

HUNGARIAN GRASS

(From the Rural New Yorker.)

EDS. RURAL:—You will excuse me for troubling you with a few paragraphs on a topic that I conceive to be of real importance to agriculturists and all directly or indirectly concerned in their prosperity, which would include, I apprehend, that vast concourse, "all the world, and the rest of mankind."

The subject of which I design writing is a peculiar kind of grass introduced into this neighbourhood some four years since. This product, from its being brought here by that band of Hungarian exiles, who, under Ujhazy, settled in Decatur Co., is called Hungarian grass. This much of its "pedigree" will suffice. I will, in a very few words, state its commendable qualities, now well established, after a fair and thorough trial.

1st. This grass will yield from three to seven tons per acre, according to soil and season. A fair average crop on ordinary soil and fair season is four tons per acre.

2d. Its nutritious qualities are not excelled by any product now in use as provender for any kind of stock. Cattle, horses, hogs, and sheep, all devour it with great avidity and relish. In fact they will leave most other articles of food, when opportunity offers to get this grass.

3d. The yield of seed (which is said to be of much value for the manufacture of oil) is very great. It yields a crop of seed ranging from twenty to forty bushels per acre, soil and season favourable.

These facts, which can be incontestably established by the evidence of hundreds of the wealthiest farmers in this portion of Iowa, are what has given this grass so great a popularity throughout this and adjoining States. Two years ago every one seemed to regard it as a doubtful experiment, but each succeeding year has won for it new and better commendations. This season it has won immensely on the good opinions of all acquainted with it. It is almost a stranger to failures. It but wants a trial to speedily supplant all other kinds of provender for stock. The stalks and blades are rich in saccharine juices, while the seed is among the very richest grain grown in this or any other country. For Iowa this grass will be of almost incalculable value. The elevated prairies are very unfavourable to the production of the grasses ordinarily relied upon for winter food for stock. None of these last do well in this soil, and consequently can never be relied on here. But the Hungarian grass is a highly satisfactory substitute. I am fully impressed with the conviction that your readers who know nothing personally of the production of which I am speaking, will regard what I have said as a rather gassy as well as grassy article, but I am conscious that my statements can be fully substantiated by the testimony of the great bulk of farmers hereabouts, and their statements will receive the confirmation of all the loafers, lawyers, doctors, preachers, honest men, and boys in the country.

About four years ago this grass began to be cultivated in this county as an article of provender, by two or three farmers who had got hold of the seed. Now nearly every farmer in the country is raising as much of it as he can get the seed to sow and ground to put it in. In fact numbers of merchants and gentlemen engaged in other business in this vicinity have actually turned their attention, to a considerable extent, to raising this article of food for stock. Quite a number, whom I could name, last spring hired all the ground they could come at and bought seed to sow it at \$4, and even \$6, per bushel. The result is, they get, generally, about five tons per acre of the best of hay, worth \$6 per ton, as a remuneration for this singular venture. A pretty fair compensation for so small an outlay of labour and capital. This grass is an annual, requiring to be sown each season. It will yield two crops per year on the same ground, in this latitude, but this is generally thought to be too exhausting to the soil. At the solicitation of a friend, I have been induced to give you these simple facts in relation to this article of agricultural production, with a view to advance the interest of a most useful class of our fellow citizens, the farmers, by bringing to their notice, in the older States, an article that needs only to be known to be universally appreciated as the best reliance for food for all kinds of stock raised on the farm.

Albia, Munroe Co., Iowa, 1857.

J. N.

Soot in Chimneys, by taking fire, and dropping burning cinders on dry shingle roofs, causes many conflagrations. Most fires in the country originate in this way. Be particular to clean or burn out soot once a month when the roof is wet.