

bably the chief reason why little benefit results from the application of liquid manure to clay soils and fertile friable loams

ARTHUR R. JENNER FUST.

(To be continued.)

Mr. Jocelyn on manures.—Years ago, the farmers of the greater part of Scotland were in the habit of preserving their manure over the year, to use with their sweede crop. The practice vanished as soon as the employment of bone dust came into fashion. Mr. Jocelyn proposes to keep the land unmanured for three years, and to preserve all the dung made in that time in pits or tanks. How about the food of the country? The land is poor enough already, what would it be if no manure was applied for three years? Besides, the mechanical action of the dung in meliorating the texture of the soil and darkening its colour, must not be lost sight of. I confess I can see no possibility of carrying out Mr. Jocelyn's plan.

A. R. J. F.

IN-FIELD AND OUT-FIELD

"The part of the Township properly arable, and kept as such continually under the plough, was called *in-field*. Here the use of quantities of manure supplied in some degree the exhaustion of the soil, and the farmers raised tolerable oats and bear (coarse barley)."

"There was, besides, *out-field* land, from which it was thought possible to extract a crop now and then after which it was abandoned to the 'skiey influences,' until the exhausted powers of vegetation were restored."

This extract from Scott's description of the farming of the tenants of Melrose Abbey, in the reign of Elizabeth, may be transferred to the present state of farming in the province of Quebec. It is exactly the same. The *in-field* is the part just round the town, as the Scotch call the farm-house and buildings, the *out-field* is the *pacage* left to its own devices for three or more years, and then sown with oats.

A. R. J. F.

Not much doing this last month, except getting in the roots. A fine season for the work, though chilly for the fingers. Ice on the 19th and 26th, and snow on the 18th, which lay some time on the higher land. A raw unpleasant month of days alternately hot and cold, with many showers.

Nearly finished ploughing—the land bears a very different face to what it did in the spring—eight inches by eleven on the fallow, and six by nine for the grain-crop; easy work for a pair of lightish horses.

I begin bush-draining to-morrow; about 34 inches deep—shallow enough, I know, but on this soil the only use of the drains is to save water-furrowing and its subsequent inconveniences of open furrows in haying and harvest. Hollows will collect and hold water, and water-furrows are always necessary through them unless there are drains. The ditches have all (a precious lot of them too, for I have to drain two other farms) been cleared out and deepened about a foot, and very well they were done; whereas, if I had waited for my neighbours to do their share, they would have scraped the bottoms, and scamped the work as usual.

The first 9 or 10 inches will be done with the plough, and three draws of a spade will finish the job. The bushes will be cut from the alders, plenty of which grows here: they will vary in diameter from an inch to an eighth of an inch. They will be laid with the butts up the drain, well trodden down, and covered with rough hay and *herbe Saint-Jean*.

Great triumph of the tobacco weather-test to-day! All the

men said this morning that we had got a fine day at last; the tobacco said, No! and it was right, for it has just begun to rain.

My neighbour's cows are all still sleeping out of doors! Poor things. Mr. Lavallée's reason for not housing them is unanswerable: I have quite enough to do to clean the stable out in winter without doing it this time of year! Well, I get three times as much milk from mine that he does from his, so I shall keep on in my own way. (Nov. 14th)

I have one perfect model of a Canadian cow: dark bronze, with ring of tan-colour round the muzzle, and black tongue and switch! Starved when I bought her, but getting into better condition.

ARTHUR R. JENNER FUST.

Raising Early Lambs for the Butcher.

JOSEPH HARRIS.

So far as my experience goes, there is no more trouble in raising an early lamb than a late one. In fact, our earliest lambs are almost invariably our best lambs. I would rather have lambs come in January and February than in April and May, and if I could have them earlier, I should prefer it.

Merino ewes will take the ram earlier in the autumn than the English breeds of mutton sheep. For this reason, if for no other, in raising early lambs for the butcher, I should select common Merino ewes, or at any rate ewes having more or less Merino blood in them. There are other reasons why I should select such ewes. There are more of them in the country, and they can be obtained cheap. They are healthy, hardy, thoroughly acclimated, and will stand rougher treatment than the English mutton sheep. They are smaller, eat less, and occupy less room in winter quarters. They will bear crowding better than the large English sheep—or rather, they suffer less, for it is a mistake to keep any sheep in too close quarters. Common Merino ewes, like Jersey cows, when well-fed, give rich milk, and if you want early, fat lambs for the butcher, the mothers, no matter what breed you may select, must have plenty of nutritious food.

I do not say that common Merino ewes are, in themselves, the best for raising early lambs. They are not. I have had grade ewes, the offspring of a mixed Merino ewe, and a Cots-wold ram, that would produce larger lambs, give more milk, and the lambs would fatten more rapidly, and mature earlier. But it is not always easy to find such ewes for sale. Those that you find in market are apt to be culls. The butcher, if he has a chance, gets the best lambs. A good plan is to go to some large market and buy a car load of sheep, or three or four times as many as you want. Bring them home, and pick out the best ewes and then sell the other ewes and wethers to the butchers. Select out more ewes than you expect to want. Some of them may have been already served by a mongrel ram, and some of them will not take the ram as early as you wish. By pointing or "ruddling" the ram on the brisket, you can tell each day what ewes are served, and all that are not served up to a certain date, can be disposed of. This will get rid of all that were served before you bought the flock. You can generally sell those which you reject for more than you have paid for them.

I need hardly say that as soon as you bring home the sheep, you should give them the best of pasture, and if they have some extra food, such as cotton-seed cake, linseed cake, oats, corn or mill-feed, you will get stronger, earlier and better lambs.

Every sheep in the flock, those already on the farm, and those which you buy, should have their feet pared and thoroughly washed with strong carbolic acid. The crude, black