

THE BEST METHOD OF STORING AND PRESERVING POTATOES DURING THE WINTER.

W. Frankland, Esq., said he considered that very much depends on the state the potatoes are in when taken up. As regards his own, this year they had been partially attacked with the disease, and he thought at one time they were going to be very bad; but they have turned out much better than he expected. Those diseased he sorts out as he takes them up. He then thinly spreads the good in his out-houses, when they are taken up wet; but this year they are so dry and clear that he has laid them much thicker. He lets them lie ten days or a fortnight to sweat, and then sorts them into three heaps, marketable, for sets, and the bad and small for pigs, &c. In about another fortnight he stores them in pits in the field, as by keeping in the house all the winter they are apt to shrivel, and do not look so blooming in the spring.

Mr. Geo. Welburn, of Eyingdales, said that he sorts his in the same way as Mr. Frankland, and spreads them accordingly; he has an out-house on purpose for storing them for the winter, and therefore never makes pits in the field. As soon as he thinks they are fit to put by, he stores them in his potato-house, and covers them with straw and dry sods. He takes particular care of his sods from year to year, always preserving them from wet. By these means, living as he does near the fishing town of Robin Hood's Bay, which he supplies all the winter, he can get easily at them at all times, whether frost or snow, which he could not were they in pits in the fields.

Mr. T. Ward, of Bannial Flat, said he does the same as Mr. Frankland as far as he has room in his out houses; but as he grows a large quantity he cannot take, perhaps, such minute pains and care of them. He causes them all to be sorted, as they take them up, and leaves all the diseased and bad ones on the land, and turns his pigs in to consume them. He first puts the good in small heaps in a field, and covers them with straw, and lets them lie in this way about a fortnight to sweat; he then has them properly sorted, and stores them in pits for the winter. He thinks Mr. Welburn's plan a good one, were there is a proper storing house.

Mr. E. Ormeston, of Struggleton said that he puts all his potatoes in the house the same as Mr. Welburn. He is very particular in sorting them, as he believes that the diseased potatoes infect the good; but in a few weeks after they have been taken up and sweated, they may then be stored for the winter, he having houses for the purpose.

All the other members present concurred in the opinion that potatoes must be allowed time to sweat before they are stored away for the winter, and the diseased regularly sorted from the good, as there is no doubt of the disease being contagious. —*Mark Lane Express.*

PRESERVING TOOLS FROM RUST.

Farmers should take great care of their farm implements at all seasons of the year, but more especially in the fall and winter seasons, when not in general use. The following compound is excellent to apply to all implements liable to rust:

Take about three pounds of lard and one pound of rosin. Melt them together in a basin or kettle and rub over all iron or steel surfaces in danger of being rusted. It can be put on with a brush or piece of cloth, and whenever it is applied it most effectually keeps air and moisture away, and of course prevents rust. When knives and forks, or other household articles, liable to become rusted or spotted, are to be laid away, rub them over with this mixture, and they will come out bright and clean even years afterwards. The coating may be so thin as not to be perceived, and it will still be effectual. Let every one keep a dish of this preparation on hand. As it does not spoil of itself it may be kept ready mixed for months or years.—Fresh lard, containing no salt, should be used. Rosin is a cheap article, may be obtained almost anywhere for four to six cents per pound.

TO MEND A CHAIN PUMP WITHOUT TAKING IT UP.—When the chain breaks, uncover the well and hook up one end of the chain. Tie a long cord to this end, and the other end of the cord to a large cork. Drop the chain with its cork down the pump tube, when, as soon as the cork passes the lower end, it will pop up to the surface of the water in the well. Draw it up and with it the cord, and with the cork the chain, when the chain is readily united, and the circuit made again.