

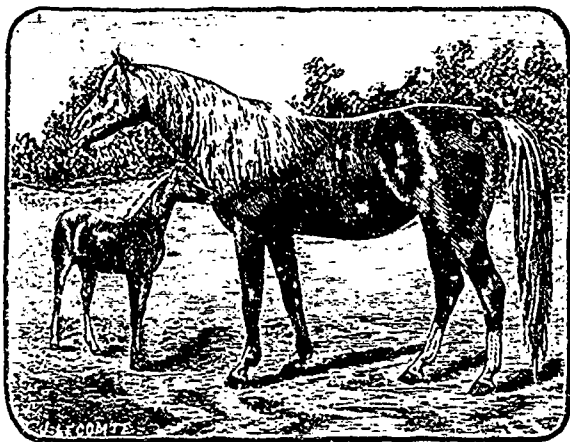
able in amount but exceedingly difficult to estimate with exactness.

We are still of opinion that several repetitions of this experiment will be needed before the matter can be considered conclusively settled.

I. P. ROBERTS.

HENRY F. WING.

Well, our people in England have been feeding in this way for many years, and as they continue the practice, I presume they find it answer, both as a means of causing cows to yield both more and richer milk, and as a cheap and handy way of manuring the land. But there is one important difference between the plans followed in the two countries: the English farmer gives extra food to his cows only when on inferior pasture, not when the grass is "rich and luxuriant." If the Cornell University people would try over again the experiment of extra food for cows, let them try it throughout the season on inferior pasture, and I do not doubt they will arrive at a very different conclusion. (1)



A PURE BREED ARAB MARE AND COLT.

**Barley.**—The length of time the best samples of English-grown barley take to ripen is worth thinking about. I see that the 2nd and 3rd prize-barley at the Brewers' Exhibition, held last November in London, were sown in March and harvested in September; having taken nearly six months from sowing to harvesting to perfect themselves. In 1888, on the Messrs. Daves' farm at Lachine, barley was sown in a field close to the Lachine bank station, on Friday, April 27th, and on Monday, July 30th, as I was leaving for Little Métis, I saw the waggons drawing the crop into the barn at the Willows farm! Some advantage in keeping a diary, after all; it makes one sure of one's facts.

Now there is a great difference between six months, and three months and three days: an almost incredible difference of time for the sprouting, growing, ripening, &c., of any grain, and I think that this slowness of growing may have a good deal to do with the acknowledged superiority of the English barley as regards its malting properties.

**Georgia farming.**—In the Supplemental Crop Report of the Province of Georgia, I see a remarkable statement in the part addressed to farmers: "A crop may be made and the land left no poorer by producing it." Does the writer seriously mean that, by any known system of cultivation, a crop can be grown and removed from the land without the

soil being deprived of elements carried off by that crop? If not, what does he mean?

Again: "We should give our land *absolute rest* once in every three years. By *rest*, we do not mean to sow it down simply, unless the crop sown is turned down and thus returned to the land. But, after sowing, and gathering the crop sowed (sic), not only turn under that crop of grass (*which?*), but let it rest the year following, and then turn under all that grows upon it, and you are ready to get the full benefit of *rest*." Really, a more incomprehensible passage I never read. I have turned it this way and that, and can make nothing of it. If the writer means that the land should be allowed to be fallow for a year, and that all the weeds that grow upon it are to be turned under as green-manure, he must have forgotten that old saying: one year's seeding makes seven year's weeding. And, fancy if he paid rent for his land! It would be bad enough if the farm had one fifth in fallow, but one-third!

**Wheat-average.**—The average yield of wheat in those fertile States of the West does not appear to ever exceed 13 bushels of 60 lb. to the imperial acre. Lawes of Rothamsted, has just measured up his 38th consecutive crop of wheat, grown on land that has been continuously unmanured ever since 1862, and had been previous to that year expressly encouraged to death by the growth of the usual four crops of roots, barley, seeds, wheat. The yield proves to be within a fraction of 20 bushels an acre! But, then, it is fair to suppose that Sir John knows how to put his wheat in, and it is certain he keeps his land free from weeds.

**Root-pruning corn.**—I thought it had been a settled point long ago that deep cultivation of maize, after it has attained a certain stage of growth, was injurious to the crop. I wrote, in this periodical, as long ago as 1884, that, after an experiment I had made in 1867, I would never hoe corn deeply after it had attained a height of 14 or 15 inches. "The roots meet in the middle of three-foot drills, and I, though I know Nature would do her best to supply the loss by multiplying the filamentous roots, should be afraid of deferring the ripening season were I to cut them off after they had once made so much progress as to *shake hands* across the rows."

The Minnesota Experiment Station has just arrived at the same conclusion, but the difference between the yield of the root-pruned and the unpruned is so trifling—only three bushels an acre—that I cannot think the result of the experiment conclusive, I do not often prefer the deductive to the inductive process of ratiocination—in briefer terms, theory to practice—but in this case I do, particularly as both tend herein to the same conclusion.

**Early Puritan Potatoes.**—Have any of my readers tried this potato? Mr. Smith, gardener to Baron Rothschild, at Mentmore, speaks of it as the best early potato he has ever grown, both as regards yield and quality, and as to earliness, he says it is a week forwarder than the Early-rose, and very superior to it in flavour, as it may well be, for the rose is not good till it is ripe; whereas a true early potato, like the ashleaf kidney should be at its best when large enough to cook.

Mr. Steele, seedman at Toronto, says of the Early Puritan in his catalogue for this year:

**Early-Puritan**—Early Puritan far exceeds the Beauty of Hebron in productiveness and quality. This variety has come to stay, is really excellent, and is worthy of a trial. The shape is well shown in our illustration, the skin and flesh is very white, it cooks dry and mealy even when half grown. It ripens with the Early Rose, greatly exceeds it in productive-

(1) At a farmers' meeting in New-York "one of the best dairyman in the country said: At no time do I get more profit from grain fed than in summer."