

Preservation of Potatoes.

M. Carriere, a French writer, publishes some interesting particulars regarding the preservation of potatoes during winter and spring. The methods usually employed he characterizes as both good and bad; good, because the atmosphere of cellars or pits is usually damp enough to prevent the too speedy evaporation of water from the tubers, and because the cellars are almost invariably kept closed, so that occasionally the temperature rises considerably and induces the very evil most to be avoided, namely, the sprouting out of buds. In storing potatoes for seed or culinary purposes, the main object in view is to prevent their germination, so that it may not be necessary to pick out the budding eyes, a process which invariably induces a rapid deterioration in quality and strength. To prevent this, the store-places should be wholesome, dry, and *freely ventilated*. In extremely cold weather the temperature must be raised by artificial means, but an excess of warmth is to be carefully guarded against; it is sufficient to keep the temperature just above freezing point, the arrival of which may be proved, in the absence of a thermometer, by the appearance of ice on a shallow pan of water purposely kept in the store-place. These measures suffice in the case of potatoes intended for planting out, but where they are required for domestic consumption the further precaution must be taken of shielding them from the action of light. If this be not done, the tubers are apt to turn green, a change which is nothing to their detriment for seeding purposes, but which is attended by chemical alterations that give them a bitter taste, and quite spoils them for domestic use. By attention to these points, M. Carriere has succeeded in keeping old potatoes in good plantable condition up to the middle of June, or sometimes, as in the present year, to the middle of July, by which date the new potatoes are no longer scarce, dear, and tasteful, as is the case at the time the old stock usually goes out.

The British Crop Reports.

The London *Agricultural Gazette* of Sept. 3 says: "We have taken out the returns from Yorkshire and Lincolnshire; from Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, Bedfordshire and Essex; from Kent, Sussex, Hants, Wilts and Dorset; and from Shropshire, Staffordshire and Lancashire separately, and the returns thus received in separate lots do nothing whatever to diminish the gloomy character of the prospect. In the first of these groups, of thirty-one wheat reports twenty-one are below an average and only one is above; of thirty barley reports; fifteen are average and fourteen under an average, of twenty-nine oat reports, seventeen are average and only two are over an average. In the eastern county group of forty-four wheat reports, thirty-four are under an average; of forty-one barley reports, twenty-six are under an average; of thirty-nine oat reports, twenty-four are an average, six over an average, and nine under an average. In the southern county group, of thirty-six wheat reports nine are an average—all the rest are under an average; of thirty-five barley reports, twenty-four are an average, and nine under an average; of thirty-six oat reports, nineteen are an average, six over an average, and eleven under an average. In the western county group, of sixteen wheat reports twelve are under an average; of seventeen barley reports, eight are under an average, ten are an average, and two over an average."

The Iowa press is vigorously attacking the Iowa State Agricultural College and Farm for its extravagance and uselessness. It costs the State \$70,000 a year. It is stated that the first class graduated twenty-four students in 1872, only one of whom is a farmer; the class of 1873 graduated three farmers; the class of 1874 graduated no farmers; the class of 1875 none; the class of 1876 none, and the present senior class, numbering twenty-five students, has but three taking a course in the Agricultural department.

To plant and harvest crops is attended with much care and expense; and most farmers exhibit commendable industry up to this point, but when these crops are to be fed out many of them do it with the greatest recklessness. Corn is thrown to the hogs in muddy, slushy yards; hay is scattered upon the ground, to be trampled in the manure by the cattle; and the cleanly sheep receive their hay and grain in the same manner. Were it otherwise we verily believe that one-fourth more stock could be kept on the same provender, and be in better health and condition.

Notes on the Garden and Farm.

The Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture has offered a series of prizes for the encouragement of tree-planting in that State—the awards to be made ten years from the 1st of March next for the best results produced in the interval. The white ash, the European larch, and the white and Scotch pine are the varieties especially favored. Mr. Sargent, of the new Arboretum of Harvard College, estimates that over 1,000,000 trees will be planted in Massachusetts this year. In Connecticut the General Assembly of this year gives public sanction and encouragement to the same enterprise by exempting from taxation all plantations of timber trees to be thereafter planted, for a period of ten years after such trees have grown to an average of six feet in height. These inducements will doubtless push on the good work, which cannot be commenced too soon, not only in New-England, but in nearly every State in the Union.

AMERICAN MANUFACTURES IN FOREIGN MARKETS.—A Canadian journal not favorable to legislative protection for home productions, when speaking of the American protective tariff, says:—"American manufacturers produce, and have produced ever since the enactment of the tariff, these goods at too great cost to sell them in foreign markets. Their policy has been to manufacture exclusively for the domestic market, and not for exportation, seeking by larger prices on a limited production to make greater profits. There have been some exceptional cases, but this has been general." Compare this assertion with the reports from other sources. The *London World* says:—"Nothing more important has ever happened in the history of the English trade than the threatened displacement of our cotton manufacturers by those of America. Pieces of goods from the Lonsdale Mills of New York State are sold in every town in England at a lower price and of better quality than English goods of a nominally corresponding grade." In England there is unrestricted free trade, and yet they are undersold by manufacturers who produce under a protective tariff.

FLAX MILLS.—The Maryboro flax mills have received between 500 and 600 tons of flax, and expect about 100 tons more. There are about sixty hands employed threshing the seed and spreading the straw out to rot. The crop is a little below the average this year, on account of the dry weather in June. A large amount has been damaged since pulling by the rains. They have shipped 1700 bushels of seed and expect as much more.

HORSES FOR HURON.—Mr. T. J. Bell, who lost a fine stallion last spring, recently arrived home with two stallions he had purchased in Scotland. A Liverpool correspondent, under date of the 23rd ult., writes as follows respecting him:—"Mr. T. J. Bell, of Lonsdale, takes the two-year-old dark brown Clydesdale stallion 'Conqueror,' also bay Clydesdale two-year-old 'What's Wanted,' by the celebrated horse 'Remarkable,' both these horses are fine specimens, and were purchased from Mr. Drummond, Clydesdale breeder, Fifeshire."

When phosphates fail at the root of the plant, grain fails at the mill; and when, from waste at the mill, phosphates fail in the bread, the bones and the teeth fail in growing bodies. The improvidence that leaves excretory phosphates to be washed away to the salt sea, farther from the reach of life than they were in the primitive rocks, is an improvidence that prepares an inheritance of poverty for after generations; and the ruthlessness that permits the purveyors of food to sift phosphates from the food of men, does its part to enfeeble the present generation.

WHAT MAKES A CAR LOAD.—Nominally, an American car load is 20,000 pounds. It is also 70 barrels of salt, 70 of lime, 90 of flour, 60 of whiskey, 200 sacks of flour, 6 cords of soft wood, 15 or 20 head of cattle, 20 or 60 head of hogs, 80 or 100 head of sheep, 6,000 feet of solid boards, 340 bushels of wheat, 400 of corn, 680 of oats, 400 of barley, 360 of flax seed, 360 of apples, 430 of potatoes, 300 of sweet potatoes, 1,000 bushels of bran, 130 to 190 barrels of eggs, and 15,000 to 26,000 pounds of butter.

I think I have a better remedy for the currant worm than white hellebore. Take eight quarts of washing or soap suds to one quart of chamber-lye, and with a brush of any kind give the bushes a general and thorough sprinkling. It will help the currant bushes to grow and kill the worms.

Those who bought stock in the Philadelphia Centennial Show will get back only \$1.75 on each share costing \$10.

The wholesale destruction by grasshoppers is undoubtedly caused by the thinning out of such birds as grouse, prairie hens, etc., which feed upon them. The great and inestimable service done to the farmer, gardener and florist by the birds is only becoming known by sad experience. Spare the birds and save your fruit. The little corn and fruit taken by them is more than compensated for by the quantities of noxious insects they destroy. The long persecuted crow has been found by actual experience to do far more good by the vast quantities of grubs and insects he devours, than the little harm he does in the few grains of corn he pulls up. He is one of the farmer's best friends.

Dr. Kingsbury talked of Sanitary Reform on the Farm. Decaying vegetable matter about the house, around the wells, and in the cellar, are prolific causes of disease in the farmhouse. Ill-treatment of cows, getting them excited and then feeding the milk to children is a practice liable to be attended with fatal consequences. Bad ventilation attended with impure air, causes catarrhal and skin diseases of our animals, especially when obliged to breathe the impure of decaying manure. Better ventilation of sleeping rooms was urged and more out-door exercise for the farmer's wife.

PATENT STEEL BARB FENCING.—For several weeks past the Washburn & Moen Manufacturing Company, of Worcester, Massachusetts, have been advertising that they make a patent steel wire barb fencing which is "the farmers' comfort" and "the gardeners' security." It is composed of two wires twisted about each other, with barbs fastened along the entire length, five inches apart. The wires are annealed steel, galvanized to resist the weather, and are guaranteed to be 45 per cent. better and more durable than common iron wires. Its size is No. 12 wire gauge, and when twisted, will sustain a pressure of 1,400 pounds to the square inch. It is maintained and has been proved to be the lightest fencing known and yet perfectly safe, as no animal will attempt to cross it. It is so tempered that it will resist the action of the changes of temperature, the twisting allowing it to shrink or expand without straining the fastenings or posts.

ARRIVAL OF CANADIAN EGGS IN LIVERPOOL.—The *Liverpool Journal* of Sept. 8th says: "The Allan steamer Sarmatian, which arrived on Tuesday morning, brought 280 barrels of eggs from Canada. This promises to become a great trade. From the market report of the Hamilton (Ontario) *Spectator* of the 9th August, we learn that eggs were very quiet, there being really no wholesale trade in them at present. In Ottawa fresh eggs were selling at 12 cents (6d) per dozen. Eggs to the value of £2,610,231 sterling were imported into England last year, and still the market is not well supplied, as the present high price will prove. The future extension of this trade between Canada and England cannot fail to be of interest to every householder."

One of the important manufactured products of the country towns of New England and New York State is potato starch. It is believed that nearly 3,000,000 bushels of potatoes are frequently consumed per year in the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York in the production of potato starch. This amount is three-eighths as large as the total potato crop of Maine, three-fourths as large as that of New Hampshire, three-fifths as large as that of Vermont, one-tenth as large as that of New York State, about the magnitude of that of Massachusetts, and much larger than the crops of Connecticut or Rhode Island. There are about 225 factories engaged in the manufacture of potato starch, and probably all of them, with one or two exceptions, are located in the States of New York, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. The average price paid for potatoes by starch manufacturers during the past season has been 30 cents per bushel. The aggregate annual production of all the factories is usually from 6,000 to 11,000 tons. A bushel of potatoes generally makes eight pounds of starch, 250 bushels therefore being required for a ton. As the average market quotation of potato starch is about 5 cents per pound, if follows that a bushel of potatoes brings only 40 cents after being converted into starch, and the value of the total production of potato starch in the country is \$800,000 to \$2,200,000 per annum.