

Grasses and Forage Plants.

Swede versus Yellow Turnip.

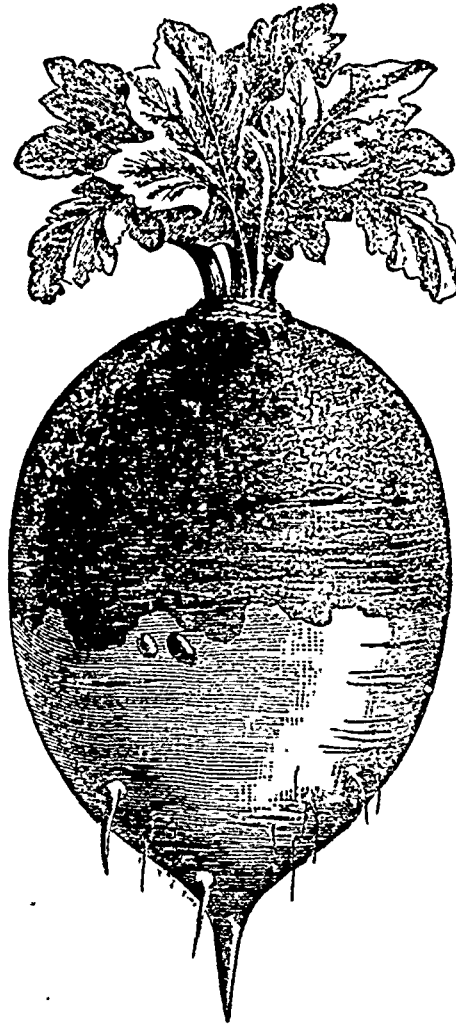
At a recent meeting of the Kelso Farmers' Club, Mr. G. S. Douglas, of Riddletonhill, read a paper on "The Best Varieties of Turnips," in which he deprecated a too exclusive use of Swedes, especially for lambs and calves not exceeding twelve months old. He thought yellow turnips best adapted for use in the early part of the season, and altogether in the cases he had mentioned. He spoke highly of the feeding qualities of the yellow and white varieties and considered that they were usually underestimated. The Fosterton and Dale's Hybrid were specified as excellent varieties of the yellow turnip. In the course of the discussion that followed the reading of the paper, Mr. Jack, of Mersington, said he had little experience in feeding, but the experience he had had was sufficient to show him the great mistake of putting hogs too early on Swedish turnips. It was better to put them on yellow turnips until the beginning or middle of February, and then they could be put on Swedes. He had some that he put on Swedes, and the result was that in the beginning of March they stopped eating them altogether, and were dependent on artificial food, and after all they did not turn out well. Mr. Hume, Sunlawhill, disagreed with Mr. Jack when he said that stock did not thrive on Swedish turnips. This year they had not thrived, but that was exceptional, as there had been no frost. If the weather had been severe, what other turnips could have withstood? As for different varieties, what suited one kind of land did not suit another. The Fosterton hybrid was very good for one, Aberdeen for another, and so on. Mr. Usher, Stodrig, thought that a great thing in feeding was to begin with some such turnips as were easily digested. He was not surprised at Mr. Jack's disappointment in beginning with Swedes, and stock would not go on improving without the aid of extra feeding stuffs. Mr. Birchwick, Roxburgh, Newtown, enumerated Grey-stones, white globes, green tops, and Lincoln reds as in his opinion the best descriptions to sow—Lincoln red being, he thought, a very valuable turnip. After these came the hybrids. The longer young sheep were kept on some turnips he thought they threw the better afterwards. He did not prefer the above mentioned turnips to Swedes, owing to their not being able to withstand the frost. The chairman, Mr. Purves, Linton, Burnfoot, thought the greystone a very valuable turnip, as he himself had had no less than 35 tons of it to the acre. Next to this turnip he liked the Lincoln red, although they did not produce so much bulk to the acre. He had had a good deal of experience with the different varieties of yellow turnips, and he believed the Fosterton hybrid to be the best. There were many other hybrids, but he had found that they were all inferior to the Fosterton. The Aberdeen was also a very fair bulb, as it stood the frost very well, and was very nutritious. After February there was nothing like the Swede, however. Mr. Usher asked if he was to understand the chairman to mean that he came entirely to Swedes for feeding stock, but not for breeding stock. The chairman said he held that Swedish turnips were unsuitable for ewes until after they had lambed.

Rennie's Prize Purple-Top Swede Turnip.

Great improvement has been effected in the Swede turnip of late years by skilful crossing and careful culture. It is perhaps too much to say that perfection has been reached, but certainly a very high order of excellence has been attained, leaving but little to be desired or attempted hereafter. We have all the main qualities that the most exacting tiller of the

soil can require, in several of the varieties now before the public—smoothness and size of bulb, vigor of growth, simplicity of culture, goodness of flavor, and enormity of yield. What more can be asked of a Swede turnip?

Rennie's Prize Purple-top is one of the best whether for table or for stock use. It is a heavy cropper, very juicy, solid, hardy, and, to a reasonable degree, frost-proof. These excellent characteristics will at once commend it to the notice and approval of Canadian farmers, than whom there are no better growers or judges of turnips in the world. Nowhere perhaps, all things considered, is the cultivation of this valuable bulb more skilfully carried on than in those parts of this country which are inhabited by Old World farmers, who learned before they came here the important fact that root-husbandry



is the sheet anchor of modern and remunerative agriculture. The scarcity and costliness of labor here has led to the adoption of short-hand methods of cultivation, unknown to the farmers of Great Britain; and yet we are able to equal, if not out-rival, the crops which have been the pride and boast of Old Country agriculturists. Our virgin soil, quick growing season, and the change of air, which seems to invigorate vegetable as well as animal life, have all played their part in promoting the success of the turnip crop, which is now so established that the wonder is any of the farmers of Canada can remain willing to be innocent of the ownership of a turnip patch. In those parts of this Province where turnip-growing is largely practised, it is one of the keenest competitions of the season to have the neatest, best-looking, and most productive turnip-field.

The turnip herewith illustrated was originated by Mr. William Rennie, seedsman and agricultural implement dealer, of Toronto. He will do well to imitate the example of the Messrs. Sharpe and others, who have introduced varieties of their own produc-

tion, in offering premiums for the finest samples and heaviest yields grown from this particular seed.

There is still time for any of our readers who have not embarked in turnip culture to prepare a piece of land and sow it the present season. The seed of the particular variety under consideration is advertised to be sown from the middle of June to the 20th of July. Even when it is too late to get in the Swede, the Yellow Aberdeen and White Globe turnips can be sown to advantage. They are less productive and poorer keepers than the Swede, but just as "half a loaf is better than no bread," a supply of inferior turnips is better than the total want of them. They are of so great value as furnishing a toothsome, succulent food for stock, at a time when there is nothing else but dry fodder to be had, that every effort should be made to secure enough of them to mix in with the less juicy stores laid in for late fall and winter use.

The *modus operandi* of turnip culture has been so many times described and illustrated in these pages, that it is well nigh superfluous to say anything further in regard to it. A few brief hints, however, will make a fitting conclusion to this article. Turnips flourish best on rather light, new soil, but will give a good account of themselves on any land that is in a sufficiently productive state to enable them to make that rapid growth which is essential to their success in a climate and season like ours. It is downright waste of time, toil, and land to sow them in poor, exhausted ground. Select the best piece of land on the farm for them; top-dress with plaster and ashes, sprinkle with superphosphate after sowing; thin the plants in good time, keep them clear of weeds in the early stage of their growth; and they will take full possession of the ground, shading it with their broad leaves, and filling it with their juicy bulbs. They must be pulled and housed before severe frosts come. It is usual to store them either in cellars or pits, and, if sufficiently ventilated, they will keep well either way.

Hay.

All observing stock-keepers know that all animals subsisting on pasture and hay are fond of a variety; that all animals, however liberally supplied with the best of hay or the richest and most succulent pasture, will eat more or less of coarse, woody and unpalatable grass and hay. It is common to see horses and cattle, and even sheep, that are liberally fed with the best of hay, eat straw and corn fodder with avidity for a change.

It has long been a general practice to mix clover and timothy, also clover and orchard-grass, seeds, for both pasture and meadow. It is claimed by many that the last two mature so nearly at the same time that they are adapted to being grown together for hay; but I have not found such to be my experience. They do not reach the most profitable stage for hay simultaneously, and to cure them most profitably they require an entirely different process.

My greatest success in curing clover hay has been mainly by fermentation, with very little sun or air, but in making orchard grass hay I have been most successful when I have thoroughly teddered and aired it, and I have never succeeded in making a good quality of hay of it by curing it in the cock. The same is true of clover and timothy when grown together, the clover matures much earlier than the timothy, and the former being generally the greater crop of the two, the first year it is cut for the clover, and the timothy has very little weight or value that early.

When each variety is sown separately each may be harvested in the proper stage of growth without loss by cutting another variety prematurely. The hay of the various kinds may be stored separately so that all may be accessible, and thus the feed of animals may be changed as it is desirable.—*Can. Germantown Telegraph*.

ALFALFA AMONG TIMBER.—The *Sacramento Record* says that a man living on the river eight miles above that city sowed alfalfa in a field of second growth white oaks averaging about twelve feet apart. The seed grew well and the clover had constantly improved since—four years. The clover under the trees is not quite so stocky as in the sunshine, but yields plenty of good feed.