

the great maltsters of Saffron Walden, Ware, etc., and have come to the Cambridge market to buy their seed-barley from the farmers of the fen-districts. Why? do you ask; because they sell the one for from 40s. to 45s. the eight bushels, and buy the other for from 25s. to 30s. No maltster would even look at the fen grown barley; but when sown on the uplands of the chalk, this poor, thin, "chicken-victuals," produces the finest malting barley in the world!

Our own farm, in Kent, grew fine, plump barley; yet it was utterly unfit for malting; Kent is divided from Essex by the Thames, and in the latter county, the finest malting barley is produced, the seed-grain, the well-known "Chevalier" barley, being of the same strain in both cases. So, we think we are justified in saying that the quality of the soil influences the quality of the grain more than does the seed.

Clover-hay—By the 20th (1) of this month, clover, on the Island of Montreal, will be quite fit to cut. Down with it at once, and let it make itself, if the weather is fine. The chief reasons for the inferiority of clover-hay in this country, reasons that we have repeated over and over again, are that the crop is too ripe when cut, and is moved about so often, and so violently, that the leaf is on the ground instead of clinging tightly to the stem. Once turning quietly over, should be enough; except the crop is enormous, as it was last year, when twice turning may be required; and then get it into cock.

Grass Experiments in Staffordshire—In some experiments carried out for the Technical Education Committee of the County Council last season the greatest yield, 60½ cwt., (6776 lbs.) of hay per acre, was obtained on one farm from a plot dressed with ten tons of farmyard manure, the yield being 22½ cwt. more than that of the unmanured plot. But valuing the manure at 5s. a ton, the increased cost 4s. 2d. per cwt., was not remunerative. The second-best crop was 56½ cwt. per acre, obtained on a plot dressed with 4 cwt. of superphosphate, 1 cwt. of nitrate of soda, and 2 cwt. of kainit per acre, and in this case the increase cost only 1s. 2d. per cwt. As this was the largest crop at a remunerative price, the dressing in question was the most successful of all. Besides, on the average

(1) We fear that is too early a date for this backward season.—Ed.

for six seasons, this plot has given the greatest yield, 37½ cwt. Apparently the yearly application of the manures has greatly increased the yield, that of 1898 having been very much above the average—even more so, probably, than a good hay season would account for. On another farm the highest average for five years was 60 cwt. per acre, obtained with the help of 5 cwt. each of basic slag and kainit, and 2 cwt. of nitrate of soda. The average for the unmanured plot was 29 cwt., and the increase on the other cost only 1s. 4d. per cwt. A better proportioned dressing, 5 cwt. of slag, 3 cwt. of kainit, and 1 cwt. of nitrate of soda, gave the greatest crop—47 cwt.—on a third farm, last season, the first of the trial; and only ½ cwt. less than the highest yield, or 52½ cwt., on a fourth farm, 6 tons of farmyard manure gave 52½ cwt.

Experiments on Swedes.—Passing over some potato experiments, as having been rendered abortive by drought and some mistakes, we come to the experiments on swedes on light land. The greatest crop, 20½ tons per acre, was grown on a plot dressed with 12 tons of farmyard manure, 4 cwt. of superphosphate, 2 cwt. of kainit, and 1 cwt. of nitrate of soda, but the increase over the produce of the unmanured plot cost 24s. per ton. The artificials without the dung gave only 17 cwt. less, and the increase cost only 9s. 8d. a ton.

COMPETITION OF AGRICULTURAL MERIT: 1898.

Report of the Judges.

No. 3.—M. LOUIS DESCHAMPS.

Our visit to the farm of M. Louis Deschamps, of St. Paul l'Ermite, took place on the 9th of August; it contains 140 arpents, 110 of which are under the plough, and the remaining 30 are in rough pasture. M. Deschamps has 28 head of cattle, 5 arpents to each beast, besides a well-stocked poultry-yard.

Most of the stock are thoroughbreds; we awarded him 14 out of 15 marks for this item.

The division of the farm into fields is perfect, as are the fences; very few weeds.

Barring the piggery, which is not well built, the house and other buildings are of the best.