

land, I can work two acres of the sand as well as one of the heavier land, because the plowing and hoeing can be done with less team and help, and in much less time. Ashes here can be bought for 12½ cents per bushel, and I think are worth 25 cents to be applied to sandy soil in connection with muck. This mode of operation for the treatment of sandy soil, so as to bring it on an equal footing in point of productiveness, requires no uncommon skill, but commends itself to the practice of all—for any common manager of a farm may accomplish it without the aid of any adjuncts of chemistry, or what are called special manures, but by using merely those great gifts of nature.—S. P. KEATOR, in *Country Gentleman*.

A PROFITABLE CORN CROP—HOW RAISED, &c.

THE best corn with us (southern Herkimer county,) is raised on sod. This was not always the practice; and now and then a farmer turns down stubble either of grain or corn, for corn. But the best cultivators, and the great majority, plant upon sod. This, a thorough experience has demonstrated, is the best practice.

And now let me give you a particular instance of successful corn-raising,—not only successful in the amount of bushels, but profit on the whole crop, labor and all considered. Farmers want not only great crops; they want profitable crops. And here is one.

Moses Smith, a neighbor of mine, last spring turned in nine acres of sward. The sward had been meadow for twelve years. It was plowed eight inches in depth. This was done to secure mellow top soil; as well as new fertility from below. Another thing: The sod turned in deep, the worms are kept below, working in the sod till the corn has a good start. That is the theory, and it seems a successful one.

This sod was plowed in a few days with several teams, and finished in the middle of May. The weather was favorable, and the ground in good order. Immediately after the plow left, the corn was planted. Before it came up, a handful of hen manure (dry) mixed with a little plaster and wood ashes was applied to each hill. This was done, says Mr. Smith, to prevent the insects from hurting the corn, and to give it an early start. It came up rapidly and "black." It grew on at once. Moist

warm weather setting in, the cultivator was called into requisition, and, during the summer, was passed six times through the rows each way, the rows being four feet apart. The hoe was used around the hill to cut away the grass, and in such manner as to draw away some of the ground, so as to give the sun a more direct chance at the roots.

Thus the soil was kept clean with comparatively little labor, the weeds not being very abundant on the deep turned down soil. It was what may be called a clean crop. It was certainly a very clean soil, and an even piece of corn, showing good promise at once and throughout, and the best crop of corn, the evenest and the finest, all things considered, I ever saw. The soil was thoroughly mellow, a deep, rich, black loam, with good natural drainage in the sand and gravel mixed with it, except at the upper end, where water had always been standing more or less during the greater part of the season, from time immemorial. Through this a ditch was run, I believe the fall previous. To my surprise, and every body else's, the corn was equally good here. But the soil was as mellow as the rest, and equally rich and black, with, I believe, a little marl mixed with it.

There were from four to six stalks—averaging five—in a hill. Each stalk had from two to three large ears Dutton corn, "medium size."

The corn was cut in the first half of September; begun on the first and finished on the twelfth day of the month. It had been well glazed, but no more, when cutting was commenced.

I should have mentioned that several acres of the lot had been in corn the year before, on sod turned down. This corn was equally good with the rest: and here the cutting was commenced, perhaps on account of the corn being riper, though of this I am not certain. The corn here last year was excellent, but lacked a few bushels to the acre of the crop of the present season, which was more favorable to corn, especially on sod, but more especially sod turned in deep.

The yield of the nine acres averaged a trifle over eighty bushels to the acre. The corn was unsurpassed in quality, the grain hard, plump and glistening—and it was all like this, with the most trifling exception.

The stalks, by being cut early, when yet fully green, the husk of the ear being only changed somewhat, afford the best and sweet-