

more capital, and thus lessen the chances of failure. Grow no crops but good ones; large yields per acre and fewer acres under the plough, produce more wool, meat, butter and cheese, and in due time the profits of agriculture will compare favourably with those of any other business, as surely as it lies at the foundation of all. *American Rural Home.*

The English Crops.

The North British *Mail* gives a statement in relation to the grain crops from forty different points. The following extracts will give an idea of the state of the crops:

"An agriculturist of fifty years' standing describes the state of his wheat and corn as the worst in his experience. He believes that it will be neither fit for man nor beast. In the whole parish the wheat crop is nearly ruined. The sprouting is such that in certain places the sheaf is so intertwined that it does not require a band for support." "Wheat uncut is sprouting in the stalk." "Long continuance of wet weather has done fearful injury to the crops." "More disastrous harvest weather has not been experienced here for upwards of thirty years." "Many farmers declare that this year their farming will almost prove a total failure," etc., etc.

Power of Recuperation in Land.

A rather remarkable instance in proof of this position, lately came to my knowledge.

A farmer residing about a hundred miles to the eastward of Toronto, sowed broom corn for sixteen consecutive years in the same ground, and the last crop was better than the first.

The stalks were very tall, quite equal to any ordinary rank crop, only the brush, however, was taken off the land, the stalks were rolled down in the fall, and in the spring were all ploughed under, first, however, receiving a thorough harrowing, by which, and the winter's decay—they were broken up into short pieces. Immediately after this ploughing, the land had each year been planted again with the same crops, and so far from seeming to have become poorer, my informant, who is perfectly reliable, states that the crop appeared to grow better and better each year, no manure having been used during the whole of the term above mentioned.

This thoroughly well established instance of land increasing in fertility, instead of decreasing, by cropping every year with the same crop, may be food for a most valuable investigation. There certainly is some part taken away of the crop which the land produces, although only a small portion, and the mass of corn stalks ploughed under is very great, still the principle is the same in all cases, and it has been a universally received opinion, that this well established fact can

never occur, viz., "that land, if continuously sown with the same crop must become impoverished," unless the minerals abstracted are replaced. But in this instance they are not replaced in toto, although a large portion does again help to make a new crop, still one would imagine, if broom corn will do this, and replace all the requisites for a new crop, other things ought to do so also.

the recent treatises on the growth of the sugar-beet, the same principle is found most distinctly to apply, and land on which the beet-root has been grown for many years in succession is richer this day, and produces better and heavier crops than it did when first sown.

As a rule, all leaves in the case of the beet crops are ploughed under, and where practicable, all the root refuse (except sugar and some potash) are each year returned to the soil. Extra manure is not required, and in thousands of cases is never used, the portions of the root remaining, after extracting the sugar, only being returned to the soil, to reproduce another crop. By chemical analysis, the sugar in a crop of wheat, supposing the starch all saccharized, would be about the same, or somewhat under the quantity of sugar produced and abstracted in a crop of beets; whilst on the one hand, the land gets richer by simply returning the refuse, (less the potash and sugar), and on the other hand, in the case of growing a crop of wheat, and returning to the land the straw and bran, it is well known the land would become poorer every year, provided consecutive crops of wheat were grown, and in case of the beet, there is a much greater subtraction of potash than is known to be contained in wheat straw, which in reality should not be counted as abstracted at all, as it always gets back on the land in one form or another. These are serious facts, and lead a thinking mind to ponder them deeply.

VECTIS.

Iowa.

The almost unlimited quantity of grain within the borders of our state this fall is something marvellous. Our oats crop will probably average as heavy as men were ever called upon to harvest and secure. We shall have immense quantities of wheat for export to less favoured regions. Of corn, the liveliest imagination can hardly exceed the actual fact. We have millions of acres which will average fifty bushels per acre, not measured cobs and all in a half bushel, but measured in the waggon box, at 4,300 cubic inches to the bushel. In a day's ride it is hardly possible to find a field of poor corn. Of everything to eat there is plenty and to spare. Potatoes to freight the shipping of the world, perhaps. Garden vegetables till we scarcely know their worth, and apples on nearly all the trees which are poor enough to bear. Truly we should be a thankful people, for man is not often so highly favoured.—*Oscola Sentinel.*

A Private Drainage Fund.

To the Editor.

SIR.—I hasten to subscribe to an article from an Essex Farmer, published in your last week's issue, on the Drainage question. Farmers are indebted to that gentleman for bringing the subject before the public. I heartily endorse all he has said, I can enter into his feelings regarding these frog ponds and quagmires for they intersect my farm also. The heart sickens twice every year in spring and harvest at these smells. I am similarly circumstanced as the Essex Farmer having struggled hard and my farm cleared, and commenced stamping. I wrought too long among the Government Drains in Scotland to be a chopper, but I am death on stumps, and if I had the where-withal to drain the puddocks shouldn't croak on my farm. But I take courage, seeing that we have a practical farmer at the head of the Agricultural Department, a man who thoroughly understands the state of the country, and I believe interested in the welfare, and I flatter myself that this agitation over and something like equilibrium restored, he will devote his energies to this subject and establish a system of Drainage that will commend itself to the inhabitants of Ontario, and worthy of the name of McKellar.

AN OLD BRAINE.

Egremont.

THE FOREIGN HOP CROP.—The hop crop in England the present year is said to be remarkably fine, being large, heavy in quantity, and superb in quality. It is described as being the fifth largest crop of the century. The growth will average half a ton per acre. As 60,000 acres were cultivated, the yield will be, therefore, 30,000 tons, which is said to be an excess of 7,500 tons over the annual requirements of the brewing trade of the country. The Belgium hop prospects are also represented as being remarkably heavy: and at Nuremberg the crop will be from one-third to one-half more than last year. From Plainfield, in the celebrated Spalt district, a good average produce is expected. In the lower Palatinate (Rhenish Bavaria) one-fifth more hops were grown the present year than in the last season. From Hanover, likewise, and indeed from almost all the hop-growing districts of Europe, alike favourable accounts are received. The German, French, and Belgian crops are represented as being of superior quality, the portion of brown or diseased hops being unusually small. The estimated value of this year's crop in England is \$18,000,000. Although there is an increased consumption in Germany, France, and Belgium, there will be a considerable surplus for exportation in all those countries. In the United States the crop will not supply the home demand, although, according to the agricultural census, the crop is sevenfold what it was in 1850, the State of New York producing two-thirds of the whole amount; so that large importations from both England and the continent are anticipated.