

may be shunted into corn or onion ground with nitrogenous effect; the animal, instead of being a noisy ravenous hog, assumes the dignity of a well-bred pig, and will winter as well in our climate as any other of the improved breeds; all he wants is calm repose.

FIELD CROPS.

With a few exceptions, we can report favourably of crops throughout the various districts. Our hay crop has been large, and generally secured in good condition; this will enable farmers to carry their stock through with greater freedom of feeding, particularly young cattle, which, under a false impression of economy, are often compelled to subsist on the coarsest fodder. Some contend that such treatment is the best way to rear good milkers, as it tends to enlarge the capacity for food. It may increase the size of the stomach but two out of five usually cave in before grass comes, being "too poor to carry the load," and the tanner receives an addition to his stock. If capacity for food is an indication of good milking properties, it is certainly desirable to have capacity, but we shall most certainly hesitate before endorsing such practice in order to procure it. With the Ayrshire, and its reputed good qualities as a dairy cow, you are familiar; she possesses the external marks of a good milker; prominent among them are the large udder and capacious stomach, these are what the Ayrshire man admires; in breeding these are the first points for consideration. But we must not assume that the genuine Ayrshire cow has been reared on inferior fodder, rather the effect of continued care through a series of years on the part of eminent breeders, men who possessed a knowledge that enabled them to shape the animal and bring in the desired parts. There are some things you know and a power of things you do not know, and the sooner you begin to inquire into some of the many hidden facts or mysteries in connection with the farm the sooner you will start clear of much of that hap-hazard work now in practice; you know it is wrong to sell down the hay bay, and put the stock on short allowance in the spring of the year, but you do not know what you lose in the long run by so doing, by the diminished manure heap, the slender amount of roots, and the decreased value of the farm in its lessened fertility; however with plenty of good hay we shall expect you to turn out stock something more than ordinary. We should like to extend our remarks on this subject if we had time, as we feel satisfied that it would be more economical to dispose of the hay in the shape of beef, young stock, or dairy produce, than shunt it on to the rail.

WHEAT.

Of this cereal it may be observed that

for a long period it has occupied but a small area in our agriculture, the general impression being that it is subject to casualties over which we have no control. From recent enquiries we are induced to believe that the rejection of this grain from our vocation putakes more the character of a superstition than strength of will. Of late years, and the past season in particular, the results are most satisfactory. Although the breadth sown was small in comparison with other crops, yet we are not without examples to show that in the hands of painstaking men it can be successfully grown. Like other products of the soil it is subject to atmospheric influences, but not more so than some other conspicuous crops, if more attention were given to the selection of seed, especially the early ripening varieties, the proper adaptation of soil to the crop, a liberal application of manure, well composted and thoroughly incorporated with the land, an essential point to be observed in the production of grain, in fact seed of all kinds, with extra care in the cultivation, for thorough culture not only promotes the growth of plants, but acts like a charm on weeds, often preventing the ravages of insects which in some instances are equally as injurious. With a little attention to the foregoing principles we shall indulge the hope that the weak credulity in the fallibility of this cereal will be rooted out before the advent of the next harvest-moon.

BARLEY.

In this grain a falling off from last year is generally noticed, both in quantity and quality. As this is not a very interesting theme, and, if further information is required, we refer you to the miller who does your grinding; he will readily respond to your inquiries, and be likely to say more than your suffering organs care about bearing. If you are let off without extra toll for the labour of cleansing the grist from foul seed and other unpalatable and indigestible adulterations, express your gratitude.

OATS.

Oats are generally reported a fair crop, especially on uplands. The estimated yield, in comparison with the three preceding years, may be taken above medium. Usually this cereal is sown in early spring on recently turned lee. In connection with this practice is the uncertainty of reaping a full harvest. Unfavourable weather at that period may retard the work; unless the braird is forward and firmly established by the end of June, the high temperature of midsummer will be a serious drawback both to the quantity and quality of the kernel. This method savours of the "old rut" practice of former years, when a crop of oats was considered necessary to disintegrate the sod preparatory to the reception

of some other product the following season. With the modern improved farm implements it is doubtful whether a continuation of this usage is to be recommended for a deteriorated soil, unless in special cases. With regard to the quantity of seed requisite to sow an acre we have nothing definite. The inferences drawn by men whose knowledge rarely extends beyond their own practice involves the system, if it may be so styled, in mist. One man considers three bushels a fair allowance, another that four are about the thing, and some assert that six are none too much. Such conflicting statements tend to the conclusion that this old time practice is not the most rational, and is more alied to chance than to science. We venture to suggest (to members) some carefully conducted experiments with specimens of improved seed on well prepared ground, although it should be of small area, and report the results with attending circumstances. If you look to the land as a means of support, give the land a chance to show what it can do; "turn about is fair play."

MAIZE.

The quantity of Indian Corn raised during the past season is not equal to that of previous years. On light loamy soils, having a level surface, the yield was satisfactory; the same may be said of slaty ground, but on clay loams it was much retarded in the early stage of its growth, by the atmospheric depression that prevailed throughout the month of June; and the absence of that congenial warmth usual to the months of August and September was a further drawback to its maturation. The importance and value of Indian Corn are well known to every practical farmer, and, to judge from the quantity annually imported, also to such of them as are not merely speculative; some are of the opinion that, with the present state of the labour market, it is cheaper to buy corn than to raise it. This may be good economy for those situated near a market, who dispose of their products instead of feeding out their crops to stock upon the farm. But the majority of farmers are not so favourably situated, and many have long distances to travel to a depot, or shipping port, over roads which, in the spring and fall months, are promiscuously pasty. In their case it is better to raise corn than to buy it. This crop possesses some advantages over most other grains. The seed costs but little, and it requires little attention in haying time; it ripens at a period when other cereals are garnered, taxing the labour of the farm when there would be naturally a slack time. It is also comparatively sure, being subject to few casualties. Protracted wet weather and early frosts are occasional drawbacks, but even these do not prevent the careful farmer from having good returns. For cattle, swine