

petually into their ears, they stand very little chance of being listened to or of having their example followed.

Barley.—A correspondent wishes to know why I recommend thick sowing for the barley-crop. The question is a sensible one, as at first sight the quantity of seed I recommend—2½ bushels per acre—does seem large. The reason of my advising so much seed for this crop is derived from my knowledge of the business of malting. In this work, before all things it is necessary that every grain should be of equal ripeness. Now, if thin sowing is practised, the plant, soon after its appearance above ground, begins to throw out side-shoots—to tiller, as we call it in England—and as the ears proceeding from these side-shoots are some days longer in maturing than those from the first-shoot, it follows that the latter start to grow from 36 to 48 hours sooner than the former, and when the whole is put on the kiln and dried, the sample of malt is uneven, and the extract from the mash-tun is wanting both in flavour and in quantity. If barley is to be used for cattle or pig-food, less seed will answer as the equality of maturing does not in that case signify. It may, too, be cut greener; whereas, for malt, barley must be dead ripe, and the straw when the grain is in that condition is of very little value for food.

Jerseys.—I see that at Mr. Valancey Fuller's sale last month, Jersey stock sold at reasonable prices. Fifty to a hundred dollars was about the figure for good cows and heifers. So we may say that the days of absurd prices for this breed are about over.

Slag.—This seems to be a by-product of the Bessemer steel-works. "The slag is ground," says a contemporary, "and so treated that a phosphoric lime (*sic*) is produced, which contains 16% of phosphoric acid, 50% of lime, 12% of iron, and 7% of silicic acid. This material has been found to be a strong fertiliser, which operates twice as well as Peruvian guano, six times as well as bone-dust, and somewhat more than one and a-half as well as superphosphate."

Now, really, these rash statements are very dangerous. The writer evidently knows nothing of agricultural chemistry, nothing at all. Good Peruvian guano is worth to-day in the English market \$60.00 a ton. In slag, the only constituent worth a cent is the phosphoric acid, of which it contains 16%, and mineral superphosphate of lime containing the same percentage of phosphoric acid—soluble, mind—is selling in England for £2.5 a ton. Therefore, if the slag is worth twice as much as Peruvian guano, and one and a-half times as much as superphosphate, it follows that \$120.00 = \$16.50—*which is absurd*. Any one can easily see that the 50% of lime cannot possibly pay for the carriage, and the iron and silicic acid are absolutely valueless, the one being the common rust of all our soils, and the other sand. If the slag can be brought here at a reasonable rate, say \$8 to \$10 a ton, it may be worth using as a cheap source of phosphoric acid; but with our *apatite* and its 35% of phosphoric acid, and our *old char*, and its 30% of the same constituent, I do not think slag will be much in request here.

Siloes.—The brewery of the Messrs. Dawes, in this village, has no difficulty in getting rid of its grains at a remunerative price from the middle of October to the first of June, but during the rest of the year they rather hang on hand, as might be expected. This, as there are four brewings a week made throughout the summer = 800 bushels of malt, is not a trifling matter. I strongly recommend the proprietors of the brewery to build siloes to hold a large portion of this valuable food, feeling sure that it will keep well, and turn to good use

during the hard weather. In the neighbourhood of Burton-on-Trent, many of the farmers store away from 2,000 to 4,000 bushels of grains when they are low in price, and find it answers their purpose. This form of proceeding has been carried out for many years; long before M. Goffart invented the modern plan of ensiling green-meal.

By the bye, talking of siloes, an ardent siloist informs me that he has just secured 10½ arpents of Canadian white corn in his silo. The ears, he says, are quite ripe. Of ensilage such as this, no one can find anything but good to say; but is there anything gained by ensiling it? Would it not be as well if it were simply harvested, husked, and shelled, the grain ground, and the fodder cut into inch lengths? If not, why should we not cut up and ensile all our feed-crops, and, especially, pease? I say *especially*, because pease always ripen late in this province—rarely before the tenth of September—and the autumn rains and heavy dews generally cause mildew enough to nearly ruin the pease-haulm. I should think that pease-ensilage, cut when barely ripe, would be capital food for all kinds of stock, and sheep would do splendidly on it.

"*Early maturity*" is a phantasm which has helped mightily to injure the interests of the pork-maker. The term has no sensible meaning. It crept into men's minds and into the language at an age when animals were in a partially wild state, or before the more rapid growth following domestication had been fully developed. As the term is commonly used, it simply means fat. There is scarcely a breed of hogs but that will respond to this claim. They will all get fat and keep fat if they have food enough. This must be what is meant by "early maturity," or is it a condition of fatness so as to be helpless? Some breeds will fill this conditions more than others, and just in proportion as they do, they are unfitted for human food. Of course there is very little offal for such an animal has little bone or substance, and if put into an old fashioned trying-pot would about all run to lard.

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Early maturity a phantasm, is it? To me it seems a very pleasant reality. Sussex steers 20 months old weighing 160 lbs. a quarter, ten months old Hampshire-downs (not show-lambs) turning out 22 lbs. a quarter; 16 weeks porkers fit for the West-end of London trade; and a dozen other things of the same sort, are by no means phantasms. If a farmer has not got sense enough to regulate the feeding of his "early maturity" pigs in compliance with the demands of his market, that is his look out. Feed these precocious pigs on corn, and the delicate palates of his town-customers will reject the mass of adipose tissue with loathing; but treat them with a proper mixture of skim-milk, pease, bran, with a little corn, and not too much even of such lean-meat making food as this, and he will have no difficulty in selling his porkers for the highest market price.

Gloucester Show of the Royal.—By some mistake or others, in an article on *Shropshires*, the date of this show was given as 1883: it should, of course, have been 1853. I ought to have seen the error, more particularly because as I have been in Canada for more than 29 years, I could not have been in Gloucester in 1883!

Fat or lean pork.—It is very certain, as I have before observed in this Journal, that people of easy means will no longer consent to eat the greasy slabs of meat that are now, and have been for many years, exposed for sale in our pork-butchers' shops, and it for the purpose of showing my readers the real difference between properly and improperly fed meat