

PRIZE ESSAY.

Three Crops of Green Fodder Cut in One Season.

BY WILLIAM RODDEN, PLANTAGENET SPRINGS.

SIR,—The best essay I can write about green crops is to give an account of what was done on one of my farms here, about forty miles east of Ottawa city, where our seasons are one or two weeks later in the spring, and close upon ten to twenty days earlier in the fall than about Toronto. The land the experiment was made upon was in fair condition, part of it was clay, part light, and loamy; before the trial a heavy crop of peas and oats came off it. It was plowed, sown with over two bushels of fall rye to the acre, harrowed in with two strokes of the harrow, and rolled before the 20th day of September. When the frost set in, the land was well covered by a thick growth of rye, so good that the lambs were feeding on it until the snow covered it. The following spring the experiments began; the rye came up well and thick, the April frost did not injure it. Cutting the green rye for feed, commenced the tenth of May, when in places it was three and a half to four feet long; it was cut up daily with hay, mixed with a little cracked grain, and fed to cattle and horses; the working horses got also one feed daily of grain; all did well on it.

The field thus sown and being cut from was divided into two parts, one half may be called the first part, the other the second part; the object in doing so was to learn by a change of treatment which of the parts could be made most profitable.

The "first part" was that which was first cut from, before the rye headed out, and it was allowed to grow up again, and, when ripened, a fair crop of second growth of rye was taken off in August. The ground was then manured, plowed, sown with about two and a-half bushels per acre of mixed vetches and oats, excepting a piece that was sown with Aberdeen turnip seed; both were taken off for feed in time, in October and November, to have that part plowed again and sown with fall rye. Thus this "first part" produced a crop of green rye cut in May; a second growth of rye ripened and was taken off in August; a third crop of part mixed green feed and part Aberdeen turnips was taken off in October and early in November.

The "second part" was that from which the green rye was fed off the last week of May, and the first week of June; it was then manured, plowed, and sown with corn steeped the day before, part sown in drills thirty inches apart, with over a bushel of corn per acre, and part sown broadcast, taking about two bushels to the acre. That which was drilled was cultivated between the drills, and moulded; after the corn was well up, the cultivating and moulding up might, with advantage, be repeated before the growth interfered with the work, and it should be done if necessary to keep down growing weeds. It grew rapidly, and that which was drilled grew longer and stronger; the crop off that part was worth fully twenty-five per cent. over that which was sown broadcast. The cutting for green feed began about the middle of August, when the corn was seven to eight feet long; before the middle of September it had grown to ten feet, and parts over twelve feet long. What was not

cut up for green feed was then cut and stood up at the fence to dry, or it could have been put into a silo. According as the corn was cut, the part of the field cleared of it was plowed and sown with early oats and barley, with a few peas in it; this grain was wet and a little land plaster put on it just before sowing; it was harrowed and rolled; it grew up fast and strong; part of it was cut daily for green feed. As soon as there was appearance of frost setting in, what remained was cut, carted into my barn, a

cut could not be properly dried, it was put into the barn in layers with straw, and subsequently cut out as required. In these cases the layers of green crops received a light sprinkling of salt with the straw, the whole became flavored by the green crop and the cattle relished it.

I may, however, say that I found that it was quite a task to see that these frequent and various croppings were properly and promptly attended to. I consider that more than ordinary manuring would be needed to keep up the fertility of the land so cropped, and I came to the conclusion that two good crops taken off in the same season, properly cared for, would be more advantageous, every way considered. When the season opens early, an occasional forcing for the green crops such as I have described, might be advantageous, if on a small field near the buildings, where there would be but a short cartage of manure to it, and of green feed from it, as economy is important in all farming operations.

Your readers will be able to make choice from the three tests herein given, of that which is best suited to their land, to their climate, and to the description of green feed most needed by their live stock.

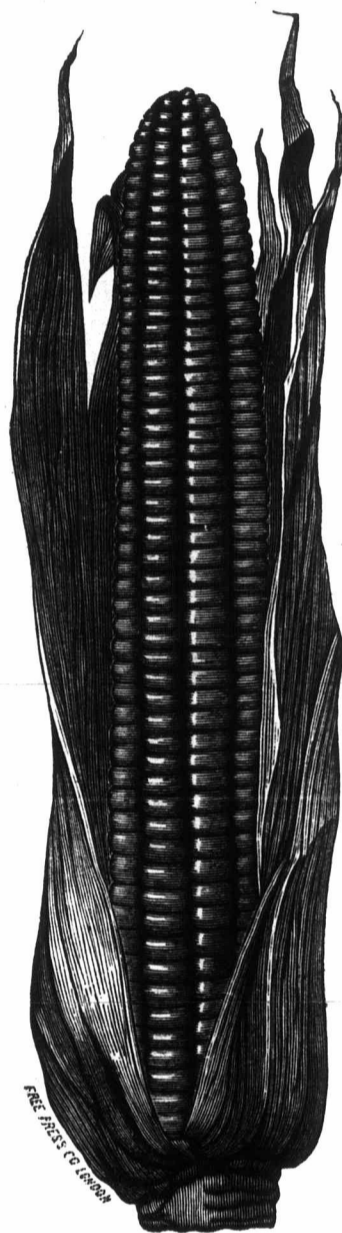
New Variety of Corn.

This new variety of corn, of which we give an engraving, is introduced by Messrs. Pearce, Weld & Co., seed merchants, of this city, and is offered for sale the first time this season. The introducers say of it: "That this is without exception the earliest light rowed yellow field corn grown in Canada, and also the most strictly pedigree variety; is very productive, two ears being generally grown upon each stock and sometimes three. The cob is a good length and has a deep kernel closely set, and when shelled often weighs 64 lbs. per bushel. Upon our grounds last fall this was the only variety that was ripe before the frost."

Farmers Taking Stock.

Every farmer should know just where he stands every year, that he may know in what position he is with the world. Just the same as a merchant takes stock of his goods. Besides ascertaining what advancement he has been making by comparing profits on different branches of the farm, he could, by collecting and comparing his inventory, find out where the greatest profit was, and also any errors that he had made in his calculations. There would probably be no greater benefit derived than by looking over his animals and weeding out all the old and unprofitable stock past their prime. The number of poor old stock kept by the average farmer and their value estimated in proportion to what they eat, would surprise a number of our farmers.

LEACHED ASHES.—It sometimes happens that leached wood ashes produce better results on crops than those that are unleached. This is especially the case in old heaps of leached ashes that have absorbed ammonia and formed saltpetre by being kept protected from light and moisture.



PEARCE'S PROLIFIC.

thin layer of it and of straw spread alternately; both were cut with the hay knife and fed to cattle. Thus this "second part" of the field produced a crop of rye, a crop of corn, and a crop of mixed grain for feeding green, the last of which was taken off in time for fall plowing. I have not an exact estimate of the quantity, but I may say it was very large; a portion must have yielded several tons per acre. Another experiment was made in cutting long red clover for green feed, the season opening early; the clover sown the year before was fit to cut early in June, a second cut was taken off in August; it had received a dressing of plaster after a July shower. In September another light dressing of plaster was given to the third growth which was cut in October; this third