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THE COMPTON MODEL-FARM.

We hear from the Department of Agriculture that a Model-farm has just been established, at Compton, for the Eastern-Townships. We know every acre of that lovely district, and congratulate the government upon the place they have selected. There have now elapsed 22 years since the proposal was first made by the inhabitants of the township, to start an experiment-farm, or rather a school of agriculture there, but, somehow or other, the scheme did not go into action.

Ah! the lovely opportunities of showing what an irrigated meadow is worth. Scores of pellucid brooks, with exquisitely flavoured though small trout in them, find their way from the hill-sides down to the Coaticook river, and where the trout are red-fished, the water is always good for irrigation. In fact, we ourselves made one tiny meadow, near the old Poor-house, in 1872, and the produce was quite satisfactory, considering how very short a time it had been watered.

There are three members of the syndicate governing the Model-farm, of whom Mr. McIntosh, the member for Compton, represents the government. Mr. H. O. Smith, too, is one of the founders of the establishment; his Herefords every one has seen at the Provincial Exhibition, and the report of the judges of the "Agricultural Merit" competition of 1892, shows that his cultivation is on a par with his management of stock.

There will be a model-creamery, and all the necessary buildings are already there, or will be erected very shortly: pupils will be received as soon as the season begins.

Notes by the Way.

Spring.—Although, while we are writing, April 4th, the morning readings of the thermometer vary from 12° to 16°, and the ice is almost as firm at the crossing at Sorel and Three-Rivers as it was in February. by the time this reaches our readers it is to be hoped they will all be hard at work in their fields. Let us therefore consider what will be the work in the first month of spring.

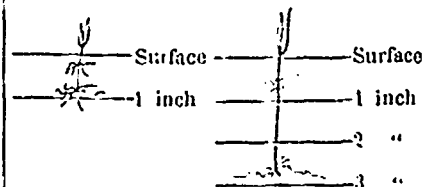
Sowing grain &c.—Pease will, of course, be the first crop committed to the ground. No fear of being too early with pulso. If sown at a proper depth, say, from 2½ to 3 inches, it takes a rattling hard frost to injure them. In England, we have seen them, when sown in the fall, stand from 15° to 20° without the slightest injury.

Pease should be sown with a drill, if there is one on the farm, and pretty thick too. Ten pecks of seed to the imperial acre is about the quantity, and where the land is very rich and

pease are in habit of growing too much haulm, thereby ripening late, we should not be afraid of sowing three bushels; the crowding of the plants checks the too great growth of haulm. If drilled at 2 feet apart and horse-hood, the land will be wonderfully improved, and the yield increased. We hardly dare suggest the hand-hoeing of this crop, but at the distance we propose, an active man can edge-hoe an acre a day, by taking each row between his feet and merely hoeing that inch or two of land that the horse-hoe has not touched on each side of the drill.

As soon as the pease are up, a good harrowing should be given across the rows. Of course, when drilled in, the main harrowing would precede that implement, and a couple of strokes after sowing will be sufficient. Harrowing is too often supposed to be executed for the sole purpose of covering the seed; but its secondary purpose is to make the work of the furrow slice homogeneous, so that the roots of the plants may find their way about all over the land without extra trouble. As for the benefit to be derived by the succeeding crop of grain in the following season from genuine, sound cultivation of the pulse-crop, that must be seen to be believed. By all means, plaster your pease.

Wheat sowing.—We were rather surprised to see a generally well informed paper in the States recommend shallow sowing of wheat: not more than one inch deep! We have grown as large crops of this grain as most people, and we prefer to sow ours three inches deep. As we have explained before in this periodical, wheat has two sets of roots, the *coronal* that form on the stem, and the *germinal* that form on or at the seed: as in the engraving.



ROOTS OF THE WHEAT-PLANT.

Now, any one can see that if the seed be only deposited one inch below the surface, the two sets of roots will be so close together that they will get into each other's way. Again, when the storms that so frequently occur in July fall upon a heavy crop of wheat, the extra strength of resistance by the lower or germinal roots being so deeply situated, must tend to enable the wheat to bear up against the levelling power of the rain and wind. Therefore, by all means sow your wheat deep.

For spring-wheat, from 7 to 9 pecks to the acre of seed according to the condition of the land, will be sufficient. The cultivation, by harrow, should continue until all the land treads equally underfoot: The roller, we should prefer using after the grain is up, and if a heavy fall of rain comes after rolling, a couple of strokes of the harrow will break the crust that almost invariably forms, when sunshine succeeds rain, on all but the lightest soils. The roller for wheat, can hardly be too heavy.

Barley.—The preparation of the land before sowing is the same for all grain-crops. But such a delicate feeder as barley needs special care. As a leading English authority says, if there is any doubt as to the adaptability, the condition as regards manure, or the tilth of the soil for the crop, it would be wise to relinquish it in favour of oats. Here, where the best malting

samples only fetch a few cents a bushel more than grinding barley, we need not be so particular, but the difference of price in England is enormous, good grinding stuff selling to day for 50 cents and first-rate malting barley for \$1.26 a bushel!

The finest samples of barley are, almost invariably, produced from early-sown crops, but bulk of yield and quality are not invariable complements of each other, and as we grow the main of our barley for pig and cattle-fodder, yield is what we must look to. However, there seems a prospect of our 6-rowed stuff getting into the States again, in which case, as the American maltsters understand their business, it will be worth our while to cater for them accordingly.

What odd ideas some people have about the malting business. It was stated, the other day, that the Americans wanted our barley "to mix with their own"! As no mixed barleys grow equally on the floors, they are never ready at the same time for the kiln.

Barley, above all other grain should be sown on an autumn-ploughing—a stale furrow, we call it. The previous crop, of roots or fodder-crops, that have been well worked, and heavily manured, prepare the land for barley, without leaving it too rich. The harrow first, and then the grubber, should bring the soil into perfect tilth, the point of all others to be aimed at. Seeding, from 10 to 12 pecks, according to season and the sort sown; the larger quantity for 2-rowed sown late. A light roller should be used for this plant, and care be taken not to roll when a white-frost is on the blade. If grass-seeds are to be sown, roll after the seeding.

Oats.—We strongly recommend every farmer in the province to sow at least a part of his oat-shift with Black-Tartars. Prepare the land as well as possible, as well in fact as you have time to do it. Three and a half bushels an acre on good, well worked land, and two pecks more on badly ploughed land in rough condition, will be found about the right quantities of seed. Harrow and roll as for barley. The oat is a grosser feeder than barley, and will yield immense crops when the conditions are suitable. Our farm-tutor, Wm. Rigden, grew in Sussex, England, 140 bushels an acre of White-Tartars! These yield more to the acre than the Black-Tartars, but are not so heavy. We know of a field, in Norfolk, Eng., of 30 acres that produced 3,600 bushels! We, ourselves, never grew more than 114 bushels to the acre, and that was in Kent, where the climate is too dry for the crop to come to perfection; for it is as easy in Scotland to grow oats weighing 42 lbs. a bushel, as it is to grow them to weigh 38 lbs. in Kent.

The new oat, "Banner," we have never seen, but we hear great things of it. It will be largely grown this year, and our readers shall hear all about it after harvest.

Green-fodder: among which we reckon as the most valuable, a mixture of oats, pease, and vetches. This should be sown as early as possible, at the rate of 2 bushels of oats, 1 of pease, and 1 of vetches to the acre, so as to come into use as soon as the pastures begin to fail. The time when this fodder is at it best is when the pease and vetches are in bloom.

Rape may be sown at any time, from the first of May to the last of August. It may be given to the cows,