them. At the usual time of digging potatoes, the dead vines were all pulled and removed; then, with a potato fork, the layer of straw—which was pretty well rotted, and not more than four or five inches in thickness—was carefully removed. To my great surprise, there lay the potatoes on the surface, literally covering the ground, and almost as clean as if they had been washed. They were picked up and measured, but the quantity I do not remember. This much, however, I well recollect: that I never raised so good a crop by any other mode of culture. They were of very uniform size, and of good quality.—*S. Mosher-Latonia Springs, Ky.*

**CLOVER, TIMOTHY, AND WHEAT—QUANTITY OF SEED PER ACRE.**—In a late communication to the *Rural American*, Mr. John Johnson says:

I once sent out a man to sow clover seed with a sowing machine that would sow five quarts of timothy seed, or any quantity more I might wish. I set it for sowing clover the same as for sowing five quarts of timothy. I gave the man seed enough to keep him sowing until noon, as I thought; but in two hours he was home for more seed. Being sure that he had either driven the horse far too fast, or sown far too thick, I went to see, and found he had sown full 24 quarts to the acre; and as the machine could be set no closer, I stopped it, and had the balance of the field sown by hand, at the rate of not quite ten pounds per acre. The result was, where the 24 quarts were sown to the acre, the clover never got taller than the natural white clover we some seasons have in such quantities, but which