

per acre being applied. The cost of the ingredients was 5s. an acre. The mixture was applied only once, on July 24th. Messrs. VERRILL recommend two applications. Only 2 t 4 per cent of the tubers were diseased, however, where the mixture was used.

Potato Disease Experiments.

It may interest your readers to know the result of the experiment upon the R.A.S.E. plot at Sittingbourne. When weighed, dressed potatoes showed an increase of over three tons to the acre over untreated, with less than one quarter per cent diseased. At Cardington the treated plot had only one half per cent. diseased, the undressed 13 per cent. Mr. Chancellor has kindly sent me figures of his experiments, which I give below :—

	Total Weight for acre		Diseased		Sound	
	Tons	Cwt.	Tons	Cwt.	Tons	Cwt.
Beauty of Hebron, no treatment..	8	6 1	12	6 14		
Beauty of Hebron, one dressing, 2½ per cent. July 10th	9	3 2	5	6 18		
Beauty of Hebron, two dressings, July 10th, and August 2nd, 2½ per cent.	9	11 1	4	8 7		
Jeanie Deans, no treatment	9	0 6	3	2 17		
Jeanie Deans, 3½ per cent of mixture, August 1st	12	2 1	17	10 5		

Practical men.—I do not know Mr. 'John' McMillan, nor do I understand why his Christian name should be put between inverted commas, but I should like to know if he calls Professor Robertson a "practical man" or not.

"Supply, was the next order called, and when the agricultural items were taken up, Hon. John Carling sat placidly in the Senator's gallery and watched "proxy," Mr. Haggart, try to satisfy the queries of the farmer members. "John" McMillan made a slashing attack on the Experimental Farm, declaring that there was not a thoroughly practical man about the institution; all of which highly edified Farmer *pro tem* Haggart."—*Star*.

Ensilage vs. roots.—M. Beaubien in his address to the Dairymen's Association at Sorel, said "With an arpent of land in silage you can winter 5 heads of cattle. Do you think that can be done with an arpent of roots?"

Of course, M. Beaubien does not mean that silage alone will do for cattle-food. But, it seems to me that, in this country, it is as easy to grow 20 tons of swedes as 20 tons of silage-corn, and I feel convinced that a ton of swedes is worth quite as much for cattle-food as a ton of silage-maize. The horse and hand-hoe, too, can be kept going much longer in the swede-crop than in the maize, and consequently, the land will get much more cultivation, which is a matter of far greater importance than our people seem to think.

Is it not high time that some skilled experimenter should take in hand the determination of the relative values of corn and clover silage. The theoretical values have been settled this year, and, as my readers will recollect, the clover-silage sample was considered by far the most valuable of all those shown at the Sorel meeting of the Dairymen's Association, 1890.—The committee observing in their report that M. J. Damien Leclair's sample of clover-silage was *perfect*, we found that it contained much more nutriment than any of the other samples exhibited. Its only fault was that it

had not been passed through the chaff-cutter before ensilage.

If the first crop of clover were cut as soon as the blossom comes out in the majority of plants, there would always be a second, and, on well farmed, fairly good land, in most seasons, a third crop. How many tons would the three cuts weigh to the acre? I should say from 15 to 25 tons. I saw, last year even, lots of fields that promised 2½ tons of hay to the acre, for the first crop alone, and that would certainly indicate ten tons before drying.

Again, it was said, at Sorel: We can never contend with the products of the West: maize, wheat, barley, oats, peas. You will have to give up the cultivation of these cereals, for they will always be purchasable at so low a price that you cannot compete with their producers.

And yet within 6 months of the day on which this statement was made, oats were selling in Montreal for 54 cents a bushel!

Lastly, the same gentleman said: We no longer want hay, I don't make any; I grow no more grain, I prefer buying straw at \$3 the 100 bundles delivered.

But if no grain is to be grown, whence are we to get our straw at \$3 the 100 bundles?

Weather predictions.—I suppose some people are to be found who believe in the predictions of the weather prophets! Did any one of them predict this wonderful autumn? I was in hopes when Vennor died, that the trade had died with him, but I see, even now, occasional letters in the papers laying claim to successful predictions. I keep a regular journal of the weather as well as of other things, and I can safely assure my readers that "there is nothing in it." Now and then, the predictions "come true," and, now and then, the hog killed in the decrease of the moon will not take the salt. But the moon has as much to do with pork as the prophet with the weather.

Mr. Perrin, whose indications I give below, is more diffuse than his brethren in general:

STORMS PREDICTED.—*Sir*,—As important storms are now approaching the North American continent, and the Government authorities do not make mention of them in their report to-day, I take it upon myself to warn the public that an area of low pressure is now approaching the Southwest and Western States which promises to cause heavy rain, accompanied by hail and dangerous wind storms, reaching Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and adjacent States about Thursday or Friday next; the Lake region on or about Friday; the St. Lawrence section and extending to the Middle Atlantic coast on Saturday or Sunday, reaching Eastern Canada and the New England coast about Monday next. The most important part will likely sweep over the southern section of the Lake region Pennsylvania, New York and New England States. Indications are that the storms will be followed by low temperatures causing frosts in many sections from the Western States to the Atlantic.

JNO PERRIN.

September 9, 1891.

Now, the weather that really followed these predictions was not at all what it ought to have been:

Saturday, 12th, a bright, pleasant day.

Sunday, 13th, cooler, a little rain, A. M.; fine, P. M.

Monday 14th, "dull and rawish.

Tuesday, 15th, much cooler, 62° F., 40° F.

No frost, to do any harm, but, as every one knows, marvellous weather up to Friday, October 9th, when a triling chcek was experienced. I had fresh-gathered cucumbers for dinner on October 13th!