

having the plant food it contains in an easily assimilable condition. On heavy land, the rougher the state of the dung, the better; the reverse is true in the case of light soils; the reasons for this difference we need not enlarge upon. As for the loss during the fermentation of a mixen properly constructed, i.e., well compressed on a good bottom of earth, with 9 to 12 inches of soil on the top, and only turned over about ten days before being spread, we do not consider it to be worth bothering about. Quick work is what we want from it, as practically speaking, no sensible farmer dreams of manuring for a cereal crop in this province, where the summer-fallow is almost unknown, and though Mr. Shutt remarks: roots and other plants of long growth need not have the manure in so advanced a condition as cereals; still, as rotted or fermented manure certainly pushes the plant in its earlier stages more rapidly than raw manure, we should be inclined to give all roots, grown from seed, well prepared dung. Potatoes and maize will take it as raw as they can get it; but swedes, mangels, carrots, etc., like the "first-course" of their dinner well cooked; hence, the invariable custom in England of drilling in superphosphate with the seed of swedes, etc.

**MIXENS.**—And how about the seeds of weeds, so terribly prevalent all over the province? Is it not worth while to sacrifice a little plant food in our farmyard manure if by so doing we can destroy a large proportion of these enemies? We have heard some men of pure theory say that no heat producible in a mixen can kill the seeds of weeds: practice says just the contrary, and the first potato-field we planted at Sorel, some dozen years ago, proved, to our perfect satisfaction, that practice is right. Therefore, we say, make mixens and ferment your barn-yard manure; but, do so carefully, and do not let the manure get fire fanged.

**HOW TO MAKE A MIXEN.**—A dunghill having a breadth of 15 feet, and of four or five times that length, and of proportionate height, will contain as much manure as should be taken from one spot in manuring a field quickly. Suppose that 15 feet is fixed upon for the width, the first carts should lay their loads down at the nearest end of the future dunghill, in a row across the whole width, and these loads should not be spread very thin. Thus, load after load is laid down in succession upon the ground, maintaining the fixed breadth, and passing over the loads previously laid down. On frosted ground the bottoming is easily formed. After the bottom of the dunghill has thus been formed of the desired breadth and length, the further end is made up, by layer after layer, into a gradual slope upwards from the nearest to the farthest extremity. This is done with a view to effecting two purposes; one to afford an easy incline for the loaded carts to ascend, the other to give ease of draught for the horses to move along the dunghill to all parts, to compress it firmly with the carts. Every cart-load laid down above the bottom layer is spread around in order to mix the different kinds of dung together, and to give a uniform texture to the whole heap of manure. To effect this purpose the better, a man should be employed to spread the loads on the dunghill as they are laid down; the carters being apt to spread it as little as possible. When the centre has reached the height which will enable the dunghill to contain the desired quantity of manure, that height is brought forward towards the nearer end; though the centre will first attain the greatest elevation, as a slope at both ends is required—one to allow the carts to take up the requisite quantity of dung from one end, and another to allow them to come easily off at the other end. It is essential to have the whole dunghill equally compressed, with a view to making the manure of similar texture throughout. After the carting is over, the scattered portions of dung, and the thin extreme ends of the dunghill should be thrown upon the top, and trampled down, and the entire top brought to a level. Such a finishing to a dunghill is very generally neglected.

In winter, there is no possibility of covering the mixen with earth; neither does it