

with this plant. It is therefore, highly useful and valuable on such land, producing both a soiling and a hay crop; while the white clover is of too prostrate and creeping a habit to be useful for anything but grazing. On the other hand, on dry arid lands it produces poorly, dwindles away, and finally perishes in drought; while the white clover retains its hold, and though it suffers in thin soils in point of drought, and, to all appearance dies, in very thin soils, it quickly recovers and grows luxuriantly when rain sets in, so that it depends on the judicious selection of the soil whether the cultivation of Alsike clover or any other plant becomes remunerative or not.

We have already stated that it was found growing luxuriantly in ditches at Alsike. This is a good guide to its cultivation, and we may safely infer that such a situation is its natural *habitat*, and that it requires a rich, sappy soil to bring it to perfection, but it must not be wet. On deep, alluvial soils and rich, well drained, moory soils, it is a most valuable addition to our foddering plants; but on high, dry, or thin lands, richly laid down, though it may do well for a time, it will run out and lead to disappointment.

Kohl Rabi.

[This valuable root has been successfully grown in different parts of Canada, and deserves to be more generally known. It is important that it should receive a fair and extensive trial. The subjoined remarks from the *Irish Farmer's Gazette* will be found interesting and suggestive.—Eds.]

Another farming crop that should be attended to at once, and should be more extensively cultivated than it is, is the kohl rabi. It is a long time since this plant has been introduced into these countries, more as a garden curiosity than anything else; but as a useful feeding plant for cultivation in the farm it has been very tardy in making its way. It thrives in almost any soil and in almost any climate. In India it is in much request as a rich and delicate garden esculent, and in many of the European continental countries it is in high esteem for feeding milch cows and other cattle. It is also most useful for feeding sheep, is perfectly hardy, and stands any amount of frost. It is the only plant that has been found really useful in filling up the blanks amongst swede turnips, and where that crop has been cut off by the fly it is the only plant that gives a certainty of a full crop by transplanting it, which is much better than sowing swedes or any other turnip again. For this purpose it should be sown thickly in beds as soon as pos-

sible; the earlier the better, so as to have good strong plants to put out by the end of May or early in June. By giving sufficient space the globular heads produced will weigh from 6 to 10 lb. each and upwards; the rows should not be nearer than 2½ feet, and the plants two feet apart in the rows. They may also be sown in drills any time in May, and treated in every way the same as turnips. Kohl rabi is not only perfectly hardy, but it bears accidental injury better than swedes; for while the latter, when wounded, quickly rots away, the former still remains sound. Experiments have been made by cutting and hacking both kohl rabi and swedes side by side to ascertain this, and while the swedes rotted away, the kohl rabi seemed nothing the worse. Hares and rabbits are particularly fond of the kohl rabi, and when found growing in the same field they reject everything else in favor of it while it lasts, as we repeatedly witnessed; and upon our recent visit to Rocksavage, the seat of C. Kenny, Esq., all the kohl rabi then in the fields was completely scooped out. Besides being a very superior farm crop, its leaves as well as bulbs are particularly useful in the kitchen; the former being sweet and palatable, and the latter, when well boiled and well macerated with milk and butter, being an admirable substitute for mashed turnips, and when advanced in the season being free from woody fibre that renders turnips useless as a table vegetable at that time of the year.

The Course of Agriculture in the West.

Causes influencing the Present Prices of Corn—Freights to the Sea-Board—The East may compete with the West in the Production of this Staple—Northern *versus* Southern Illinois—Cotton Growing.

CHAMPAIGN, ILL., Feb. 1, 1862.

As there is an intimate relation existing between the producers of the East and the West it is right and proper that they should be posted as to each other's doings. Within the past few years great changes have been made in the staple products of the country. The whale fisheries, once so extensive and profitable, were ruined by the discovery of lard oil, which, by the cheapness of the west, could be procured at a cost below that of catching the whale; whale stock of the seaboard went down, and lard oil stock of the west went up, and the cornfields had a wider margin. Camphene and fluid, soon after lard oil had, as it was supposed, become the great light, yielded to their more brilliant play, and the greasy product of pork again found its level.

But as corn was directly appealed to for light, it was a matter of indifference to