

There have been two machines contrived during the past year for hoeing onions, and they promise to save a vast deal of labor. The weeding is done by hand, the boys passing *over* the row on their knees, and taking out the weeds with a small hoe an inch or two wide. These tools are best made from a thin saw plate, and should be kept *bright*. They are very handy about the garden. The weeding should be continued until the crop is fit to pull, as the injury done by going through the onions when large, is not half as great as that caused by the weeds going to seed for next year. When ripe, the onions are pulled and left on the ground to cure. They should be thoroughly dried, and then, if stored in a cool, dry place, they will keep without much trouble the whole winter.

The average crop with us is about 500 bushels per acre, but 800 are often grown. And the average price is \$1.50 per barrel, from which it is easy to see that with a good market, and thorough cultivation, the crop can be made very profitable. EDW J. TAYLOR. *Southport, Conn.*

GUANO.—According to Official Returns published in the *Mark Lane Express*, there were imported into the British "United Kingdom," in the nine months ending September 30, 1859, 64,984 tons of guano; during the corresponding period of the year 1858, there were imported 269,878 tons. More than four times as much last year as this year.

SAW-DUST FOR ORCHARDS.—A year last fall, I hauled a load of old rotten trees. My neighbor over the way is one of those characters who plods on, in the same old track that his father and grandfather did before him, believing that they knew all and more too. My neighbor said, if I put saw-dust around my trees I should surely kill them! I told him I would risk it, 'any how.' I put fresh stable manure around one row, and saw-dust, around the next. Around another row I put leached ashes. And the remainder of the orchard I manured with rotten barn-yard manure, and in the spring spread it, and well planted the ground with corn and potatoes. The result was, many trees grew very luxuriantly, but the trees where the saw-dust was grew the best, the bark being smoother, and the trees had a healthier appearance. I will state, also, that the part of the orchard planted to potatoes grew greatly better than that part planted with corn. The soil was clay loam.

OAK HALL.

ROLLING SNOW ON WHEAT FIELDS.—A correspondent of the *Toronto Globe* (C. W.) advances the opinion that rolling the snow on the autumn wheat in winter would be an effective means of preventing winter-kill, by rendering the snow less liable to melt on every sudden thaw that occurs. He says the practice is extensively followed in Sweden. A good deal of discussion is taking place in the columns of that paper, on this subject, from which we gather that it yet requires the test of actual experiment to decide whether any benefit is to be derived from the operation or not.

BEST AGE OF MARES FOR BREEDING.—In reply to the question, "at what age ought mares to breed to make it best for them and colt, and to produce the best possible horses in the long run?" a correspondent of the *Genesee Farmer* states that the most solid horses are from parents past ten years old at the time of copulation." It is quoted as the opinion of Col. Wm. R. Johnson, of Va., an "old Napoleon of the turf," that if raising a mare for breeding purposes only, one should commence at three years old, if she were well grown, not for the