

and severe changes of weather, if they are covered with clean straw before earthing them up. Our plan was to have the grain in some sheaves beaten out with the flail, and the straw kept for the purpose of laying over the potato pits before covering in with earth. By doing this the straw can be laid like the thatch on a house, and be of more value as a protection from rain and frost than if it had been taken from the straw-stack.

It is well to have the potatoes sorted before putting in, if there is time to do so. Let all the small ones be picked out and put away separately, or carried to the barn to be fed out to the milch cows or store hogs.

If the potatoes are stored away in a cellar or root-house they must go into it perfectly dry, and should be divided into lots of about one hundred bushels each, with board partitions between to prevent the whole mass from getting heated and rotting. If they cannot be dried in the field before storing away, they should be drawn to the barn and spread out to dry on the floor. If there is any rot in the crop, the very greatest care must be taken to reject every potato that shows the least suspicion of it. It is better to do this than to find out, a few weeks afterwards, that one speck of rot had developed into such proportions as to necessitate the throwing away of many bushels.

Rye for Early Pasturage.

The shortness and inferior quality of the hay crop of this season make it probable that, by the time spring comes, many farmers will find themselves with less of it than is desirable to carry through their stock in good condition till grass comes. The price also may rule so high as to be an inducement to sell hay, rather than consume it on the farm.

In order to provide for this contingency, it will be well for those who breed stock largely, especially sheep, to grow some crop that will give them an extra early bite in spring, should the winter fodder not hold out.

For this purpose, nothing better adapted to the climate, or more certain to succeed than winter rye, can be found. It will grow on almost any soil, with very little preparation, and if sown early enough, will acquire such a growth before hard frosts stop it, that when the snow melts in spring the sheep will find a very good bite, and it will start again so early that much feed can be had from a field of it before there is a bite of grass in any of the meadows. The seed required will cost but little, as from a bushel to a bushel and a half per acre will be sufficient seeding. Stubbles, and land intended for fallows or roots next year, may as well be sown with this crop, if it is thought probable that there will be a deficiency of forage before grass comes again. But it is a

very undesirable crop if allowed to go further and grow up to maturity, and those who sow it for the purpose of obtaining late fall or early spring feed must not be tempted by the fine appearance of the growth to neglect ploughing it up as soon as the stock can go to other pasturage. It is also better to be careful with stock when they are turned on such very early spring feed, and allow them to get gradually accustomed to it, otherwise the sudden change from dry fodder to green food will prove prejudicial by rendering them liable to scouring, and giving them a distaste to what dry fodder can still be spared to them. They should get out on the rye only for a short time each day, and in no case be allowed to live on it exclusively.

Thin Seeding of Wheat.

I notice a good deal of controversy in the English papers on this head, and being somewhat practical in my notions, and at the same time observant from habit, I am led to believe that all their theories and doubts, so far as Canada is concerned, will be swept away by the oft-repeated observation made in the spring by almost every farmer, namely, "My wheat is pretty good so far, but too thin." Who ever heard of wheat being too thick on the ground in spring in Canada? Very few; and what every one says must generally have a great deal of truth in it, at all events so far as the practical results go here. Wheat may do well at home if dibbled in at a distance of 12 x 9 inches; but I am very sure if our farmers had their crops winter killed so as to leave only one plant at this distance, they would make the above observation, and it would almost always be exactly the fault such a thinned out crop would have. "It would be too thin."

It may be that the land here, combined with our short season, will not allow of the stooling out of wheat so thinly sown; but such is the fact, and all the statements of English agricultural experience will not convince our farmers that they would be more certain of a crop, with plants at 9 x 12 inches apart, than if twice as thick. Such statements as those we read of in English papers are calculated to mislead, and sometimes to discourage experiment, unless followed on with great caution, and due consideration as to circumstances attending them.

C.

Storing Roots for Winter Use.

The most advantageous method is undoubtedly a cellar under a side-hill barn, where the roots can be cut up and fed out to the stock at one operation, and without the necessity of exposing them to severe cold in conveying them from the place where they are stored to the place where they are to be fed out. Except in a side-hill barn where the roots can be on the same floor with the stock, it is seldom advisable to have a root cellar under

a building. If a cellar is made to hold them under an ordinary barn, it is apt to be damp, and the roots to suffer for want of ventilation. A root house, either on the surface or but little below it, and adjoining the cattle stables, is preferable to a cellar underneath them. The outside walls above the ground may be banked up with earth, and the top portion covered with stable manure. The root house may be made of two inch plank, if more substantial materials are not convenient. Where timber is abundant, a cheap and substantial frost-proof root house can be made of logs, the roof being made of strong poles, covered with pine branches, and then with manure or earth. The manure can be removed in spring, and a fresh coating put on each year. Where a root cellar is used for storing, it is well not to fill it too full at once, but to let a part of the roots be pitted on the field, and afterwards drawn in on mild days in winter or early spring, when the roots in the cellar have been nearly fed out. If very large quantities are stored in the root cellar, there should be partitions made to divide them into quantities of 200 to 300 bushels, to prevent heating.

Salt as a Manure.

With the present abundance of salt in Canada, it is most desirable that its value applied as a dressing to the soil should be definitely ascertained, which can only be done by means of actual experiment. It is not yet known as it should be, that salt, although not possessing chemical constituents of value as plant food, yet acts as a powerful solvent of those elements contained in the soil that, when dissolved, go to make up the bulk of the food of plants growing upon it. This accounts for the fact that the richer the soil the more likely is a dressing of salt to prove valuable to it. The best time to apply the salt would probably be, in the case of winter wheat, to sow it broadcast on the soil just before sowing the wheat; on land intended for spring crops it might be sown on the surface late in the fall on newly ploughed land, or very early in spring as soon as the land is ploughed for a spring crop. It is quite probable that the barley crop would be benefited by the application of salt, as well as wheat. For mangels, salt is said to have been used in Britain with marked advantage. The quantity that can be given with profit can only be ascertained by repeated trials; but one barrel per acre is little enough to begin with. An increase of even one or two bushels per acre would amply repay the small cost of the salt, and it is likely that a much greater increase would be given in many cases.

It is said that in combination with lime, by slaking the lime with water in which salt has been largely dissolved, a good material for composting with swamp muck, and quickly decomposing it, may be obtained. The slaking of the lime with salt water causes