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BEANS.

Sorel, Sept, 14th 1885.

By beans, in this country, we generally mean what is called in Europe the *haricot*: eaten green in the pod, or the seeds boiled and served with a white sauce. In England, we understand by beans the *feve de marais*, provincially, *cafe du pays*, of which there are several kinds, whereof some are for the table, and some for horses and cattle. I will first treat of the *haricot* or French bean.

The American *haricot* is grown in large numbers for soup or for baking. It is a plant of easy culture, and, if the land is in fair condition a plentiful yield may be expected. As a rule it is grown on the poorest land on the farm; hence, the crop is usually very small, but if we consider the high price to be obtained for a good sample of white beans, and the short time they occupy the land, it will be evident that few

crops pay better for attention. Beans are invariably worth from 15 0/10 to 25 0/10 more than wheat, and, fairly dealt by, they will give from 20 to 30 bushels greater return per acre. Not, though, as they are sown here: hills 30 inches apart each way, and 3 plants in a hill, won't do much; but in drills 26 inches apart, and pretty thickly sown, they will pay well. The heaviest crop I ever grew was at Joliette, in 1870, when on one-fourth of an acre of the poorest sand, with water permanent at 40 inches below the surface, I raised 15 bushels of a red and white bean, called, I think *the China*.

Cultivation of beans.—Beans do best on light lands, preferring a gravelly soil, if it can be had. The season of sowing begins about the 20th May, but in sheltered spots and in early Spring, a week before that date will not be too soon. In fact, I generally risk sowing rather early, as, if successful, the yield is so greatly enhanced; and beans are not like corn, which is subject to rot if the ground is not of a congenial temperature when that grain is sown.

Land intended for beans should be as carefully prepared as land intended for potatoes or turnips. The bean-crop is a fallow or cleansing-crop, and is to be treated accordingly. I always manure for beans, and I find it pays. Beans, then, follow a white-straw crop, and the land will of course be ploughed in the fall just as deep as the usual team can manage it. When the land is dry after the departure of the snow, it should be grubbed across the furrows, harrowed, rolled if necessary, and set up in drills from 24 to 27 inches apart. Half a dressing of rotten dung, say, 20 of the usual cartloads—about 8 tons—to the acre, may be carefully spread in the drills, the drills split, and the seed sown at the rate of about 3 bushels to the acre. The quantity, however, depends entirely on the size of the seed. I always roll the drills down after sowing, I never saw any one else do it, but then I roll after all seed, except fall-wheat: that, at least, I have learned from Mr. Peter Henderson. When up, the plants should stand from three to four inches apart, and it will answer to pull up any superfluous ones where, in hoeing, they may seem too thick. Any of the modern seed-drills will sow them regularly enough, but care should be taken that enough