

Fixed Facts in Agriculture.

Somebody has got up the following of "fixed facts" in agriculture, and for once, in condensation of the sort, has hit the right nail on the head, in most of them:—

1. All lands on which clover or the grasses are grown must either have lime in them naturally, or that mineral must be artificially supplied. It matters but little whether it be supplied in the form of stone-lime, oyster-lime, or marl.
2. All permanent improvement of lands must look to lime as its basis.
3. Lands which have been long in culture will be benefited by the application of phosphate of lime, and it is unimportant whether the deficiency be supplied in the form of bone-dust, guano, or phosphate of lime, composts of fresh ashes, or that of oyster-shell lime, or marl, if the land need lime also.
4. No lands can be preserved in a high state of fertility unless clover and the grasses are cultivated in the course of rotation.
5. Mold is indispensable in every soil, and a healthy supply can alone be preserved through the cultivation of clover and the grasses, the turning in of green crops, or by the application of composts rich in the elements of mold.
6. All highly concentrated animal manures are increased in value, and their benefits prolonged, by admixture with plaster, salt, or with pulverized charcoal.
7. Deep ploughing greatly improves the productive powers of every variety of soil that is not wet.
8. Subsoiling sound land—that is, land that is not wet—is also eminently conducive to increase production.
9. All wet land should be drained.
10. All grain crops should be harvested before the grain is fully ripe.
11. Clover, as well as grasses, intended for hay, should be mowed when in bloom.
12. Sandy lands can be most effectually improved by clay. When such lands require liming or marling, the lime or marl is most beneficially applied when made into composts with clay. In slacking lime, salt brine is better than water.
13. The chopping or grinding of grain to be fed to stock operates as a saving of at least 25 per cent.
14. Draining of wet lands and marshes adds to their value, by making them to produce more, and by improving the health of neighborhoods.
15. To manure or lime wet lands, is to throw manure, lime, and labor away.
16. Shallow ploughing operates to impoverish the soil, while it decreases production.
17. By stabling and shedding stock through the winter, a saving of one fourth the food may be effected, that is one fourth less food will answer than when the stock may be exposed to the inclemencies of the weather.
18. A bushel of plaster per acre, sown broadcast for clover, will add one hundred per cent to its product.
19. Periodical applications of ashes tend to keep up the integrity of soils, by supplying most, if not all, of the organic substances.
20. Thorough preparation of land is absolutely necessary to the successful and luxuriant growth of crops.
21. Abundant crops cannot be grown for a succession of years, unless care be taken to provide an equivalent for the substances carried off the land in the products grown thereon.
22. To preserve meadows in their productiveness, it is necessary to harrow them every second autumn, apply top dressing and roll them up.
23. All stiff clays are benefited by fall and winter ploughings, but should never be ploughed when wet. If, at such ploughing, the furrow be materially deepened, lime, marl, or ashes, should be supplied.

A STRANGE STORY.—The *Courier* of Lyons has the following:—"A young married woman of Colloire, near this city, after being ill for some time, fell one day last week into a com-

plete state of insensibility, and was supposed to be dead. A medical man who was called in gave a certificate of the death, and the young woman was laid out and in due time fastened up in a coffin. In the night some women who were sitting up to watch the deceased, heard subdued groans and sighs in the coffin. They fled in dismay, and the neighbours on hearing their account of the matter, proposed to have the coffin opened, but the husband of the woman would not hear of such a thing, as it would be, he said, a profanation of the dead. The mother of the young woman, however, broke open the coffin with a hatchet, and it then turned out that the young woman was not dead, but had only been in a lethargy. Medical assistance was procured for her, and in a short time she recovered perfect consciousness. She is now going on well.

AN ARTFUL MISER.—Some time ago, a gentleman called upon a certain nobleman, a very wealthy and inordinately mean character, and found him at breakfast quite alone, and doing his utmost to catch a fly which was buzzing about the room. "What the deuce art thou about?" demanded the astonished visitor, to whom the spectacle of an old man amusing himself by catching flies seemed very singular to say the least. "Hush!" exclaimed the other, "I'll tell you presently." After many efforts, the old fellow at last succeeded in entrapping the fly. Taking the insect carefully between his thumb and forefinger, he put it into the sugar bowl, and quickly dropped the lid over his prisoner. His visitor made no remark, but ever knowing as he did the avicious character of the man, before repeating the question. "I'll tell you," replied the miser, a triumphant grin overspreading his countenance as he spoke. "I want to ascertain if the servants steal the sugar."

Climate of the Northwest.

In a letter to the *National Intelligencer*, Lorin Blodget gives some curious and interesting comparisons of the climate of the northwestern region of our continent with that of the Atlantic coast. He says:

"Not only the extreme limit at the 49th parallel is warmer than Washington for the winter, but a distance like that from Paris to Aberdeen must be passed over beyond the extreme limit at the north of Puget's Sound to find a winter as cold as that of this city, Washington. The winter at Puget's Sound is warmer than that at Paris, the mean being 30½° at the first, and 38 at Paris, and the winter at Sitka is warmer than that of Washington 36½° and 36° respectively, notwithstanding they differ 18° of latitude, or 1,250 miles in position on the meridians. Aberdeen, in Scotland, is somewhat warmer, having a winter temperature of 39°, though at the 57th parallel."

Again:

"At Washington we were taught by the experience of last winter—and the opening of the present winter repeats the lesson—that the rivers and navigable waters here may be closed by ice for months in succession. Vegetation is dormant for several months, and in this respect the condition is perfectly similar from New York to the north of Georgia. This city is near the 39th parallel, and San Francisco is nearly at the 38th, yet at this last named city it was remarked as singular that roses and flowers were cut off temporarily, as they were in the early part of the last winter, though they subsequently recovered their freshness, and through February and March the temperature was as soft as that of the south shores of the Mediterranean. At Puget's Sound, in Washington territory, ten degrees of latitude further north, the winter was still mild and open, and the grass in constant growth. Continuing along this coast to Sitka, ten degrees of latitude further north, it was yet doubtless much warmer than at Washington, since the average for the winter is warmer, and the changes in extreme years are there very far less."

Of the climate in the interior of the North American continent, Mr. Blodget says:—

"In the interior, the public appreciation of the climate has been greatly at fault. By a peculiarity of configuration, which exists in no other part of the temperate latitudes, it grows warmer in going northward in the interior. I required ages to convince the non-migrator ancients that the heat decreased towards the north, or to discover this apparently self-evident law. Here, however, it is again in fault, as the pyramid building Egyptian would find confirmation of this original philosophy. From Fort Massachusetts, at the limit of the cultivable portion of New Mexico, at 37½° north latitude, to the plains of the Saskatchewan, at the 52nd parallel, the mean temperature and the cultivable capacity steadily increases. On the Platte it is warmer and more cultivable than on the Upper Rio Grande; on the Missouri, at Fort Benton, it is superior to the Platte; and on the Saskatchewan the country is better on the whole than on the Missouri. Most of this difference is due to difference of altitude, yet nearly half may be assigned to exterior climatological causes, those which reduce the temperature on the eastern side of the continent, and increase the mean temperature of the western sides. In regard to altitude, Fort Massachusetts is 8,400 feet above the sea; Fort Laramie, on the Platte, 4,500; Fort Benton, on the Missouri, 2,600 feet and the country of the Saskatchewan scarcely 1,800 feet above the sea.

All these points lie in prairie districts; yet the prairies of the Saskatchewan and Assiniboine are equal, if not superior, to others in fertility. Here is a line curving fifteen degrees of latitude or almost the equivalent of the coast of the Atlantic states, or the distance from New Orleans to Lake Superior, which represents a new and habitable country nearly identical in climate. As a climatological fact simply, this is a most interesting condition; but its significance is much more than a point in science; it is the definition of a region of equal value for settlement over this immense extent; where it had been supposed that the north must necessarily be uninhabitable.

"In December, 1853, the thermometer did not fall lower at Fort Benton, on the Upper Missouri than it has done in the present month at Washington. In January, 1854, there were much lower readings, but the clearer atmosphere modified the effect of low temperatures, as it is well known to do at St. Paul, Minnesota, that is, they are not so sensibly severe, and do not affect business and comfort so decidedly. This is due to the drier atmosphere. In February, the measure of heat was much above that of February last here, the successive months rapidly grew warmer, and the heat of July and August equalled that common at Philadelphia. So far as known on the Upper Missouri and the south branch of the Saskatchewan, this is the fair expression of the climate, and, to understand the improvement of climate in going westward, let it be remembered that there are plains 1,200 to 2,800 feet above the sea, and between latitude 47° and 51° north. For corresponding latitudes on the Atlantic coast we must take Newfoundland and the uncultivated districts north of Quebec."

THE GRAVE OF RICHARD III.—A memorial has just been erected at Bow-bridge, Leicester, whereon it is recorded that near that spot lie the remains of King Richard. It is a handsome stone, set in the gable of a new building there. The monument is in Kelton stone, the design being good, and the execution of a first-rate character.

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