

to 6d. a quartern, or less, throughout the winter.

However, the great wheat crop stands unbacked by any one cereal or vegetable yield; and this in its way is matter for profound reflection. There is very little barley. There is a scant supply of oats. There is little or no turnips, and as little or even less mangel wurzel. There is a dearth of hay and straw. The potato crop fails again, but this time by smallness of size, with first class quality. Cabbage and the like will soon disappear. Moreover, milk is obtained in greatly diminished quantity, and therefore the cheese and butter prospect is as bad as it well can be. What we have plentifully is wheat; what we lack is, in name, legion. It is a curious, exceptional state of things, that will give rise to much controversy. The opinion we are disposed to form of it is, that it will press lightly on us—that is, on the great body of consumers. To farmers, and to those extensively involved in foreign grain transactions, it will be a season that they will long remember. In the absence of cattle feed, the farmer must sooner or later send his sheep and bullocks to the Islington cattle market; and were he to be guided by us, he would begin early, as prices, under a pressure of sales, are sure to fall. We are inclined to think that beef and mutton, of fair to common sorts, will be cheaper this season than for many years; while prime to fine pieces will, perhaps, command more money than during the height of the cattle plague.

SEEDING DOWN LAWNS IN AUTUMN.

The autumn is in some respects the most favorable season for finishing a lawn. Lawn making really should take two seasons, one summer for grading, the autumn and spring following for planting, the following summer for tillage; during which it may be well occupied by some properly summer crop which will leave the ground bare in August or early in September. If the manuring be liberal and the soil good, early sweet corn will be found a very profitable crop near a market; corn sowed for green fodder will pay well anywhere. Oats may be sowed late after tree-planting time, and cut for fodder. The ground should be occupied by some crop, rather than by weeds; but regard for this crop should not prevent any desirable spring planting being made, and if some summer grain be employed to cover the ground, the grass seed should not be sowed with it as is usually done, unless ample time may have been allowed for the fillings to settle, and to be regraded, and the surface soil to become homogeneous in character through tillage and weathering. Perhaps the best practice on tolerably level and well-drain-

ed land is to keep it fallow during the second summer, plowing and harrowing it as often as a tinge of green shows itself, indicating a crop of weeds. The first of September, or at any rate a few days after, should see the land newly plowed, levelled off with a broad scraper, where dead furrows or undesirable depressions of any kind exist, and harrowed thoroughly. If two or three hundred weight of Peruvian guano be applied and harrowed in, the effect will be satisfactory. Such land is in fit condition to receive the grass seed, and although it is almost universal for farmers, to seed down to grass with some small grain crop, it by no means follows that this is the best way.

Grass sowed on well prepared soil does best alone. The quantity of seed should be liberal, and, as a rule, only those kinds of seed should be mingled which harmonize well. The "mixed lawn-grass" seed which is imported from England and sold by most seedsmen on account of its attractive name, and the idea that the greater the mixture of varieties the closer will be the sod, is undesirable. Many of the kinds of grass will not flourish, and those which retain possession of the soil do so after a struggle to oust the others. White clover is natural to most of our soils, so that it is rarely possible to keep a lawn clear of it. Still, as the beauty of a close shorn turf is impaired by spots of this plant, it is ordinarily best to use a pound or two of the seed to the acre. There are certain commonly cultivated grasses which are an abomination on a lawn; among them Timothy, Orchard grass, and Rye grass. Our closest pasture sods consist chiefly of June or Blue grass, Red-top, Sweet Vernal grass, and White clover. We recommend, then, for seeding a lawn a mixture of June or Blue grass, or Red-top, in equal parts, a bushel of each, White clover, as above stated, and a dash of Sweet Vernal grass, which, however, exists in abundance in most soils throughout the Middle and Eastern States. This last is a pleasant addition, as it gives out a fragrance when drying which is exceedingly grateful. On stiff soils, which will be subjected to alternate freezing, thawing, and washing, it is well to sow a bushel of oats with the grass seed. Should the oats grow too rank, they can be cut, and they will, if not too thick, form an excellent protection to the young grass, and disappear in the spring. After sowing, roll the land evenly.—*American Agriculturist.*

LADIES AT THE FALL FAIRS.

The best part of any agricultural exhibition is the people, and the best part of the people are the ladies. The legitimate aim of the fair is the instruction of the people in the details of their calling. We very properly measure the

success of an agricultural exhibition not by the multitudes that throng it, and the entrance fees, but by the instruction it affords to those who come. There should first be something to see, and then the more that come the better. No part of the exhibition is more instructive than that which appropriately comes under woman's supervision. The dairy belongs to her, and the bread, the needle-work and the fine arts, the flowers and the poultry. We are very far from perfection in any of these departments, and we should like to see the skill and enterprise of our fair countrywomen fully represented in the fairs that are just before us. The prizes are worth contending for, aside from those offered by the committees. "The best bread-maker in the country" is an honor that would sit gracefully on any woman. The finest butter neatly stamped in golden balls is certain to be looked at, and the maker to be inquired for. Bouquets, tastefully arranged, will draw something better than the premiums offered. They will draw out the skill, and cultivate the taste of the makers, and give pleasure to the thousands who study them. Of course, it will take time and labor to prepare for the fair, but could the labor be more worthily bestowed? These fairs, notwithstanding their perversions, are doing a good work in the education of the people. We have followed them for a score of years, and never attended one but we carried away, new ideas and useful hints. It does us all good to come in contact with our fellows, and to study their handiwork. It is a duty we owe to society to contribute our share to these exhibitions and make them successful and worthy of general patronage.—*Am. Agri*

RAT-TAILED RADISH.

Last month we allowed a correspondent to say that the Rat-tailed or Long-podded Radish was a failure, and corroborated his statement from our own experience. We did not know that we were flying in the face of royalty. A correspondent of the London Gardener's Chronicle says: "Mr. Carmichael (Prince of Wales' gardener) told me that he always kept a regular supply of it, and that it was much used and relished at the royal table, a fact surely worth knowing." So important "a fact," that Wales likes the Rat-tail should not be confined to one side of the Atlantic—it being "surely worth knowing," we spread it abroad. The English papers contain much snob-bishness like the above, which reads strangely to an American.—*Am. Agri.*

[Our American friends are known to be the greatest snobs on the face of the Earth, and the Rat-tail Radish is an excellent salad, notwithstanding.—*Ed. Ag. Journal.*]