## Trifolium.

While in France the most remarkable crop that we noticed differing from our own was Trifolium. The thick masses of bloom of a bright scarlet color drew our attention; on inquiry, we were informed of the name and use of this very valuable plant. The flowers are conical in shape; it is grown for early feed and for cut feed throughout the season. The cultivation appears to be about the same as for vetches here; it surpasses the vetch or the clover; it is sown in the autumn and cut or fed off in the fields the following spring and summer.

We felt desirous of trying this plant in our country, so we purchased a small quantity to give it a trial. The quantity of seed required per acre is about fifteen pounds. We can, on application, supply a few small lots to persons wishing to try a half acre. To our regular seed testers or those gentlemen we have seed reports from, or who have written for this paper, or to those that have got up a club or have sent us a new subscriber this year we will send a package as a present, on their paying the postage and the cost of a bag to put it in—say 10 cents.

We are informed that this plant is found to stand the weather well in France. In Kent and Sussex, where we spent most of our time while in England, we found it growing in several places. We hear that in the northern part of England and Scotland it is not much cultivated. We deem it right to give it a trial here; if it will stand our winters as well as it does in Kent and in France, we shall have a plant that our dairymen and our best farmers will require. One of its advantages is that it grows well on poor land.

## The American Potato Beetle.

So well has this intrusive alien become known, that, it may seem, anything relative to its habits and the mode of combatting it most effectually entirely superfluous. However, so many means, *all most effectual*, are continually presented to potato growers, that a notice of the subject can not be unseasonable.

Though the bugs are not yet to be found unwelcome visitors entering our windows and doors, and infesting our walks and flower gardens, as last year, their hosts this year too are in every plot of potatoes innumerable, and when we think them entirely annihilated, another host is met with before twenty-four hours are past, as if they had fallen from the clouds or risen from the earth. Three years, the wise men told us, was the duration of their abode in one locality, but though the three years have expired, their numbers are not diminished.

REMEDIES TRIED AND RECOMMENDED.

*Paris Green.*—This is the remedy first recommended, and notwihtstanding the adverse opinions of some, is an effectual remedy. A gentleman here tells the writer that after making trial of it last season for the purpose, he discontinued it, finding it quite useless. In like manner a correspondent of an agricultural paper writes that having tried Paris Green on two drills of potatoes, giving them a heavy dressing, he found only two bugs destroyed; "the rest appeared to relish the Paris Green and to thrive on it." But Paris Green is a sure antidote; whether mixed, one pound to thirty of plaster, or mixed in water and dredged or sprinkled. Either method has its advantage. Mixed with plaster a remedy is thereby applied for the injury done to the vines. Mixed with water it reaches more surely every place where the enemy may be nestling.

The only objection to it for the purpose is the danger attending the incautious handling of it. An instance of this we know. A person applying it in the usual way was poisoned badly by the poison coming into contact with a scratch on his hand.

*Arsenic.*—This is a favorite remedy with Professor Burrill; a tablespoonful to a bucket of water, sprinkled on the vines through a fine hole. The leaf, he says, appears to retain the poison without any change; as it does not seem to be assimilated by the plant, it in no way affects its growth.

*Vermatoxa.*—In the annual report of the Commissioner of Agriculture, we find in the article, "Insects Injurious to the Potato," mention of a mixture prepared at Strathroy which is claimed to be a very good remedy for the beetle. It is claimed that it has the advantages of being already prepared, and less dangerous than arsenic unmixed or Paris Green. Both Paris Green and Vermatoxa we have used and found effectual remedies.

We have seen recommended as a remedy the liquid in which mandrakes have been boiled, and that in which garlic has been boiled. We do not believe that any extract from herbs, however powerful it may be, will be of any effect against the bugs. At one time the writer witnessed a party of bugs enjoying a feast that would have been their last if vegetable poison had any power over them. A large henbane plant had been broken in the middle, and on the broken stem was a company of bugs feasting on the rich but poisonous sap, not in the least injured, but enjoying the feast. —S.

## Cheese and the Cheese Trade.

*Written for the Farmer's Advocate.*

BY X. A. WILLARD, A. M., PRESIDENT OF N. Y. STATE DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION AND BOARD OF TRADE.

At Little Falls, N. Y., on the 13th of July, the price of cheese had fallen to 11½c. and 11¾c. per pound for the best fancy grades. Persons in the trade, who are well informed, are of the opinion that farmers will drop down still further by the first of August. Whatever affects the price of cheese in New York must affect it in Canada, since both countries export their surplus to the same market, and the price for that surplus abroad governs the price on the whole American product, except in rare instances. The fact has become patent that so long as we have any considerable surplus, Liverpool and London make the prices for American cheese; for so long as dealers are sending cheese abroad at a given price, they can not in reason demand of the home trade more money for the same kind of goods. What the market would drop at the commencement of the hot weather was not unexpected by us. Warning came from our English correspondents that jobbers in England were trying to talk the market down several weeks ago, and in this they have evidently been successful; for we can account for the decline on no other good theory. With a drouth in England and a short crop of English cheese, with a full demand for the American product, and a rapid clearing of the goods soon after landing, there was no good reason that prices should go below those of last year, when we were making our excessive shipments.

It is not necessary to go into all the details concerning the causes which have brought about a weak and demoralized state of the market; it is sufficient to say that the leading cheese mongers in England are well acquainted with the necessities of American dairymen. They know that the hot weather cheese must go forward, that there is scarcely a factory in the United States that can hold over its hot weather cheese with any probability of its retaining its flavor, and that if the attempt were made, the loss on account of defective flavor would very likely be greater than that sustained by accepting hot weather rates, and so they are safe in getting the cheese *at these rates*. This, it seems to us, is the explanation of the present *status* of cheese and the cheese trade.

What, then, is the remedy? Are the American factories at the mercy of English jobbers, who can at any time during hot weather make a price for our goods below their value, compelling us to accept it or do worse? And will not this condition of the trade follow from time to time during the years that are to come, unless some means be devised to correct the evil under which we suffer?

The English dairymen at this date and on the first dropping of the market commenced to hold their goods back for better prices; and they are able to carry their product over the hot weather without deterioration or loss of flavor, because they have ample store room, so constructed as to maintain a uniform temperature sufficiently low to secure it in good order. Such must ultimately be the course that will be pursued by the American factories, for there is no other way open to correct the existing evil and avoid losses in real values, which are forced upon us on account of culpable negligence and want of forethought.

The question of over-production in American cheese is not now urged as formerly, since, with those best informed, it is admitted that we are not over producing.—There is a good, healthy demand for all the cheese made in the United States and in Canada at fair remunerative prices, but it must be spread upon the markets of the world in proper proportions. If goods are forced forward at unreasonable times and in unreasonable quantities, they must be sold at a loss of values. Just so soon as we shall be bridged over the hot weather, and be in condition to hold stocks safely at the factory, prices will advance. This may be fairly predicted from the result of last year's shipments, when our exports were over one hundred millions of pounds. If our factories were in condition to hold our goods, so that only moderate shipments would go forward, we should at once get back to healthy prices. And it concerns Canada as well as the United States that some well devised movement be made in the reconstruction of factories, whereby stocks may be safely held whenever the market shows weakness and demoralization. We believe in sending goods forward as fast as ready, so long as the prices are fairly within values, but we do not believe in forcing sales, unless compelled by absolute necessity. It is a law among good business men to provide against the future, to meet obligations promptly and not place themselves at the mercy of their creditors. All sound, healthy business is conducted on these principles, and they are applicable to the business of dairying. If the factories are so weak as to make no provision against the exigencies of hot weather, they must expect to see their goods go below values and at such rates as a strongly organized commercial interest may dictate.

We hope these words may be of some value to our Canadian friends, and that they may arrest the attention of those who have important interests in factories and factory cheese—in fine, that some plan be adopted for the better care and keeping of our hot weather goods. When this shall be done, we shall expect that they will be better marketed than under the present system.

FROME CHEESE FAIR.

The ninth cheese fair in connection with the Frome Agricultural Society was held on Wednesday in a large tent. About fifty tons of prime cheese, principally of this year's make, was pitched. No first-class dairies, however, were represented. Farmers at first asked higher prices than those recently current, and this checked sales for a time. The prices realized were about the same as last month, and by eleven o'clock nearly all the lots on hand had been disposed of, the attendance of dealers being very large. The following were the rates obtained: Cheddars, 70s. to 75s.; Somersets, 65s. to 72s.; doubles, 56s. to 66s. The fair took place in the field where the new market will be built.—*Mark Lane Express.*

—Soap suds may be used with great advantage for manuring grape vines. Downing says he has seen an Isabella grape vine produce 3,000 fine clusters of well ripened fruit in a season, by the liberal use of manure and soap suds from the weekly wash. The effect of soap suds on other articles is remarkable. A cypress vine that had remained stationary for a fortnight, when about two inches high immediately began growing after being watered with soap-suds and grew about six inches in five days.

## The Horse.

HOW ENGLISH GROOMS CARE FOR HORSES.

A correspondent of the New York *Commercial Advertiser* tells how some English grooms at Saratoga are teaching Yankees the care of horses:

To-day I asked one of these grooms, who had spent 20 years in the stables of royalty what he had to say about our American way of taking care of a horse.

"Why sir," said he, "you don't take good care of your horses; you think you do, but you don't."

"Why?" I asked.

"Because, when a horse comes in all wet with perspiration, you let him stand in the stable and dry with all the dirt on. In England we take the horse as he comes from a drive and sprinkle blood-warm water all over him, from his head to his feet. Then we scrape him down and blanket him, rubbing his legs and face dry. Thus in an hour he is clean and dry, and ready to take a good feed, while with your way he will stand and swelter for hours, and finally dry, sticky and dirty. Our horses never founder and never take cold. We never use a curry comb. You scratch your horses too hard. The only care necessary is to have the water not too cold; then bathe them quick, and blanket them instantly, while you are rubbing their legs."

BARLEY FOR HORSES.

Barley has, since the failure of the oat crop, gained in reputation as a good and substantial food for the horse, and many farmers are now growing it for this purpose. It must be confessed that barley contains, in a high degree, the principles for forming fat and flesh. It largely abounds in albumen, gluten, sugar, gum and phosphate of lime, or in other words, barley contains sixty-five per cent. of nutritive matter, while oats, weighing forty pounds to the bushel, contain only about twenty-four pounds of nutritive material. Inferior barley in some parts of this country is fed to horses instead of oats, and with the best effects. In this connection, it woule be well for horsemen to remember that two parts of barley are worth more than three of good oats.

In Great Britrin, it is often boiled and fed in the evening, fattening the horse and giving a glossy coat of hair, and having an excellent effect in all respects.—*Cor. Journal for the Farm.*

ADVANCE IN HORSES.

A contemporary says: "We recollect very well that when railroads were first being built in the interior of New England, farmers thought that horse racing would no longer be profitable, and many breeders of our acquaintance acted on this belief, and either raised no colt at all or much less than they had formerly done. Everybody knows that these fears were not realized. Horses have been in greater demand, and prices have been much higher since the completion of railroads than before. The same appears to have been the case in England, as it is stated that the London General Omnibus Co. has purchased 22,026 horses in the last 12 years. From 1861 to 1870 the average price was about $120 each. In 1871 the average price was $140, and in 1872 nearly $165.—Until 1870 the needed supplies were easily obtained in England and Scotland. For 18 months past nearly all the horses bought have been purchased in France.

DISEASE IN CLOVER.

The latest plant attacked with disease is clover. It sickens where it was formerly robust, or dies off in being cut at the crown, while the top root remains healthy. This latter disease has been developed at the Grignon Agricultural College. The clover fades, blackens, not in patches so much as by numerous isolated plants, and curiously, most remarkably on the soil where wheat and potatoes had previously been cultivated. It is at the neck of the plant a little above the surface of the soil, that the malady appears, resembling in the mark as if it had been gnawed with a wire-worm, but produced by a parasite mushroom, which as it grubs alters the cells and their contents. When a dead plant is placed in a moist position for a day or a night, it becomes covered with down—the same fungi that attacked it when living, and which is believed to be identical with that found on the leaves of a diseased potato plant.