

is to pulverise the land after it has been turned up by the plough, and thus fit it for the pasture-ground of the roots of the sown plants. Every one will admit that all manures have a tendency to sink deeply into the soil, and no implement except the plough or spade will bring them up to the surface again. A pretty rough state must a field of ensilage present that has been sown with grain after a grubbing with the plough, and then the cut-away tool will complete the preparation of the land, if it be not set to go to deeply, in which case it might bring the stubs up to the surface again: it is in this point alone that the common disc harrow is better than the cut-away, for there is no fear of the former disturbing the stubs and littering the field all over with them.

Mutton.—What with the doubts about the alteration of the tariff of the United States with regard to the duty on raw materials, especially on wool, and the desire for a change of food, the American farmers seem at last to be turning their attention to the production of a sheep that, in addition to its fleece, will yield a carcase adapted to the table. I hear that, at the autumn sales of rams, merinoes were very little sought after. In Ohio, there has been a fair demand for good Down rams, Shropshires and Southdowns being the most in request. A few Oxfords were sold, but no Hampshires, which to me is very strange, as I should have thought a heavy carcase with early maturity would have been an object in a country where *old wether mutton* is a dainty unheard of.

Pease.—Every body likes pease—that is a truism,—but it is strange that, in this country, so few people ever see them in perfection on their tables. They cannot be found at their best in the Montreal markets, for the growers of the few that come there seem determined never to pick them until the pods are quite full, and by that time the pease are over-ripe, hard, even when sufficiently cooked—which takes a long time to do, and mealy. A good pea, well grown on rich land, should almost melt in the month.

The pea is by no means necessarily a garden-crop. Pease do just as well in the field, if the land has been properly prepared. They should be sown regularly in succession every ten days, and the proper kinds should be carefully selected to carry on the picking to the end of the season.

I would not recommend manuring immediately for this crop, for, in our climate, if the season turns out rainy, the plant has a tendency to run too much to haulm, and fresh manuring tends to encourage this fault. I should prefer sowing pease after a manured crop of roots or corn had been taken. The land should be deeply ploughed in the fall, grubbed and harrowed to a very fine tilth in the spring, and the seed sown the very moment the soil is dry enough to work kindly. The early varieties of pease are very hardy: we sow them in England for the London market in October and November, and they stand the winter well. (1) Of course, our winter is a mere trifle compound with that of Quebec, but even in Kent and the neighbouring South-eastern counties we often have 20 to 25 degrees of frost, and that is severer than any cold likely to occur after the land is fit to work here.

The earliest sowings should, in my opinion, be of that wonderful dwarf, *Bliss's American Wonder*.—Fifteen inches apart is room enough for these, and either the Planet Jr. or Mathews' drill will deposit the seed rapidly, and regularly. I prefer sowing pease thickly, for when thinly sown the pods are so freely exposed to the sun that the pease harden before

(1) I hear from England that Bliss' American Wonder is too tender, to stand early sowing.
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they nearly attain their proper development. A quart of seed will plant about 150 feet of drill. The only fault I have to find with the American Wonder is—and it is by no means a fault when grown for market—that almost the whole crop ripens together; in order, therefore, to obviate the inconvenience of having too many pease to gather one day, and not enough, three days afterwards, it would be as well to sow a pint or so of *McLean's Little Gem*, or of *Blue Peter*, at the same time as the Wonders.

Stratagem sown the same day as the Wonder will come to picking about ten days after it. This superb pea should be sown in rows three feet apart, and at that distance may be horse-hoed. The Wonder must rest satisfied with hand-hoeing.

Mr. Waldo Brown, in the *Country Gentleman*, recommends Champion of England, and the other marrowfats, to be grown without sticking, or *brushing*, as the Americans call it, but I never saw a crop of pease the haulm of which exceeds three feet worth growing, unless planted at wide intervals—5 to 6 feet—and firmly supported by close sticking. So great is the demand for pea-sticks in England, that it is quite a business for the *woodman* in felling our coppices to get out as many bundles of them as possible.

The Wonders, if in the ground by the end of April, will be fit for picking by about the 20th June, and should be gathered when very young, as like every other early pea, they soon harden.

After the tenth of June, there is very little use in sowing pease. Later than this, they almost invariably mildew and are worthless for the table. I have tried late sowing several times, and have never succeeded.

In cooking pease, boil a small bunch of *mint* with them. The earliest crop should be eaten alone—not with meat,—and only a sprinkle of fine white-sugar added—*no butter*, please. Green-pea soup passed through a *tamie* is good enough for any one, if the stock has been properly prepared, and a dust of that useful condiment, *celery salt*, given just before serving, with a trifle of sugar. We don't feed half as well as we ought to do.

Potato-crop.—The losses by the rot in the States are, I am told, awful. About Lachine, more than one farmer has not taken the trouble to dig his crop. I see no reason why potatoes should not be a dollar a bushel in the spring. They ask a dollar a bag (1½ bush.) now, and not weighed, either!

Jerseys.—The sale of Jerseys at the celebrated Houghton Farm, New-York State, took place on October 25th. Prices ruled low, we are told, and, as far as I can judge, they were about the same as at the principal sales of the same breed in England. Four hundred dollars was the highest sum bid for a bull, and one cow fetched one hundred and eighty dollars. The majority of the other cows brought about seventy or eighty dollars. "Consignments of Jerseys from other farms, which were offered for sale at the same time, were either of cows too old to be attractive, or of young stock in unthrifty condition, which are always hard to sell on a fall market and went very low": so low, that the *Country Gentleman* does not mention the prices! Happy Mr. Reburn! He at least is certain to sell his line of blood for good prices. Mr. Andrew Dawes told me the other day that he wished all his stock were Jerseys, for they paid him much better than the Herefords and Polled Angus. He has a contract to supply ten gallons of cream a day to the Windsor hotel, Montreal. His farmer, Mr. Tuok, tells me that very few of the Jersey calves have suffered from diarrhoea this past season.

Annual reports.—I have of late received several of the