

tity of wheat to the acre, that unless the *braird* is thick, the hot suns of May and June will spoil the crop. To which I reply, that a more moderate seeding will allow of tillering, which will cover the ground more effectually, and prove a better protection from the sun than double seeding. Mr. Lunan sows four bushels to the acre on perfectly well prepared land; I contend that two and a half are sufficient.

I regret very much to see by the last mail that my old friend and farm-tutor William Rigden is dead. A more perfectly amiable man never breathed. It was impossible to put him out of temper, and he fulfilled all the duties of his position as a husband and the father of a family in a manner that left nothing to be desired. As a breeder of Southdown sheep, he was second only in judgment and skill to Jonas Webb. When I was living with him he occupied a farm of 650 acres at Hove, close to Brighton; but he afterwards removed to the neighbourhood of Kingston-by-sea. Mr. Rigden retired from business about twelve years ago, escaping the fall in prices of agricultural products which has so severely tried most of his brother farmers.

Wheat crop of France.—The returns of the French wheat-crop point to a total yield of $14\frac{1}{2}$ million quarters = 116,000,000 bushels. Rather less than the crop of last year.

English wants.—England requires an importation of 136 million bushels to feed her people, the home grown crop being only 97 million bushels. India is already in the field, and has chartered vessels for 100,000 tons of wheat, equal to 3,700,000 bushels. If the price of silver falls much lower, India will furnish in a few years a very notable proportion of England's importation of the cereals.

Potatoes.—The rot is playing the very mischief with the potatoes. I hear that in the heavy land districts the farmers will, in many cases, hardly save enough for seed.

Wheat-crop in U. S.—Nine bushels is the average yield of the United States wheat, on every acre sown. Many acres failed entirely and were ploughed up, which increases the average per acre reaped to $10\frac{1}{2}$. I do not understand all the boasting they make about the richness of the land in the U. S. Either the land is not suited to wheat or the farming must be, as it is here, execrably bad. The truth is, I suppose, that the land is not *farmed*, according to the acceptation of the word in England, at all.

Crib biting.—This habit, as well as the *wind sucking* propensity, is incurable. A great deal may be done in the way of arresting the practice of cribbing by a strap fastened round the neck just behind the ears, and buckled as tight as possible so as not to choke the horse. In England, grooms are always on the look out for the commencement of these vices, if a horse plays with the manger for a second or so, the cry is immediately heard, "Got at cribbing?" An interrogatory the horse declines to answer, though by his leaving off directly, it is clear he understands it. All stable fittings in enamelled iron would prevent the inception of the vice, which, by the bye, is catching. I had a colt, by Elis a Derby winner, which would rush up to any post or bar when he was turned out to grass, and seizing it in his teeth, would blow himself up with wind in a few seconds. A magnificent beast, p to 14 stone with any hounds, but, owing to this propensity, he was always as bare as a board.

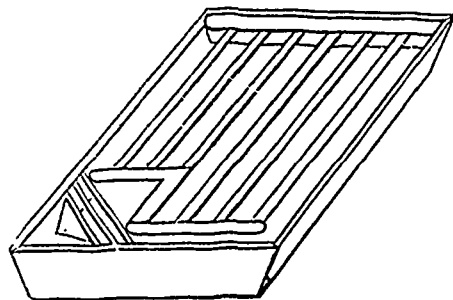
Sawdust for manure.—More inquiries as to the safety of

using sawdust as bedding for cattle: this time from the proprietor of a sawmill! There is no danger to be apprehended from its use in any way. My advice to every one who can get sawdust *gratis* is: sell your straw and use sawdust for littering all your stock. As to its breeding fleas or other troublesome parasites, that is all *stuff*.

Moory soil.—Black earth, bog-earth, or by whatever other name fen-land may be known here, can be reclaimed in various ways. If wet, it must be drained to start with, either by under-drains, or by cutting the land into blocks of from five to ten acres by open ditches three or four feet deep. When the subsoil is gravelly, the latter will be found the safer plan. This will lower the depth of the bog sometimes as much as two feet - by consolidation. A rough burning of the surface—enough to produce sixty loads of ashes per acre—should follow; and the ashes, spread carefully, would produce a crop of rape. The rape fed off with sheep would give a dressing of manure sufficient to grow a good crop of oats sown with grass-seeds, and there you are, fitted to start on a regular rotation. Don't try barley. A friend of mine did try it this season, and got about 800 bushels, but the colour was so bad that the Montreal brewers would not take it. Dr. Bruneau, of Sorel, will set to work on about ten acres of bog-earth this ensuing spring, and I shall watch his proceedings with much interest. Lime of course, is wanted for all these soils, but at forty cents a bushel it cannot be used. One hundred bushels an acre would be but a moderate dressing, and which of us would afford to spend forty dollars on an acre of land?

Tobacco.—M. Prudhomme, of this town, brought me to day a sample of Connecticut tobacco of this year's growth. The crop was really ripe, and the leaves having been pressed under heavy weights, the colour was equal throughout and the flavour good. M. Prudhomme is a very careful, intelligent man and perfectly willing to be taught what he does not know, as indeed are most of the surrounding farmers. It is a pleasant sight for me to go along the road from Sorel (le fort) to Saint-Anne, and observe the difference between the root-crop cultivation this year and what it was in 1884

Roasting apparatus.—Annexed will be seen an engraving of a roasting apparatus which I have used for the last twenty-five years. The arrangement is simple enough. There are two pans, the lower of which is kept full of water, and the upper has a sunken well, into which flows all the melted fat for basting. The meat is placed on the frame work, which may



be made of stout iron-wire, tinned if desired. This apparatus is, I believe, the invention of Count Rumford, who flourished in the last century. Without going so far as to say that roasting in a close oven is better than roasting at an open fire, I can safely aver that meat cooked on this apparatus is vastly superior to the ordinary way of treating it in this country. Always keeping in view that the primary problem