

Orchard Grass in New-Jersey.

ED. COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.—I beg to submit some inquiries on the subject of orchard grass. Last year I had my first experience with this variety of grass. The year before I raised corn fodder on an inverted sod. In the fall I plowed the ground and during the following winter carted barnyard manure on the field—a liberal supply. Early in the spring I thoroughly incorporated it with the soil by harrowing it with a disc harrow, as well as with the ordinary harrow (without re-plowing), and sowed two bushels of orchard grass and six quarts of clover seed per acre. The seed grew well, and in a short time the field looked like an old lawn. I sowed no grain with the seed, and expected to cut a crop of hay the first season. About the first of July the grass was about six inches high, and by the first of August it had grown to nine inches, and then the leaves began to grow brown and the plants stopped further growth. Being disappointed in a crop of hay I concluded to pasture it, and it afforded pasture for about two months, and the grass went into winter quarters in apparently good condition, though I fear, as the sequel will show, that I pastured it too closely. This spring the grass was very late in making any growth, and to-day (June 9th) there is a thick undergrowth of grass about six to nine inches in height, with a very thin growth of flowering stalks. It will not cut over one ton per acre, if as much, while the clover has almost entirely disappeared.

I would like to know what the defect was in my management. Was I wrong in pasturing it? I certainly suspect that the young clover was pulled out by the cattle before it had gained sufficient root. I have another field this spring, of orchard grass and clover grown by themselves, planted under the same conditions and following corn fodder the year previous. If it does not make hay this year I think I will pasture it very lightly. Would I have succeeded better had I sown, say one bushel of oats to the acre? I have a small orchard sown with oats at that rate, and orchard grass and clover, and the three crops are doing admirably. The oats I will cut when in the milk, to feed green or make hay. I have a notion that the shade of the oats might benefit it. I do not grow any grain except to cut as green fodder and thought if I devoted the ground exclusively to the growth of the grass seeds, I would get a good crop one year in advance of grass grown with a ripened crop of grain.

Grass, for pasture and hay, is the crop of my farm. Theoretically I am a believer in orchard grass, as it is said to grow more rapidly than timothy and to make a good second crop for pasture after a hay crop, while timothy performs its full office in giving a crop of hay, the aftermath being of little account except for late pasture, and that is better not depastured, if a crop of hay is wanted the next year. I have understood that orchard grass does not make good hay for horses, as it acts too freely on their kidneys. Is there anything in this notion? I have contemplated getting my whole farm laid down in orchard grass and grow no timothy, provided it is safe for all kinds of stock. My farm is devoted to breeding and raising Jersey cattle, but we cannot get along without horses. If Mr. Allen of Western New-York, and others who cultivate orchard grass, will give their views on the subject I would be obliged, and I have no doubt it would be of general interest to the farming community. (1)

G. W. FARLEE.

Trenton, N. J.

(1) There must have been something wrong in the management, for I know that Orchard Grass will stand any amount of close feeding when young. Perhaps the seed was untrue to its kind.

A. R. J. F.

I can recommend a farm of 90 acres, sugar bush, island of 15 acres, &c., at Contrecoeur.

A. R. J. F.

NEWSPAPERS OF TO-DAY.

People generally, and even those who may be termed steady readers and close observers, have but a faint conception of the magnitude and influence of the press of this country has attained. From a careful examination of the advance pages of the 1885 edition of the AMERICAN NEWSPAPER DIRECTORY, issued May 1st, by Geo. P. Rowell & Co., New York, it appears that there are 14,147 newspapers and periodicals published in the United States and Canada; of these the United States has 12,973, an average of one paper for every 3,867 persons. In 1884 the total number of newspapers was less by 823 than at present, and while the gain this year is not so marked as in some previous years, it is still considerable. Kansas shows the greatest increase, the number being 78, while Illinois follows with a gain of 77. It is curious to notice that New York, the scene of so much political activity during the last campaign, should have only about one-third as many newspapers as the State of Pennsylvania. As an index to the comparative growth and prosperity of different sections of the country, especially the Territories, the number of new papers forms an interesting study, and may well occupy the attention of the curious.

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