

FARM AND FIELD.

HINTS ABOUT TURNIP RAISING.

There is no late or second crop that can be more easily grown, or more quickly brought to maturity, than one of the strap-leaved varieties of turnips. And on almost any place where vegetables are grown can be found at this season a piece of land where this crop can be conveniently grown. The turnip crop is often considered a coarse and common one, but we learn to appreciate it when it cannot readily be obtained, as was shown by the high rates paid for the almost worthless foreign turnips which were imported the past winter.

If it is intended to raise turnips largely, and do the work of cultivating by horsepower, the sowing should always be done with that end in view, as in a field where such a crop is grown there can be no greater mistake than that of having the rows too close together, thus preventing horse cultivation.

In the cultivation of all root crops the soil should be fine, smooth and rich, the latter being highly essential to the production of fine roots. The land should also be as free from weeds and weed-seeds as possible. A noted onion-grower said, a few years since, that he who plants onions on weedy ground will repent it all summer on his hands and knees; and the same is true in a measure of turnip culture. Turnip-growers who besire the best results prefer to have the soil for this crop prepared a few weeks or months ahead, in order to have it thoroughly settled. They are sometimes grown as a second crop to follow peas without ploughing the soil afresh. If the soil be dry, a good degree of firmness can be given to it by rolling it; but wet land should never be rolled.

If the manure be fine and can be applied liberally, it may be spread broad-cast and very lightly ploughed in, or harrowed in with a heavy harrow; or, if preferred, furrows can be opened at the proper distances, and the manure spread therein and covered. This plan is more economical of the manure. If commercial fertilizers are applied it is best to put them as close to the seed as they can be placed without doing injury, but they should be somewhat incorporated with the soil in order to have them in the best shape for plant-food. Good wood-ashes are a most excellent fertilizer for turnips, and this is one reason why they do so well on new land that has been burnt over. Potash, superphosphate of lime, and Peruvian guano are also excellent fertilizers.

When land is abundant or rough, the rows may be three feet apart; but horse cultivation can be done when the rows are as close as two feet. A mistake is sometimes made in "ridging" up the rows of turnips, a practice which, on dry soils, is often detrimental to their growth. The rows should be as nearly straight as possible, to allow the cultivator to run evenly and close to the rows, thereby saving time in hoeing. Plenty of seed should be used, as it insures evenness of plants in the rows, which is not so likely to be obtained when it is sown sparingly. Turnip-seed can be sown very satisfactorily with the seed-drill, as its round shape causes it to distribute freely. As soon as the plants

appear, attention should be given to the weeds. Nowhere in horticultural operations is "a stitch in time saves nine" so true. If weeds are attended to in season, it not only saves much time and labour in removing them, but the young plants are left undisturbed. To insure a good crop, the soil should be kept mellow and free from weeds throughout the season.

Thinning should be done as soon as the plants become strong enough to endure the operation. When the thinning requires considerable labour, it may be done to a great extent with a hoe narrow enough to keep the turnips the proper distance apart by striking out the turnips in bunches, so that those which remain may be thinned by hand. The amount of thinning necessary will depend considerably on the strength of the land, rich soil requiring a greater distance between the roots than poor soil. Should the turnip-fly become troublesome, the plants should be dusted with air-slacked lime or soot; but these do not usually do much danger after the plants attain their second leaves.

HOW CONTRACTS ARE MADE.

To make an agreement binding, one party must make an offer, and the other accept it. It takes two to make a bargain. The parties must be of the same mind at the same time. A man asks a dealer what the price of an article is; the dealer answers, giving the price, the buyer says he will take it. There is no contract here unless the dealer agrees to sell it. When a man makes an offer and another accepts it, the second must let the first know that he accepts it. If a man agrees to guarantee that another will pay for what he purchases those who trust the party on the faith of the guaranty must notify the person who made it, or he will not be bound.

Again, if one offers to pay one hundred dollars for a horse, the seller to accept within twenty-four hours, the proposer is not bound unless the other does accept within that time. More than this, one who makes an offer can withdraw it at any time before it is accepted.

The offer must be accepted as it is made. If a seller offers ten barrels of flour at six dollars a barrel, he is not bound to sell five barrels at that rate. When land is offered for sale and the buyer offers to take it if the title proves to be good, the buyer has not made a contract that will bind the seller.

A contract that is made in sport or as a mere matter of form, is not binding.

If a man makes a promissory note while showing another how well he can write, the note is not binding upon him, unless it has been sold to some person who knew nothing about it and paid for it.

A man who is embarrassed in business gives a bill of sale of his property to a friend, so as to cheat his creditors. No contract exists and the creditors can hold the property. But the person in whose favour the bill of sale is made out can hold the goods against the fraudulent debtor.

Another case of this kind is often seen in newspaper articles. We read that a lady and gentleman go through the marriage ceremony at a public entertainment to amuse their friends, and afterwards find that they are really married. This is not true. The mar-

riage contract is no more binding than any other contract unless it is made and intended seriously, not in sport.

The contract must be made freely and not under compulsion. If a robber holds a pistol at a traveller's head, and threatens to shoot him unless he gives a note for a sum of money, the note thus obtained is worthless. Again, a landlord takes a boarder's wedding suit from him on the day the latter is to be married, and refuses to give it up until a note is given for board due. The landlord cannot enforce the payment of a note so given.

False statements made by either party will make a contract worthless. If a person buys land, the seller saying there are twenty-five acres in the plot, the buyer may refuse to accept it if there are in fact only twenty-three acres.

WHAT LANDS NEED DRAINAGE?

Loose, porous soils, underlaid by sand or gravel, are drained by nature; but all land that is underlaid by clay, rock or other impervious material needs draining. What is to be gained by underdrainage? The surface of the water in the soil is lowered. The roots of the cereals and grasses may penetrate as far as the surface of the water, but never into it. It is necessary to draw the water off to such a depth as will give the roots of growing crops plenty of room to reach downward for that nourishment that is necessary to their growth. If the water is only one foot from the surface, the roots of the plants have only that amount of soil from which to gather nourishment, with the disadvantage of having their feet wet by capillary attraction. Only aquatic plants grow well with their feet in the water. The lowering of the water below the surface prevents a large amount of evaporation and its effect in cooling the soil. The water being removed, air and warmth are admitted to the soil. Drained lands are for this reason ready for planting at least one week earlier in the spring. The growth of the crops is quickened through the summer by the increased temperature of the soil, which amounts to several degrees, and the injurious effects of early frosts are prevented in the same manner. Crops are, therefore, given an increased period in which to make their growth of at least two weeks.—*Exchange.*

MORTGAGED FARMS.

The idea of mortgaging a farm has been written up, by eloquent pens, both in prose and poetry, and the lessons usually tend to make a young man think that a mortgage invariably precedes the poorhouse, while this is only occasionally the fact. There have been many cases where industrious young men have bought farms and only paid part of the price, giving a mortgage to secure notes for the remainder; and they have gone on economizing, paying off the debt as fast as possible, and finally in a few years had their farms clear of debt.

The kind of mortgage which ruins the farmer is to pay debts incurred for some luxury, or to raise money to buy something for the family to keep up appearances with their more wealthy neighbours.

If a young man goes on a farm—a good farm—and determines that he will live within