

deed, the numerous experiment made with guano unequivocally place it among the best, if not the very best, manure for turnips. Potatoes may be planted on the mixture, either in drills or in ridges. In an experiment made last spring, in connection with that reported under the head of farming manure, guano, used at the rate of 5 cwt. to the English acre (6½ cwt. to the Scotch acre) produced at the rate of 220 cwt. 2 qrs. per acre; common dung, under the sets, producing 244 cwt. 2 qrs.; and over the sets, 270 cwt. The stalks on the guano, from their first appearance, were of a deeper green tint than any in the field, which they preserved till they began to ripen. They were ripe about two weeks earlier than those planted at the same time. They did not seem to be specifically heavier than those grown on common dung. The Potatoes on guano, and under the common manure, were firmer and drier than those grown in the ordinary way. It is highly probable that it would be suitable for early potatoes. It has been tried on all soils with success, especially in a damp season. In recent reports it is stated that the effects of guano continue for three or four years. Doctor Brett, of the Liverpool Royal Institution, analyzed many samples of guano, and found the phosphate of lime to vary from 14 to 47 per cent. The salts of ammonia he found to be the muriate phosphate, and oxalate.

Fish of various kinds have been used as manure, but there are few places where they can be had cheap enough. Those most employed abound in oil. Their effect is very transient, lasting but for one crop. They are commonly formed into a compost before being applied.

Woolen Rags, which contain a large quantity of albumen, with lime, &c., are an excellent manure for hops; also for wheat and turnips. Twenty thousand tons are annually used in the south of England. They are chopped small, and sown by hand, at the rate of 12 cwt. per acre. Price £1 to £4 10s. per ton.

SEA-WEED AS A MANURE.

The crops on the Isle of Thanet are superior to the crops grown in the inland countries; and having travelled much by our railroads, I should say superior to any crops in the country. What is this superiority attributable to? There appears to be nothing very peculiar in the soil, and there is nothing peculiar in the rotation in their crops. I may be mistaken, but I attribute the superiority of the crops to the system of forming their dung heaps, and the use of sea-weed as manure. The farmers on the island form their dung-heaps with alternate layers of sea-weed and farm-yard dung; and after raising their heaps to the height of eight or ten feet, they cover the whole with a layer of eight or ten inches of sea sand. The sea-weed contains a portion of sea salt and fish, and on heating becomes very putrid and offensive. It may be difficult to analyse the compost of sea-weed and horse dung but it may be well to collect the liquor that oozes from the heaps, and have it analysed, when, I suspect, it will be found to correspond with guano in essentials. There is no doubt about its effect on land, for the Wheat, in point of straw an ear is so very superior that it cannot be improved in quality and quantity; and it only remains to be ascertained whether guano, or any other substance, in point of economy has any superiority. It is a mistaken notion to suppose, that, by any contrivance, Wheat can be increased to any extent in a limited portion of land, or that more than a certain limited quantity

of stalks of corn can be raised; every farmer knows that when stalks are too near together, they rot and decay. The great object to be sought is a healthy growth of straw, with a fine large ear, which shall yield a plentiful supply of good sound Corn; this result is attained on the island of Thanet. I was induced to inquire what was the cost of collecting sea-weed on the island of Thanet, and was informed that the price paid at this season for it to the collectors of the weed was 6d. a cart load in its wet state; this cart load requires two strong horses to draw it, and may weigh considerable upwards of a ton; but when properly dry, it may lose half its weight, and much of its fertilizing qualities. The farmers remove in its wet state to their compost heaps, and do not lose its fertilizing juices. I am induced to trouble you with these few observations, that our agriculturist may furnish employment to a very useful class of our subjects who, in winter, have little or no employment—I mean the boatmen of our sea-ports, who would be, too, happy to collect the sea-weed, and deliver it at the terminus of our railroads at probably 6d. per ton; for this is the price paid by the farmers to agriculturists in the island of Thanet in the summer season, when other employment is obtainable; and, of course, in the winter, when there is little or no work going forward, and when the sea-weed is deposited in the greatest quantity, from the sea being ruffled and stormy, our boatmen would be, too, happy to obtain the employment on the same scale of wages. I am of opinion that the sea-weed might be pressed, by the aid of machinery, into a convenient compass, to render its transport by our railroads and our ships not very expensive; and when our merchants are sending their ships to the South Sea for guano, they would enter into the speculation of conveying the sea-weed from our island sandroads if the cost of the freight from our sea coast to the terminus of our railroads leading into the interior of our island would be realised.—*Correspondent of Mark Lane Express.*

IMPROVEMENT BY DRAINING LAND.—We had the pleasure, last week, of witnessing the effect of draining on an extensive scale, on a farm we visited in the County of Worcester. The proprietor had in his possession a lot of land of about 40 acres, 30 of which was an unproductive boggy meadow and swamp, so level that, to all appearance there was but little prospect of giving it a thorough draining, or of its ever being made capable of producing enough to pay for any effort to subdue it or bring it into cultivation. Its situation was near the place where the gentleman was about to erect his dwelling house, and from which he would have a constant view of this unproductive tract; and furthermore, the fogs and dampness from it would be prejudicial to health. He therefore determined to undertake the arduous task of draining, subdividing, and converting it into good grass land. In doing this, he had, no doubt, four objects in view, viz: improvement in the appearance, health, profit, and example. He made a beginning about five years since, without experience and without knowledge, except what he had gleaned from agricultural books and newspapers, while engaged in trade in the city. With these qualifications only, it was natural to suppose that the old farmers who had from their earliest years been familiar with the manual labour of the farm, and had from year to year followed in the steps of their predecessors, would watch the operations of a "book farmer," with a disposition to undervalue and ridicule the "new fangled notions" of one so inexperienced.