

of ruthless curs. I trust, though, that the strict watch that will be kept up for the next week, will end in the slaughter of the marauders; for it would be a deadly blow to the prospects of improved agriculture if the wretched felons were allowed to continue their ravages. The island of Montreal has suffered long and patiently from this scourge; but a large city is one thing, a small village is another.

Many potatoes were planted here about the 22nd of April—all Early Roses—I have sown oats, and plenty of American Wonder and Maclean's Advancer pease for the College table—sixty boys will consume a rare quantity of such stuff—and I hope, if the weather continue favourable, to finish up the potatoes, mangels, and carrots, by the 3rd of May, leaving only the damper land to sow with oats, and the green crop—Hungarian grass &c.—the swedes and the fodder corn for the latter part of May and June.

We have here a curious implement for sowing grain broadcast. Spouts descend from the seed chest of a machine made like an ordinary drill, and the grain is covered by a number of grubber-teeth which follow after. The seed is buried deeply, and a cross-harrowing completes the job. The oats—on a very dry, friable piece of land, will be sown down with lucerne and sainfoin—the latter is an experiment in this country, I believe, but I have a good deal of faith in it.

The few implements I have here were purchased from a local maker—a M. Lamoureux—a most intelligent man, in spite of a slight deafness. No cows yet, as there is nothing for them to eat, but the horses are a useful sort, about 1000 pounds each—quite heavy enough for the land, and quick, active steppers.

We have already eight agricultural pupils who attend lectures three times a week in the class room, and every day on the farm. A good many more are expected, from England, after the mid-summer holidays, and I do not despair of seeing a dozen or more from the sea-board provinces, not excluding British Columbia.

The soil here seems to lack two important elements: nitrogen and potash. The former I shall try to supply by dried blood, and the latter by German kainit. It is a pity the Montreal gas-works will not lower the price of their sulphate of ammonia in accordance with the general fall in the market abroad. In England, the sulphate is worth £7 10 a ton less than last year, but the Montreal people charge within £2 of its former value! I think they might be satisfied with a more moderate profit, considering the enormous gain they make on their gas itself. A. R. J. F.

LAND PLASTER.

Sulphate of lime, or land plaster, as it is called here, affords one of the cheapest and simplest means of supplying the crops we grow with the indispensable element of lime. I have seen land on which it was used distinguishable half a mile off by the deeper green and more luxuriant growth of clover on which it had been employed. An experiment was made with it last year on potatoes. On land where superphosphate was useless, plaster gave an increase of over twenty five per cent in quantity, with larger and smoother tubers, the amount of plaster used not exceeding 3 cwt. per acre, and hardly more than a dollar's worth was applied. The trial is worth repeating in different localities, and with accurate measurement. A. R. J. F.

WATER-CRESS.

It is a strange thing that no one here attempts to grow water-cress on a moderately large scale for the supply of the markets of Montreal and other large towns, where the demand if the articles were once fairly introduced, would be, doubtless, very large. Nothing is simpler than the cultivation of this

plant, and every one knows what a delicious relish it gives to the breakfast, the luncheon, or the dinner.

The water-cress, *Nasturtium officinale*, contains like most of the *cruciferae*, mustard, turnips, cabbage, &c., a good deal of sulphur, and is therefore cooling and laxative in its effect upon the system. As it is a perennial crop, and once planted will take care of itself for years, and as it increases and spreads very rapidly and is not injured by any insect, it is not troublesome to cultivate. An aquatic plant, water-cress requires a clear running stream, with a sandy bottom—all the best water-cress beds in England are situated in streams formed by springs in the chalk hills.

To make a bed of this esculent, select a brook the water of which is clear, and, if possible, the site should be protected by steep banks. Drop a few cuttings of the stems of the plant wrapped in balls of mud, to the bottom. They will quickly take root and spread all over the place. The cress can be cut the second year and immediately throws out new branches and fresh leaves, affording two or three cuttings in the season.

As for the price, I find that at New-York a four-quart basket fetches 75 cents wholesale, returning at retail 50 cents per quart. Four square feet will fill a basket. A. R. J. F.

Manure for Tobacco.

As a very great quantity of tobacco will be grown this year in the province of Quebec, I will give, once more, my ideas as to the preparation of the land and the manure for this crop.

Animal manure is undoubtedly the best. But we can't get or make enough of it. As for ploughing in clover, I have often said that I cannot recommend such a wasteful use of so valuable a crop; but why not sow down white mustard? The seed is cheap, and if sown in early May it would be fit to plough in about the 10th of June, or it could be sown after harvest in the previous year, and, probably, that would be the best plan. In warm weather, mustard attains a height of 3 feet in about 6 weeks. Well, this will supply some organic matter, if we must have it, and for the rest we must trust to the various artificials: blood, bone-dust dissolved in sulphuric acid, kainit, and plaster, in, I think, the following quantities:

Blood.....	5 cwt =	\$ 9.00
Superphosphate.....	4 cwt =	6.00
Kainit	3 cwt =	3.00
Plaster	3 cwt =	1.00
		\$19.00

Where hard wood ashes can be bought for ten cents or 12 cents a bushel, I fancy their quicker action will render them preferable to the German mineral potash, kainit.

Please don't throw away the stems and refuse of the leaves of the tobacco. Collect them, and after burning them, restore the ashes to the land. Tobacco, as a farm crop, cannot be produced without a large expenditure of manure. Whoever attempts to raise tobacco on hungry soil without a lavish supply of its natural food, will give satisfaction neither to the buyer, the manufacturer, nor the consumer. One thing is sure: unless potash be plentifully present in the land—and it rarely is present in long-cultivated light soils—it must be supplied in a readily available form. There is plenty of potash in farm yard dung, but it is not in a state to afford nourishment to the tobacco plant during the earlier stages of its growth.

Talking of superphosphate, there is a good deal of nonsense going about the sulphuric acid contained in it being injurious to the land. Stuff! The acid is in a state of combination with