

These sheds form capital places for pigs, when inclosed with iron hurdles; and fattening them in such favourable circumstances, is said to be as profitable as fattening any other stock.

Mr. Mechi's land, including some that he hires, consists of 170 acres, landlord's measure, which was ascertained to have been cropped in the following manner:

	Acres.	
Wheat	80	
Beans	25	
Clover	8	
Cleared } Tares	6	
off. } Rye	8	
	Swedes	13
	Potatoes	5
	Mangold-wurzel	8
	Rye-grass	4
	Pasture	1
	Lucerne	2
	Green rye (succeeded by swedes)	4
	Mustard, and seeds, to plough in	3
	Winter tares, followed by cabbages, turnips, and mustard for green food	6

Mr. Mechi proposes to have half his land in wheat every year. He grows no oats, of which he calculates that he should more than lose in price that which he would gain in bulk, in comparison with wheat.

The eighty acres of wheat have cost on an average £1 per acre for manure, being dressed with from 2 cwt. to 3 cwt. of Ichaboe guano. In addition to this, a sack of salt is applied per acre to the lighter of the fields.

In the spring the wheats are thoroughly hoed by Garrett's horse-hoe, drawn by two or three horses, which penetrates the soil from three to four inches deep, and is done at half the cost of hand-hoeing. The hand-hoe is never used excepting between the plants. On the lighter soils the wheat is twice rolled in the spring, with Crosskill's clod-crusher, which effectually destroys the wireworm, and prevents the wheat from being laid. 17 acres of the best wheat on the farm have been partly dibbled by Newberry's dibbling machine, and partly dropped by Bentall's dragger, the quantity of seed sown being rather more than 3½ pecks. The remainder of the land has had put in from five to nine pecks per acre.

These pieces of wheat were admired by everybody, being fine in the straw and in the ear, and promising a very heavy yield.

As respects the proper quantity of seed, the deputation had an opportunity of seeing pieces sown with various quantities, and comparing them with each other. The decided opinion was that the crop was nowhere better than where 1 bushel of seed had been put in per acre, at about one foot in the row. In pieces lying side by side, one the produce of one bushel, and the next the produce of two bushels of seed, the preference was generally given to the piece sown with one bushel. An opportunity was also given of comparing the effects of Bentall's dragger with Newberry's dibbler from the same quantity of seed. The verdict was in favour of the dragger as to yield, the ear being rather finer; but it was con-

sidered that this superiority was not a sufficient compensation for not being able to cultivate between the rows, which could be done after the dibbler. Two stiches had been dibbled in with 2½ pecks of seed, but this was not deemed worthy of recommendation, because although the ears were exceeding fine and the plant had tillered greatly, it would not be fit to cut till probably a fortnight later than the other.

A curious instance of the capability of a bushel of seed to tiller sufficiently to cover rich land, was observable in the piece of wheat on the drained bog, which, although it had been slogged three times to check its luxuriance, was yet partially laid. Another portion of the wheat on this bog had been drilled with two bushels of seed, but this portion was entirely laid, the quantity of seed being evidently too much. Mr. Mechi is of opinion that three pecks would have been amply sufficient for this bog, as many as seventy stems having been counted from one dibble-hole. He had also rolled his piece of wheat three times in dry weather in the spring, with the clod-crusher, to consolidate the loose earth and destroy the wire-worm. Mr. Mechi believed that all the bogs of Ireland might be profitably rendered productive by the means he has taken to reclaim this.

Mr. Mechi attributes the luxuriance of his crops, after draining, and subsoil ploughing, to his economical management of manures, of the liquid portion of which he can scarcely be said to lose any from his farmstead. His litter, being cut into chaff, absorbs the urine. The manure can be conveniently applied to the land within three weeks of being put into the dung-pit. He showed the deputation a field of wheat, which had borne wheat last year, but which had been well supplied with liquid manure in the spring. The yield promised at least an average crop, but the deputation are of opinion that this course cannot be successfully followed.

Mr. Mechi attributes the very superior cleanliness of his land to his subsoil ploughing, which, he says, eradicates many deep-rooted weeds, which would, after shallow ploughing, throw up new shoots. All Mr. Mechi's wheat is bagged. His clover is drilled in after his wheat has been hoed.

His root crops and green crops looked exceedingly well, and promised heavy crops. These are all drawn and consumed in the yards, either cleaned with cut straw for pigs, the dung of which Mr. Mechi prizes very highly, or by sheep, with the oil-cake, which is brought with the produce of some of the beans.

In preparing for his root crop, Mr. Mechi ploughs nine inches deep with Bentall's or Ransome's iron plough. This is followed by Smith's subsoil plough, which goes fourteen inches deeper. Drag harrows, with sixteen inches tines, Crosskill's clod-crusher, and the scarifier, com-

pletely pulverise the soil, and move it to a great depth.

The deputation would venture to recommend to Mr. Mechi a light specimen of the much-abused Kentish plough, which would cover his manure for his turnips better than the plough which they saw in use.

Mr. Mechi is cautious never to work his land in wet weather.

Mr. Mechi always scarifies his stubbles; and his beans are generally sown with a mixture of one quart of mustard, and two quarts of rape per acre, harrowed in, to keep the land covered. This is ploughed in green, for wheat. Mr. Mechi manures for his turnips with sulphuric acid and bones. The subsoil plough is also run down between the rows of his mangold-wurzel.

The deputation attribute Mr. Mechi's luxuriant crops, on a poor soil, as the greater part of the farm undoubtedly is, to deep thorough draining, subsoiling, the peculiar richness of his manure, his frequent cultivation between the rows, and (as in the case of Mr. Davis) avoiding to put more seed into the ground than its productive power can bring to perfection; to the perfectly free circulation of the sun and air over his whole farm; and to the absence of all trees and hedge-rows, which too frequently, in other places, impoverish the soil, and collect the seeds of weeds, and, with thatched buildings, harbour sparrows and other destructive birds. By these means Mr. Mechi says he has doubled the produce of his farm.

It was the opinion of the deputation that a boarded barn would have been better than a bricked one, supposing a large barn to have been necessary, with so powerful a thrashing machine; indeed, many were of opinion that those buildings and implements might serve all purposes of a farm twice the size of Tiptree-hall farm.

From the Farmers' Gazette.

TO THE YOUNG FARMERS OF IRELAND.

LETTER III.

My Friends,—We now come to consider the principal ingredients of the soil.

Alumino is a simple substance, found in the strong argillaceous clay, and often confounded with argyl, which, in a certain condition, is the clay used in pottery works. The name alumina has been given from that of the salt, which that substance yields, in other words alum. Except by a chemical process, alumino is not obtained in a pure state, being generally combined with other earthy substances, and metallic oxydes; it is white, without smell (which argyl has, when moistened by the breath,) and tasteless, though it causes a certain sensation on the tongue, to which it will stick like paste, from its power of absorbing moisture; yet, though of a greasy nature, it is not easily wrought by the hand of the potter, as is argyl, when it naturally contains a due proportion of sand. The