

ENGLISH.

"*Onion seed, onion seed.*—Special offer at reduced prices—F. GEE is prepared to supply the above genuine new Bedfordshire-grown Seed (best growth for the season) as follows, for cash with orders. Free by parcel post or rail, with packing.

Selected White Spanish Onion..... 2s. 0d. per lb.

" Bedfordshire Champion,
very fine stock..... 2s. 3d. "

In not less than 1 lb. lots. Smaller quantities higher rates."

An average price of 50 cents a pound—only one-fifth of the cost here!!!

Seeding grass lands.—Every body in England knows "Smith of Woolston," one of the pioneers of steam-ploughing. A cantankerous, abusive creature, whose hand is against every man, and with a budget of Billingsgate terms ready to hurl at any one who contradicts him. However, as far as farming goes, he has the root of the matter in him, and, in the few points in which he and I agree, I must acknowledge him to be a man of singular perspicacity! And here is one of the points:

"I must have a word about seeding of land down to grass. Our prodigality knowing ones, will have it that the laying of land down to grass needs a costly process of cleaning and seeding with cracked-up seeds. I have examined a lot of land that has been seeded down thus costly, but in no one instance do I find their grand costly seeds to stand. They die out, and the natural grasses come in. My own 100 acres of clay land that run down takes the shine out of the costly practice of seeding down, for it is now overrun with natural clover and other fine grasses. I did not have any of their pickpocket stuff, but I dress my land frequently with corn-made manure. That is the way to fetch land about."

And herein Mr. Smith and I differ entirely from Professor Brown of Guelph: which of us is right time, will show.

Mixed seeds for Lawns, etc.—Here we are again—four or five dollars an acre ought to suffice, but one well known seedman recommends 40 lbs. to be sown with a mixture of seeds costing 30 cents a pound=\$12.00! And this not for the acre=4840 square yards, but for the Canadian arpent, which is said in the list from which I quote to contain 3600 square yards, as indeed it does only the yards are 3 *French* feet each, and the arpent really contains 4095 square yards English measure, and thus, as 13 arpents=11 acres, we have the cost of laying down lawns, tennis grounds, &c., equal to \$14.00 an acre—which is absurd.

Now, Dr. Bea' of the Michigan Agricultural College, has carefully examined these lawn-mixtures, having got samples from several of the leading seedmen of the country. He finds most of them to consist largely of Blue-grass and Red top, with smaller quantities of White-clover, Sweet vernal grass, Perennial Rye-grass, Orchard grass, Timothy, Sheep's fescue, Meadow Foxtail, &c.; with traces of Chess, Plaintain, Velvet grass, &c.

June or Blue-grass is worth \$2.00 per bushel at retail, and Red-top \$1.00, and these two, with perhaps 3 pounds of white clover, will be quite sufficient for an acre of land. Great grasses, like Timothy, Rye-grass, Orchard grass, and Red-clover, had better be left out. Mow and roll, mow and roll; that is the way to get a real lawn. What was the reply of the Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, to the lady who asked him how they managed to have such beautiful grass-plats? "You have only," said he, to mow and roll them three times a week for three or four hundred years, and the turf will be as you see it."

Mr. Henry Stewart, I am happy to see, shares my opinion on the results derived from mixed food. We both find effects from this mode of feeding which are at variance with the theory of analytical values.

"The results derived from the use of mixed foods are relative and reflex; that is, one acts upon another and so produces better effects than either alone. The use of beets or mangels in the winter, with hay and mixed corn-meal and bran, increases the effect of the latter upon the milk product, and thus every dairyman should test mixtures of food to learn by experience the gain that may be made. No precise law can be laid down, because animals differ very considerably; but it is a fact that mangels or sugar-beets, or even apples in the season, fed with the meal, increase the product of butter by adding to the quantity of the milk. This is the most important thing to know, as a food that is apparently deficient in fat, and supposed to have no direct influence upon the produce of butter, may yet, by increasing the flow of milk, actually stimulate the secretion of fat and so produce more butter than the food given with it would have done without it. This is one of the surprising reflex results of mixed foods, *which are ascertained only by direct experiments*, and cannot be predicated by a mere knowledge of chemical analyses of food substances. A great number of experiments made for some years past have, however, made this very clear, and hence the use of mangels or sugar beets have been found exceedingly valuable and profitable. One peck per day, fed at noon, cut fine and mixed with two quarts of mixed feed, as finely ground corn meal and coarse middlings, is a proper ration, and in the apple season the same quantity of ripe apples (no other kind will do) is equally useful. It will undoubtedly pay. Another fact might be noted in this connection, which is pertinent, viz., that the cutting of hay or fodder, wetting it and mixing the meal with it, has always been found to add to the product of milk and butter both; the reason in both cases being that the prepared or mixed food is better eaten, and being more palatable, is more thoroughly salivated and is consequently better digested; the salivary fluid having quite active solvent and digestive properties."

I beg to call the attention of my correspondent "Quebec" to the above.

Milking cows by machinery.—Once more, an instrument comes before us for performing by mechanical means what is now done—and too often very badly done—by hand. M. Reuben D. Rath, of Mummaburg, Pennsylvania, has introduced an apparatus which, according to his statement, even unskilled persons are able to use. It is described as a hollow spud, through the broad end of which pass two india-rubber clamping plates, or jaws, of a semi-circular form, whilst the handle serves as a receptacle for a spring connected with the clamps. When the milker is to be used, the cow's teat is inserted in the jaws, and worked by alternate pulling and releasing the spring, the surfaces of the jaws pressing up the teat with an elastic and springing motion, which is intended to be an imitation of the pressure excited by hand-milking, and which, it is said, will not distress the animal. At all events a mechanical milker is greatly needed nowadays, as good hand-milkers are very scarce, and an evil-disposed man or woman, after a quarrel with the master, could easily ruin a dairy of cows by neglecting to the empty their udders for a week or two. By the by, after all said and done about these instruments, the stripping would have to be done by hand.

Oats.—Mr. Stewart reminds us that we do not sow oats early enough—*connu*—the land, he says, should be ploughed