

Crop Prospects.

The crop prospects are even brighter than when we reported last month. The early and rapid growth received a salutary check in the latter part of May. The weather turned cold, nearly approaching to a frost; in fact, in some low, damp localities ice was seen, but on high, well drained lands none was observed. The wheat on some farms was gaining too heavy a growth; some farmers had commenced cutting the top blades, to prevent it getting too stout. The few cold days gave it a most beneficial check. It is now probable that we may pass the 10th of June without further frost. The meadows and spring grain have as promising an appearance as we could wish. We have heard of a few localities where the grub and wire-worm are affecting some of the spring crops, but the damage reported is small, and only on a few farms. The apple crop promises to be a very light one in this locality. The trees bore so heavily last year, that blossoms are very sparsely to be found this season.

Caterpillars are more numerous this year; they give a lot of work to the careful fruit-grower. The curculios are not as numerous as last year; therefore, we may expect more plums. The potato bug is on the war path, with an immense army of countless millions, and has taken possession of every potato patch in Ontario. The cultivator must fight him or he will take possession of that crop. Paris green is the pounder for him. There is a wonderful difference in the strength of this poison. Messrs. B. A. Mitchell & Co., of this city, have supplied us with the genuine, unadulterated remedy. They sent out tons of it last year, and it did its work effectually on the patches where it was properly applied; but some farmers did not kill all, and the advance guard of this foe is like an army. We must kill and kill again.

THE MARKETS.

One overreaching farmer came to this city to sell his clover the beginning of this month, and was dreadfully disconcerted because he could only get three-fourths of the price he had been offered for it a few weeks previous. It served him right. Another farmer in this county has a thousand bushels of wheat. He refused two dollars per bushel; he is also on the whine. The fact is that many Americans thought half the prices depend on their supply; but the world is too large. The Americans held their grain at an over-value. Many will lose immense fortunes. One man in this city held 25,000 bushels. The fall of 30 to 40 cents per bushel is a heavy item. The market for everything is good. Nothing has declined as much as wheat; live stock of all kinds has an upward tendency.

Culture of the Turnip Crop.

This number of the *ADVOCATE* comes into the hands of its readers as they are preparing for turnip sowing, so that a few words on the subject are in good season. We have, it is true, treated on turnip culture in a year that is past, and many of our readers, no doubt, are well versed in it, both in theory and in practice, but many are not so, and the enquiries as to the culture of this most valuable crop that we have had from subscribers in sections of the country which are far apart, tell us that many require still to learn something of root-growing.

The soil suited for the growth of turnips may be found in every part of the country; we believe that on every farm there is land that will produce good crops of turnips; that best adapted to them, however, is such as is deep and friable, or can be made so without too great labor. If not rich, it must be made so. Light soils have been called

turnip soils, from their natural adaptability to the turnip; but we have seen good crops of turnips on heavy clay soils, though at a greater expense of labor than on light land. For turnips, any land should be rich as well as deep and friable, and this is one advantage of turnip culture. In order to obtain a good crop the farmer is necessitated to bring his land into good condition. The succeeding crops pay the bill.

Keeping down the weeds, or what is still better, preventing their growth, is an essential point in successful turnip culture. This, for a root crop, is not very hard to accomplish; an additional plowing, some extra cultivating and harrowing are generally sufficient for the purpose. The land having been skim-plowed after the previous crop, to induce the seeds of weeds to germinate, and then plowed deeper late in the fall to kill them, and to expose the soil to the beneficial action of frost, and lying well formed in ridges till the spring crops are sown are the autumn and fall preparations. Then about old May-day (May 12) plow, cultivate and harrow thoroughly. This May-fallowing will kill almost all the weeds, seeds and roots. They cannot endure the parching which is pretty generally experienced in our climate during that month. If a few weeks show that they are not among the killed, a few strokes of the harrow before the drills be opened will kill them.

Manure comes naturally in connection with the destroying of weeds. Not only has the land its own growth of weeds, increased from year to year by the shedding of seeds and propagation from the roots, but it receives a large increase from the manure heap, when proper care has not been used in its composting. To prevent this evil the manure heap should be turned over entirely some weeks before being applied. By this means the seeds that would be brought into your turnip ground with the manure will have their vitality destroyed. For turnips there is no manure better than that of the farm-yard if properly composted. A light additional application of guano has sometimes been found of great benefit, forcing the plants earlier into their second stage, the rough leaf, before the dreaded fly has time to do its work of destruction. Manure is either spread broadcast on the land before drilling, or else spread in the furrows when the drills are formed, and the ridges then split to cover it. Each method has its special advantages. When the manure is applied broadcast the whole of the land is more equally fertilized for the succeeding crop. When spread in the drills the turnip crop gets the greatest benefit.

The seed should be sown immediately after the drills are formed, while the soil is cool and retains its moisture. The benefit of sowing seeds in fresh-turned soil is well known to gardeners. The drills should be about twenty-eight inches apart; less does not allow sufficient space for their cultivation. Let the seed be covered to the depth of an inch and a half. For covering no other implement is equal the roller if the ground be dry. We prefer thick sowing, though it may seem a waste to have to pull out so many plants. Thick sowing aids in forcing a rapid growth, besides, there are apt to be fewer missed places.

Trial of Implements.

If our Board of Agriculture were to expend the same amount of money in getting up a trial of implements, they would do much more good than by expending it in plowing matches; township and county societies and farmers' clubs can get up these matches, and the men and boys can show their skill just as well. The trials of plows at these matches are no guide whatever to the right kind of plow to purchase for general use or profit, as the work done at these matches is never as good for a crop as that done by the commonest plowman with the most ordinary plow.

Competition with the Dairymen.

The extent to which the manufacture of oleomargarine has increased is an instance of great competition the genuine has to stand with the pretended commodity. The American Bureau of Statistics has published a statement showing that the exports of oleomargarine, or butterine, from New York for seven months, ending March 31st, amounted to 3,594,529 pounds, of the value of \$481,747. 2,252,250 pounds were shipped to France, and 991,329 pounds to Great Britain.

Hints to Dairymen, No. 16.

Written for the Farmers' Advocate, by J. Seabury.

As the hot weather will now soon be on us, when the dairyman will require to exercise the utmost care in the handling of his milk, a few remarks will not be out of place. Too much importance cannot be attached to the proper cooling of the milk and getting the cowey or animal odor out of it. Unless this is done, a really fine cheese cannot be made. The finest cheese has a sweet, nutty flavor, which is a very essential requisite, and this is something which cannot be retained in the cheese by the best makers unless each and every patron has used every precaution in the cleansing and sweetening of his milk vessels, and given each and every mess of milk the proper care and attention by cooling and deodorizing. A great many have no idea of the susceptibility with which new milk absorbs any impurities, either in the air or in the vessels in which it is contained. The careless and indifferent patron is not only doing himself a great injustice, but is wronging his neighbor and fellow-patron. The patrons of a cheese factory are in reality partners in a branch of business which is for their mutual benefit, and he who disregards the rules and regulations, and does not use the necessary precautions in the care and handling of his milk, should be ejected from that partnership. Hence the importance of every patron taking the utmost care, and endeavoring to do his duty and do all in his power to induce others to do the same.

I dare say many readers of the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* often say "O, it's all very fine, this continual lecturing the patrons." It may look light in their eyes, but if we could only get the figures showing the actual loss to themselves and to the country every year by the bad and improper care and management of their herds, and also by the neglect and indifference in the care, treatment and management of their milk, cheese and butter, they would startle any one. If the dairymen could only take the place of the dealers and shippers for a few weeks, visiting the factories and seeing the quantities of cheese and butter that are far from first quality and which come from no other cause than the improper treatment of the milk by the patrons, or at least some of them; if they could, and, in fact, a great many of them might take such a trip, they would come home satisfied that we have good reason for saying so much and for bringing it again and again before them.

A writer in one of the public prints a few weeks ago, in speaking of the "Hog in Connection with the Cheese Factory," attempts to throw all the blame of bad cheese on the uncleanness of the cheese maker and the poor hog and his surroundings at the factory. There may be some blame attached to them, but I would be very sorry to start with that as the chief cause for poor cheese. There certainly is room for improvement in the treatment of the hog and his yards at the factory. As he says, and very truthfully, "that fresh milk is a powerful absorbent of odors," he must bear in mind that when the milk is being drawn from the cow, and when at a temperature of 94° to 98° is the time when it is most susceptible of taking