

THE POTATO IN NORTHERN NEW YORK.
[Extracts from remarks made before the Jefferson County, New York, Farmers' Club, by W. R. Skeels.]

I have but very little to say upon the cultivation of the potato. My experience cannot differ materially from that of most persons present. I should consider it useless to tell a man whose land was composed of clay, that only a light loam would do, or one who had a sandy farm that he must have heavier soil. Yet, the nearer we can meet the meaning of these two points the better results may we expect; whether the effect is produced by underdraining on the one hand or the introduction of vegetable mould on the other, depends upon the condition of the soil.

Each year adds to my conviction that we waste a large per cent. of our seed. If you select good, fair-sized tubers, cut them to single eyes; every eye will grow and produce a good healthy plant. If planted whole, but three or four will ever grow. It will take three times the seed to produce a like result. * * * My experience has been more varied in varieties than in cultivation. I shall consider the merits and demerits of those varieties that have been introduced during the last five years.

Early Rose.—In January, 1868, B. K. Bliss & Son called the attention of the public to a new seedling called the Early Rose, a seedling of the Garnet Chili. They claimed for it wonderful points as regards earliness, productiveness, and good table qualities. No potato ever introduced was so generally sought. Cultivated under such a variety of conditions, it is a wonder that it meets with such almost universal success; and, taking all things into consideration, it may be safely pronounced "the potato for the million." Others excel in special points, none in all.

Bresee's Prolific.—In January, 1869, Messrs. Bliss & Son introduced Bresee's Prolific, also a seedling of the Garnet Chili. It is a superior-looking potato, smooth, slightly russett, a little lighter colored than the Early Rose, from three to four weeks later ripening. With me it has proved the most successful variety for field cultivation of any I have tried; it succeeds upon a much poorer soil than the Early Rose.

Excelsior.—In 1869, J. J. H. Gregory introduced the Excelsior, a seedling of the State of Maine potato. It is a white-skinned potato, of medium size; for three years it has proved quite productive, of excellent table quality, and not as healthy as the Prolific.

King of Earlies.—Is the finest looking potato I have seen; is healthy and quite productive. In 1870-1871 it was a poor table quality; this season it has been good, fully equal to the Early Rose. I never could satisfy myself that it was any earlier than that variety.

Peerless.—The most productive of Bresee's Seedlings. I have never succeeded in growing a crop of even fair table quality, though I have heard of crops being excellent. Upon our farm it only excels the Harrison in productiveness.

The present season has marked the introduction of two classes of Late Roses—one a sport, the other a seedling.

Thorburn's Late Rose.—A sport of the Early Rose—I planted by the side of the Early Rose. It was five days later coming up, fifteen later to bloom; tops remaining green from three to four weeks longer. In point of yield there was no perceptible difference; five pounds of seed produced 173 pounds. I noticed quite a number of hills, the tops of which ripened quite early. There was no mixture of seed, as I cut each potato to single eyes, and dropped all of one before cutting another. Where this tendency to ripen earlier is noticed, the hills should be dug and carefully removed before the main crop is dug, if intended for seed.

Campbell's Late Rose.—A seedling raised by G. W. Campbell, of Ohio. In general appearance it resembles the parent

potato, though not as uniform in shape or size. It is decidedly a late potato, the tops remaining green until killed by frost late in October. It is a very strong growing vine, showing the least effect from drouth of over fifty varieties growing in the same plot. Last season I was inclined to cry "humbug" when I read the claim that it would yield from two to three times as much as any potato grown. I tested it in a small way with the Peerless, selecting one pound of each as nearly uniform as I could; divided each pound into forty-five pieces, planted in parallel rows. The Peerless showed signs of ripening September 15, and was dug; yield, forty-nine pounds. Campbell's Late Rose was green when dug, October 1; yield, seventy-one pounds. No attempt was made to force the latter kind; no manure used, as I desired to ascertain what might be expected in ordinary field cultivation. Ten pounds of Campbell's Late Rose produced 317 pounds. * * * * *

What causes the roughness of the skins of potatoes, giving them the appearance of having been eaten over by some small animal or insect? We have always been led to think it was the angle worm. I am satisfied that it is not; that it is a disease caused by some chemical action of the soil; that though the angle and wire worm may take advantage of the softness caused by the removal of the skin to feed upon the tubers, they are in no way accountable for the condition of the potato.

While the potato rot is destroying the crop in Europe, the Colorado Bug is busy with us. Slowly but surely has it been working its way East from the Rocky Mountains; already it has reached the borders of this State, and its introduction here may be considered as but a question of time. Then, eternal vigilance and Paris Green will be the price of potatoes.

WHAT EIGHTEEN ACRES PRODUCED.

Under the head of "Practical Experience" I read with much interest A. R. K.'s article showing that farming, if well done, will pay. I will now give you my experience for the present season on a farm of 72 acres, 18 of which were cultivated. My corn fields consisted of 94 acres, 8 of which were plowed for the first time, it being used for a pasture over 40 years. Many old logs had been permitted to remain on it until April last, when, with boys and teams, we pulled out the stumps and made a clean thing of it. It was rather a flat piece of ground and wild grass had got possession of a good part of it. Not having a team sufficient to break the turf (it being very heavy) I let it out for one-third of the crop. Plowing was finished about the 23rd, and planting finished the 25th of May.

From the time it was planted a hoe was not taken into the 8-acre field, and the cultivator passed through each way once only, about the middle of June. Now for the result:—680 stalks were set up, which produced a bushel apiece, making 680 bushels. I put in, and worked myself, 14 acres on old cultivated ground which was heavily top-dressed with manure, well cultivated and hoed twice, the product was about the same as the 8-acre field; thus you will see that old pasture land without manure is equal to old worked land with manure. The product of the 8-acre field may be thus summed up.

680 bushels ears of corn, at 40c.....	\$272 00
280 stalks corn fodder, at 10c.....	68 00
8 loads pumpkins, at \$2.....	16 00

Total.....\$356 00

The 8 acres brought me.....	\$118 66
Each acre.....	68 00
Labour expended, at.....	85 00

Leaving a clear profit of \$152 to the men who did the work; so you see that farming can be made profitable if rightly conducted. Potatoes raised, 100 bushels, on about half an acre of ground, which was also turf, same as corn land, only more elevated and dry; no manure, twice cultivated and hoed; varieties, Peach Blow and Early Rose. Product, \$60 or \$120 per acre.

Labor expended, \$12; nett profit on half acre, \$40, or \$80 per acre. Oats, five acres; yield, 160 bushels, or 32 bushels per acre; product, \$64, or \$12.80 per acre; cost of seed and labor, \$24, leaving \$44 for use of lands. The yield of oats is but ordinary, as it had been cropped three years, and was seeded with grass seeds with the oats.

My system of farming is to plow as deep as my team will permit, thorough harrowing and clean cultivation. I also raised 14 acres corn fodder, sowed in drills 24 feet apart, dropped in a furrow and covered with harrow drawn lengthwise of the furrow. Product about 44 tons, with fully a peck of nubbins to each shock. I estimate the worth of the crop at \$50, as hay is worth here now \$20 per ton; cost of putting in crop not over \$8. I consider this the best crop that the farmer can raise for his own use.

Summing Up.—Eighteen acres plowed, the products of which were \$530. Cost of labor and seed, \$129 leaving a net income of \$401, or about \$22.50 per acre. Wool raised, \$55.35, besides a large quantity of garden stuff, butter, eggs, poultry, etc., all of which find a ready and high market here, as we are in the midst of the coal mines and iron works. I have expended but little of my time on the place myself; two little boys have done most of the work except harvesting.

Let me say a word of encouragement to young men who have not farms and have nothing to buy with. I am a mechanic as well as farmer, and have earned, up to Nov. 15th and since April, \$407.24 with a paint-brush. Go and learn a trade first and that will get you a farm. — H. W. M. in Moore's Rural New-Yorker.

LIME AS A FERTILIZER.

At the meeting of the Elmira Farmer's Club, Nov. 23, in reply to an enquiry from the President as to what he should do with a quantity of air-slacked lime which he had on hand, Mr. Lewis Fitch said, as reported in the Elmira Advertiser:

"About thirteen years ago I had a piece of ground ten or twelve acres in extent, which had been so badly run that it would not produce any useful crop. It was too miserably poor to raise weeds, except sorrel, and with that it was completely covered. I plowed it well and planted potatoes, and, of course, got no crop. Not being acquainted with its poverty, I had hoped that diligent care would bring a moderate crop, but I was mistaken. The worthless sorrel was the only thing that would grow, and that monopolized the ground in spite of my efforts to raise potatoes. The next season I bought three hundred bushels of lime and spread it on about one-half the ground, throwing it from the wagon with a shovel. That made a good thick dressing. My idea was for I should thus overcome the sorrel, for I thought lime was its antidote.

"I planted that portion again to potatoes, and was awarded with a very fine crop and a total extinction of sorrel, which has never appeared since. From that time to this, whenever the piece is plowed, traces of that lime application are seen.—It proved a complete renovation of the worn out land.

"Another remarkable instance of its good effect I witnessed many years ago on land near Hoffman's Grove, which was then in possession of the Mechanics Association, and my brother had a portion to sow to wheat. It was wet, cold and poor, so I felt impelled to say to him: 'you cannot raise wheat there.' He insisted on the trial, and as a preparation gave it a liberal dressing of lime. The result was a fine crop of wheat, which was manifestly due to that lime. When we used to run lumber down the river, I had opportunities of observing the uses to which lime was put in the vicinity of Little York, in Pennsylvania. That is a limestone region and almost every farmer had his private kiln in which he prepared lime for his own use. They drew it on so liberally that the heaps dumped from a bushel and a half

basket would lie not more than eight feet apart. I cannot say how much value it had, but it is certain that the region is agriculturally one of the richest in the State, and its excellence is supposed to be maintained, if not created, by the use of lime. I believe that more lime has been thrown on the ground in that locality than all that has ever been used in this city for all purposes."

D. E. Howell—"What is the soil?" Lewis Fitch—"Clay, black loam, red shale, and a mixture of these kinds. There is a very large extent of country with varying soils, where great dependence is placed on the use of lime, and the richness of all attests the wisdom of its use."

President Hoffman—"With the lime on your poor piece did you use any other manure?"

Lewis Fitch—"None at all in that year, and the following year I sowed it with oats and had an excellent crop, without any further application of lime or other fertilizers. On that crop it was stocked with grass, which made a good catch, and grew luxuriantly where grass would not grow before. At the subsequent plowings other manures were used, and the piece has always proved reliable for a good crop of whatever kind I have cared to raise."—Country Gentleman.

POTATOES AND OTHER SUPPLIES ABROAD.

On the potato crop in Yorkshire a correspondent of the *Gardener's Magazine*, writes:—"The potato crop in Yorkshire (if it may be called a crop) was all harvested in October. From inquiries made amongst farmers and gardeners, I have ascertained that the yield is about one load, where in ordinary seasons we should have had eight; about one sound tuber in eight; generally speaking, the sound tubers are very small and only fit for seed. Seed potatoes, good choice English varieties, will be dear in the spring. Foreign potatoes are just now very plentiful in almost every market town, the prices ranging from 9d. to 1s. per stone of 14 lbs. English varieties are now fencing in Yorkshire from 1s. to 1s. 4d. per stone of 14 lbs. If the foreign supply can be kept up to the market, it will have the effect of reducing the price of flour, and the laboring class will get bread cheaper. I have not yet tasted the Hamburg potatoes, but have heard that the quality of some is very good, and others only moderate. Very few English potatoes are good this year: there is great deficiency in mealiness. In my report about potatoes last year, I stated that those varieties which bloomed and carried plums, had the best constitution, and resisted the disease more effectually than those which did not carry fruit. It is scarcely possible to find a variety entirely free from disease this season, but I find by experience that varieties which carry fruit and bloom this year, have resisted the disease to a greater extent than weakly growing varieties. The red-skinned varieties have this year been best, and showed the least disease, whether kidneys or rounds."

THE EARLY ROSE POTATO IN ENGLAND.—LATE ROSE.

A correspondent of the *London Field* says, in that paper of the date of Dec. 2, "A correspondent asks for the experience of your readers as to the American Early Rose potato. I bought twenty pounds from Messrs. Carter, and they have produced about three hundred weight, which is an excellent result as far as quantity, but for quality let me advise all would-be purchasers to abstain. Mine are very watery, and I can only compare them in color and flavor to bad turnips. I tasted them when just ripened, and, in order to answer your correspondent, again yesterday, and the result in both trials is the same. I have heard there are two kinds of this potato; mine is long and very smooth skin."

There is an Early Rose potato and now we have a Late Rose—a sport of the former, not a seedling. A farmer in this

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