

sowing late turnips, corn—though late—rape, and whatever else will serve to eke out the fall feed. Every ton of such food will be a saving to the hay mow, and will serve to keep up the condition of the stock; this, of itself, is no trifling gain to stock feeders. Stock in good condition, when housed, are always fed with much greater profit and at much less expense than if lean when the dark cold days of winter are upon us.

A large supply of fodder, even if green and unsaved in the fall, is never unprofitable on a farm; though I have heard it urged in opposition to sowing millet, even in July, that it would not mature in time to save it for hay. I remember the great profits I one time had from a crop that might by some be called a lost crop. I sowed a field of spring vetches, with the intent of saving the seed, but they did not ripen. They had been sown rather late, the land was rich, causing a very rank growth of the vines, not easily saved, and, added to all, the season was wetter than usual. September passed away, and the pods were not fully formed. The bees, even in the first days of October, laid up extra stores of honey from the sweet blossoms of my vetch field. I was disappointed of sowing seed from the crop, but it must not be lost. I had it mown and fed to stock—cows, horses and pigs—but as they would not consume such a quantity of feed in the limited time, I had the greater part carted into the farm yard, and after having been tramped under foot by cattle for some time, piled in the manure heaps in alternate layers, with droppings of cattle and other manure. My profit from my field, and I found it a good one, was in the quantity of manure. For two successive years at least I was receiving the profit, the first year from an unusually heavy root crop, and, following that, an abundant grain crop.

There can be no loss in a great quantity of fodder, even if some be green, or, it may be, coarse. A farmer can put it all to good account. I never saw too much store of hay, straw, or any other cattle food, on a farm.

New Disease Affecting American Potatoes in England.

In the "Journal of Horticulture" [(London, June 24th), some interesting facts are stated relative to a peculiar disease affecting the growth of several new varieties of potatoes recently introduced from the United States.

Our correspondent states that the sorts which he cultivates are Extra Early Vermont, Snowflake, Late Rose, Brownell's Vermont Beauty, Willard's Seedling and Thorburn's Paragon. The young shoots withered away when about two inches above the surface, and presented a brown, sere appearance. Such as attained to a greater height after a while put on the same sickly appearance, but the Early Rose had so far been the least affected. In the locality of this correspondent, what is most remarkable is that all English sorts maintained a growing and healthy appearance.

Another correspondent in a distant locality remarks that the disease had only appeared among the American varieties, and that they had (middle of June) been half destroyed. "The disease may not be infectious; if it is, it will be a great pity that any of the American varieties were introduced. The experience gained at Loxford is all against them. A high price was paid for Early Rose, and after growing it for two or three seasons it was rejected as a miserable failure. We have now tried what was thought the next best red early sort, Extra Early Vermont, and it cannot this year be distinguished from Early Rose either in haulm or tuber, and the disease to boot; it will probably go to the pigs like all the rest of them. No more Americans, if I can have my way."

In the gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society at Chiswick, this mysterious disease is particularly virulent the present season, but faint traces of it have been observed for the past two years, particularly in the Early Rose both in this and many other localities. The foliage is described as becoming spotted, the stem discolored, and in a few days not a vestige of green is left, and in this way the tubers are effectually stopped in growth and cannot attain to a sufficient size to render them of any value for edible purposes. "The evidence is now forthcoming, and proves beyond any manner of doubt that the American varieties of potatoes grown from home-raised or English seed are especially liable to a visitation which may, as instances at Chiswick prove, render the crop worthless. The information we gave was not a moment too soon, for the disease is an established fact, not as a pathological discovery merely, but as a destructive agent jeopardizing the crop of a valuable esculent." In these gardens the disease seems confined to American varieties from English grown seed; those directly imported appear, so far, unaffected. Thus American Bread Fruit, from imported seed—the plants are perfectly healthy, while Snowflakes by their side, from English seed, are extensively diseased.

The principal seat of the malady appears to be the stem of the plant, just very slightly within the surface of the soil. "It is best explained by the perfect analogy afforded by a decayed post; above ground it is sound, and below sound, but between these points it is decayed." The old sets themselves generally appear healthy and sound, and the mischief, whatever may be its cause, first appears at the point of the stems before described. Whether the fungus which takes possession of the affected part is the cause or effect of the disease, cannot be satisfactorily determined without much patient microscopic investigation.

"The disease is distinct from the old murrain in appearance, and also in being affected by weather influences. The old disease spreads most rapidly with rain; the new increased the most quickly under the late dry sunny weather. Since the rains the progress of the malady has been slower, and the plants are generally more healthy and show fewer fresh outbreaks. It would appear that the real seat of the disease is in the seed tuber, and that when once acquired it is hereditary. Certain it is that in instances more or less frequent it has exhibited itself during the past few years, and, unfortunately, not much less certainly it is increasing in virulence."

It would thus appear that this important and hitherto regarded indispensable esculent is destined to encounter fresh and increasing enemies. The present great plague of a great portion of this North American continent—the Colorado beetle—has not as yet reached the shores of Europe, but should it do so, the culture of the potato will certainly become still more difficult and uncertain. Our principal reliance must be placed in thoroughly carrying out the precautions which observation and experience will be able to suggest; patiently awaiting for the light which scientific investigations, particularly those of a microscopic character, cannot fail ultimately to impart on this and other kindred subjects of great and acknowledged intricacy.

Preventing Damage by Currant Worms

Dry ashes are recommended as being a sure preventive against the ravages of the currant worm. When the worms first appear, dust the bushes thoroughly with dry ashes when the morning dew is upon them. The application must be repeated two or three times at intervals of a few days, as more worms will hatch from previously laid eggs.

Culture of the Poppy in the United States.

The cultivation of the poppy for opium is a branch of industry unknown to Canadian farmers; and until recently it was as much unknown to American farmers, though there it has been pursued for some years. The climate of some of the Southern States is very favorable to its culture, and as the demand for it incessantly increases, we are not surprised to see the area devoted to its cultivation extending from year to year. It is said to be largely grown in Louisiana, Florida and California.

Opium is well known in medical practice, and were the use of the drug limited to what is used as medicine, there would not be the slightest objection on moral or philanthropic grounds to the introduction of its culture into America; but, unfortunately, its use is not so limited. It is stated, and on good grounds, that not less than one hundred thousand Americans use this pernicious drug as a stimulant or narcotic, and it is known the annual importation of it to American ports is fully two hundred tons. When we add to this quantity imported that which is the product of the American soil, we may well believe that the number of victims to its use is not over-estimated. Opium is far more injurious to the human system than any other stimulant known in the Eastern or Western hemispheres. While the person who indulges in its use snatches a momentary pleasure, the use of the opiate insidiously undermines his constitution, enervating his body and mind, and leaving but a wreck of his former self.

Till within these few years the culture of opium was confined to Asia. India and Turkey were the principal, if not the only growing countries, and the Chinese the only important consumers; but now its culture is a regular branch of agricultural industry in America, and not only in the Southern States, but is becoming a well known crop in New England, and there is no need to look abroad for a market for the produce; home grown and imported—all find ready sale in the cities and towns of the Union. The American drug is prepared by expressing the juice from the whole plant, not as the Indian, which is prepared solely from the sap of the seed capsules. It is prepared in different forms, sometimes as molasses, syrups, elixirs, and sometimes solid in pills; but whatever the form, the seductive power and the deadly effects are the same—the entire prostration of mind and body.

Seed Wheat.

At the last meeting of the Forest City Grange, Mr. J. Johnstone, of Westminster Township, enquired of us how it was that the Scott wheat, which we recommended so strongly, had not stood the winter as well as other wheat he had, both having received the same treatment. This being the first complaint of the kind we heard, we promised to examine the wheat personally and ascertain the reason, if possible. Mr. Bruce said the Scott wheat with him had stood the winter better than any other variety; in fact, that no winter wheat he had seen this year was at all to be compared to it. He had one field, and a neighbor of his also had a field of it, and he did not believe there was any wheat as good in that township.

We went and examined both pieces. Mr. Johnstone had the Clawson wheat in the same field with the Scott; both varieties had been injured by the spring frosts. The Clawson, perhaps, looked a little the best, but we accounted for this principally from the fact that wheat had been raised last year on the part of the field where the Scott wheat was growing, and corn on the part where the Seneca wheat was. We consider that wheat after wheat is not likely to yield as good a return as wheat after corn. Mr. Bruce's wheat, we believe, would surpass any we have seen in the Township of London this year.