

to provide more silage, put the cows into the stables earlier in the season, and keep them there later in the spring, and if possible feed silage once per day through the balance of the year. Farming to pay must be so ordered that the farmer can command 365 days of summer in each twelve months, and silage, a warm barn, and cows in the barn for 165 days at least, will give him that advantage.—*Country Gent.*

The Strawsonizer.

Probably the implement which attracted the most attention at the Royal Show was the "Strawsonizer," the invention of Mr. G. F. Strawson of Newbury, Berkshire, who as a chemical manufacturer has faced the question of devising some machine which will distribute fine solids or liquids, and in this way meet the insect pests which now are more dreaded by the farmer than even American competition. The fan within the machine works at the rate of three thousand revolutions a minute.

Mr. Strawson, in conversation with the representative of one of our London daily papers, tells how he has been led to the invention. He says that for years he has worked with the object of checking the ravages of turnip fly. He began by seeking for remedies, and learned that it was necessary to have substances extremely fine, or otherwise it would take tons to cover the acre, which would be both costly and less effective. He then thought of a liquid as capable of infinite subdivision. Next came the question of distribution, and the present machine is the result. The machine, which is very simple, is capable of a multitude of uses, as it can distribute its contents in almost any form and place, either along the ground or to the height of several feet. The ground or trees are covered with a film, not unlike that of the hoar frost, and so completely is the work done that all parts are covered. By its means 20 to 25 acres can be covered with lime in an hour, and with paraffine one gallon is sufficient for an acre. It is anticipated that its use will be even greater in France than in England, and trials are to be made by the French government, with a view to its adoption in all the vine-growing districts. It is further valuable for distributing artificial manures and sowing seed, and anything from the finest seeds up to maize can be sown by it, and it scatters from 6 to 8 yards. It is also applicable to use in towns for sanitary purposes and the distribution of disinfectants. Those best able to judge, declare that this is one of the most important inventions of recent times, both because of its applicability to agriculture, and its use all over the world. The importance of dealing with the turnip fly is great, for the losses every year are enormous.—*S. B. London, July 1.*

Our correspondent sends a cut showing this machine in operation, but we have not had it re-engraved for use. It shows simply the rear of a cart throwing out clouds of spray from nozzles projecting diagonally to right and left, but has nothing to explain the piping with which the nozzles connect, or the force used in throwing out the liquid.—*Country Gent.*

Special Fertilizers.

We have attempted for many years to point out the unlike effects of special fertilizers on different and unlike soils. Superphosphates, for instance, which produce a great increase of the crop on some soils, have afforded no sensible effect in other places. We have known the wheat crop to be doubled by its use in one locality, and in others not ten miles away, the slightest improvement in the crop was not produced. Yet even at the present time, some agricultural writers do not appear to have understood this difference, and directions are repeatedly given for promoting the increased growth of crops by the use of superphosphates or of potash, evidently taking

it for granted that all soils and all crops are alike benefited. Fertilizers specially fitted for certain crops are largely advertised for sale, and we have "potato manures," and "corn manures" offered for these respective crops, as if they would operate alike on all soils.

But scientific men have not all fallen into this error, and we quote a few as a matter of caution to those who use commercial fertilizers without first proving on a limited scale their fitness and utility when employed and without first determining by trial whether the benefit produced, where they do not fail, will pay cost.

Dr. Voelcker stated: "On some soils, more especially on poor, light pastures, the effect of bone-dust has been truly marvellous, while in other localities they do not show any marked effect. I would advise making field trials on a limited scale before heavy expense is incurred. Bone meal is often wasted on cold clay soils." Again: "Soils vary much in composition, and hence the same manures which effect a radical improvement in one locality, are often found of little use in another." A writer in the Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society says: "I have seen bones applied and produce no good whatever, and on the other hand I have seen them used with immense advantage. I have seen guano produce a splendid crop; while the year following the crop was worse than before the guano was applied."

Hence the mistake sometimes made at Experiment Stations, in reporting tests of fertilizers on the circumscribed localities belonging to the stations, and which are often quite unlike the soils of other parts of the country, the owners of which they are intended to instruct.

Dr. Voelcker said: "Where good farmyard manure can be obtained at a reasonable price, I believe it will be found the most efficacious and economical manure." Another writer in the Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society said: "It is impossible to give any definite rules without knowing the kind of land to be manured."

The preceding remarks and quotations are not mere theory on our part, but we have made for many years similar tests in several instances, and witnessed like results from the experience of others.—*Country Gent.*

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