

fully estimated in political circles; the Kingston *Daily News* devotes an occasional article to the subject, and why not? Has not Zoroaster said that "the fairest fruit of man is to till the ground."

While admitting the value of superphosphates and guanos, let us see how far our own manurial resources may be developed before we set about importation. The manufacture of potash in many parts of Canada, has led to the formation of large mounds of leached ashes. In an area of three miles I have counted 22 heaps, containing more than 22,000 bushels. These valued at one cent a bushel, would be worth \$220; but they are worth to the farmer five cents a bushel, making the lot worth \$1100. It is a fact, that Americans have manufactured potash from the leached ashes sold by manufacturers on this side; they have paid for them four cents a bushel by the cargo put them in a dry place, mixed them with lime to decompose any insoluble matters found in combination with the potash—for instance the silicate—and then manufactured potash. These leached ashes were then sold to farmers at from one to three cents a bushel. Unleached house ashes made from maple and beech contain to the bushel about 4 lbs. pure potash, manufactured in the ordinary way, and I am sure that full 50 per cent more of alkali is obtained from them when incorporated with soil; the application of well saved wood ashes will be found to fulfill all that is done by salt, while they are cheaper. Leached ashes, if previously spread under cover to evaporate from them the large amount of water they contain, would be found better than muck as an absorbent for manure pits. It would pay farmers to draw them in winter time from a considerable distance; and in localities where a good clearance has been effected we would advise them to resist the importunities of the ash-gatherer, and put their ashes on fields intended for spring wheat some time before sowing.

Another source of manure to which attention has not been directed in Upper Canada, is our fisheries. Large quantities of white fish and herring are annually caught on the Bay Quinte, the Lake-shore of Prince Edward, and on Lake Erie. What becomes of the offal? What is done with the immense hauls of suckers that disgust the fishermen in search of better fish? Now, guano is nothing more than fish—less so much of it as has been assimilated by birds; and if we may obtain in a cheap form nearer home all the elements of guano, no necessity exists for its import. Mr. Sterry Hunt, in an article published in Nos. 9 and 10, vol. II., of the *Lower Canada Farmers' Journal* called attention to the importance of manufacturing a portable manure from the refuse of the fisheries in the Lower St. Lawrence. Two French gentlemen have erected a large establishment on the coast of Newfoundland, for the manufacture of a

manure from the refuse of the fisheries, the value of which Mr. Hunt estimates at \$40 a ton. Will some of your readers who reside near a lake fishery give his information and thoughts on the subject.

By the way, Mr. Editor, in No. 1 of the present volume, you gave an extract from the *Working Farmer* on the value of carrots, which it is said that a large portion of the inorganic constituents find their way back to the soil in a progressed form, i. e., when the carrots are fed upon the farm; and that this progression induces a consequent progression of the organic matters of the soil itself. Do you endorse this theory of the progression of primaries first promulgated by Prof. Mape's superphosphatic speculation notoriety. If there be any truth in the theory let its data be known in agriculture we want facts, not assumptions. I have read somewhere of humate of lime. Leibig denies the formation of such a salt.

J.R.

Camden East, March, 1861.

Irish Agriculture.

If there be one thing more than another which this age prides itself, it is the attention to the daily practical wants of mankind, and providing of new sources of industry for the increasing wants of an accumulating population by the discovery and cultivation of new fields of industry. And assuredly it may well boast triumphs like these; for they are but the fulfilment of the great religious duty of labor—*laborare est orare*.

Nowhere is the application of practical knowledge to the daily wants of life more imperatively demanded than in this country, placed, until recently, on the outer confines of civilization, a semi-barbarous and simple state, its population subsisting, not on industry directed by science and skill, but on the simplest forms of pastoral labor. But invaded and surrounded by an advancing civilization, the people of this country could not always exist in a pastoral state, and the last dozen years must have warned them often painfully, that Providence demanded higher exercise of industry than milking and digging potatoes. There never existed a nation who were taught this lesson in a more memorable manner than the Irish. Yet it is even now only awakening to an elementary sense of our duties and necessities. We follow "the old rote," with the proverbial tenacity the Celtic character. But we must also give some little time or other the "Paddy-go" life of the country. That is not the life, which men were made. They are made to be together in close society, and not in selfish isolation, and thus their true state is best promoted by skilled industry.

Now, of all forms of skilled industry,