

enables the farmer to grow swedes and turnips in places where the fly would, otherwise, devour these crops as fast as they came up. In the best farmed districts of the Eastern counties of England, no one would dream of sowing swedes or turnips without a partial dressing of artificials—generally superphosphate—; and this is not a novel practice, but one that has obtained, to my knowledge, for more than forty years. A large crop of turnips or rape is raised by a combination of dung and superphosphate, and this crop is either wholly or partially eaten on the ground by sheep, with the effect of leaving the soil well stocked with both nitrogenous and phosphatic matters. This, of course, on the lighter land. On the heavy soils, too heavy to bear the treading of the sheep in winter, the roots are, as with us, given to cattle in the sheds, with the addition of cake and meal, and by this means the residual effect of the artificials is perpetuated.

*Cheese*—I see by my Gloucestershire Chronicle that at Berkeley cheese-fair, held on February 4th, single Gloucester cheese fetched from 58s to 63s. the cwt. (112lbs). On the same day Messrs. Hodgson's quotations for best Canadian Cheddars were from 50s to 50s 6d. for the same weight! As all our family tenants sell their cheese at Berkeley fair, this rather gratified my feelings, as I was beginning to fear that our people were falling into evil ways.

*Spring lambs.*—On March 2nd, last Brown Bros., of St Catherine Street, Montreal, are reported to have given \$8. 00 for a spring lamb! Two Dorset-horns, photographed and engraved, appear on pp. 56 of this number of the Journal. These are the sheep expressly used for breeding early lamb in England. Nothing pays better on a farm than a good crop of lambs dropped about New-Year's-tide. At ten weeks old, if properly fed, they should average 32lbs. to 36lbs. of carcase. Food: cake and clover-chaff for both lamb and dam, with roots, if any; and a few pease for the lambs out of the ewe's reach. A hurdle with a hole large enough to allow the lambs to run through, but ewe-proof, is all that is needed.

As I have said before; a farmer who would devote his farm to the production of early lamb, Down-mutton, dairy-fed small pork, and Dorking capons, could not help making money even in these times, and SOREL is the place to do it in. Lots of wealthy private customers in Montreal.

*Sowing Spring-grain.*—Towards the end of this month, I suppose all the farmers in the Western side of the province will have begin their sowing. The frost cannot have penetrated very deeply this season, and there is hardly any snow on the ground, so there is, I think, every prospect of a fairly early spring, and as the fall was an open one, a great deal of, if not all, the necessary ploughing was got through before the frost set the ploughs fast.

Pease, wheat, barley and oats, all to go in as soon as possible. Black Tartar oats will stand any April frost, and so will wheat and pease, particularly if they are drilled or ploughed in pretty deep; barley is a little more susceptible of cold, but the early sown barley is always preferred by the maltster, and the grass-seeds can be sown after the barley is up and harrowed in with light harrows, the roller finishing the job.

If you cannot use a drill on account of stones, put your seed in with a grubber, after having well pulverised the land with the harrows; finish with a double tine along the ridges, and roll after the grain is up. Harrow till the land treads equally under foot. Should a heavy rain fall and encrust the ground after the grain, or pease, are above ground, do not be afraid of passing the harrows over it. More scalded barley (*échaillée*) is caused by the encrustation of heavy land by rain followed by hot sunny weather, than by any other cause. When you

think you have harrowed the seed in enough, give the land a couple more tines. It won't cost 5 cents an acre and you will be repaid ten-fold at threshing time.

*Water-cress*—A beautiful little stream of spring-water flows from the lime stone rock not very far from my house., and I am about to prepare some plants of water-cress to set out on its borders in May. I am not going to point out the exact situation of the future plantation at present, as I should like to keep some of the cress for my own eating. It is a simple job enough: the level of the stream will be lowered, to allow the water to spread in shallow basins; the plants—they are already sprouting, March 5th—when about 4 inches high, will have their roots enveloped in clay, and be placed on the earth over which the water trickles. No floods to be feared to wash the cress-plants away, and the lime-stone water will just suit them; we have all our great plantations of water-cress for the London market by the sides of streams flowing out of the Chalk-hills.

Water-cress, besides being very wholesome, is about as pleasant an addition to bread and butter, cheese, and ale, as any body can desire. It is very little trouble to grow, and where there is no stream suited to the purpose, a shallow trench watered from a hose twice a day—regularly soaked—will grow it very well. Any body could get plenty of it in the back yard of his house, provided it be kept wet. The market gardener's water cress, sold in Montreal, is poor stuff, generally speaking: no amount of manure will perfect cress: what it wants is humidity.

*Onions.*—Although I am very fond of growing big swedes and mangels for exhibition, I am well aware that 9 inches apart in the rows will give a heavier crop than roots set out 12 or more inches apart, and I feel sure that the same thing is true of swedes and turnips with 20 inches, between the rows, and sown on the flat, rather than 24 inches, though I confess to have a lurking regard for drills at wide distances for mangels of the long red kind, though I know some of our best English growers differ in opinion from me.

Now, as to onion growing, I have not had more experience than that I have gained by growing them in my garden every year. Still, I have always felt sure that most English gardeners in the country set the young plants out at too great distances, and I am confirmed in my opinion by some experiments that were carried on at the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station in 1888. The season, in that state, was a very dry one, and the crop was, in consequence, very poor; enough, however, were grown to show that onions at an inch apart in the row gave 63% more weight than those left 4 inches apart.

One unfortunate thing happened. Our cousins do not seem to have found out that to conduct agricultural experiments to any useful end, the land must be previously thoroughly, exhausted—*practically exhausted*, of course, I mean. Consequently, "no effect was apparent where fertilisers were used except with well-rotted horse-dung. The yield of unfertilised plots was fully equal in all other cases to the yield of those that were, fertilised, and even the horse-dung made very little difference." If were it not for the last sentence, the failure of the fertilisers to exert any beneficial effect might be attributed to the drought, but taking the yield as given below into consideration, to my mind it seem very probable that the whole of the plots were in too good condition to afford a fair test of the relative value of the different fertilisers used.

Of the preparation of the land nothing is said, though this is more important for onions than for any other vegetable. The best preparation is this.

Take a piece of light, black soil; trench it two spades deep,