

laborers could improve their position. Our great want in this country is decent cottages, many of which are at present a blot on the face of England, and a limited allotment of land, but as we are now being practically forced to recognize labor as the source of all wealth, this evil may be remedied before long. Our difficulties in connection with land arise mainly from the embarrassed circumstances of land-owners, their limited interest in their estates, their failure to give tenants security for their capital and possession, and the preservation of game. Their illigitimate political power is now gone, through the ballot; and as farmers can now, without ruining themselves, support their principles instead of their landlords, I think improved relations will ensue, and then feelings of satisfaction will run through all classes, and we will then make the most of our people and our land.—*Country Gentleman*.

**Restoration and Renovation of Soils.**

In concluding an interesting paper on this subject, before the Wisconsin State Agricultural Convention, says the *Western Farmer*, Secretary Field gave the following summary of his advice to farmers:

1st. Make all the manure you can, and apply all you make in a condition best suited for food for plants and where most needed.

2nd. Cultivate thoroughly, stirring the earth to a great depth; plough, harrow, roll, cultivate, subject the soil to repeated changes, so that, aided by the action of frost and rains, it may be so reduced and refined as to be compelled to yield its supply of food in such abundance that the annual crops may feed and fatten upon it like the stall-fed ox.

3rd. Renovate with clover. From observation and experience I am convinced that by an occasional seeding to clover, say once in five to eight years, as circumstances seem to require, with a rotation of crops, using all the manure made, with thorough culture, the most of the lands of Wisconsin should be in a healthy and highly productive condition generations hence.

4th. If your lands are still being reduced in fertility, apply the best commercial manures you can obtain. Buy in limited quantities and experiment fully, and if found successful, purchase again the same brand, and of the same party, if he stands high in commercial circles as a man of honesty and fair dealing.

**A Citizen on the Farm.**

Will it pay a city man to live on a farm? This question is often asked me by my friends. I am also asked if my potatoes cost me less than five dollars a bushel.—If my milk does not cost as much per quart as champagne, and numerous other questions, all implying that farming will not pay a city man.—One friend says, I know you spend two dollars on your farm for every one you get from it. A statement of what I have done, and suffered and gained, ought to satisfy these friends, and here it is:—

A few years ago I disposed of my city residence and with the proceeds purchased a farm of about 25 acres, three miles from the city, provided with comfortable buildings; improved and enlarged the house and sheds, provided myself with horses, carriages and waggons for family and farm use—with fowls, a cow, cart, plow, and all the implements for cultivating the land. By this time I had expended all I received from the sale of my city home, and this amount I called my capital stock, chargeable with interest and liable to taxation.

I now commenced work, doing it all by hired help, as the duties of my business in the city required and received from me as much time and more labor than I had formerly given. I opened a farm account and charged to it every expenditure for labor, hay, grain, manure, horse-shoeing, repairs, of all kinds, toll, the cost of all new implements or carts, and every other item, except the repairs to my family carriage and my wife's phreton. I did not even deduct the time of my men in making permanent improvement on my place or driving the carriage, or the shoeing of the horse I used for going to and returning from the city, but drove as hard a bargain with my farm as Shylock would with a gentile, for I wanted to see the worst of it.

On the other hand I credited the farm only with the cash actually received from sale of the produce; and find that the cash so received will pay, and actually paid, all the expenses of every kind except the interest on the capital and the taxes, which stands in the place of rent, or interest on a tax upon the same sum invested in a city home. My family of seven persons has had, free and clear of expense, all the vegetables, fruit, eggs, poultry, milk and cream, of the best and freshest kind, that we could eat. We have also had

flowers to enjoy, horses to ride or drive whenever we wished, and, better than all else, so much good fresh air that our physician's bills have diminished in tenths. The expenses of fence-side and mountain times have diminished wonderfully, and ice-cream, and strawberries and cream, cost only the price of the sugar, and are superior to any we get in the city.

And so, my friends, farming has paid a city man and my potatoes do not cost me five dollars a bushel, (I learned something from the *Country Gentleman* about cultivating them) and the milk costs nothing, although we use from ten to twenty quarts a day; and my champagne costs me nothing, for I don't need it, and I have discontinued using wine as dinner, for I don't need that, and farming would pay you too, if you would try it.—*CITY FARMER, in Country Gentleman, Albany, N. Y., Sept. 10, 1873.*

**Weather Proverbs.**

Evening grey, and morning red,  
Sends the shepherd wet to bed;  
Evening red, and morning grey,  
Is the sure sign of a very fine day.

Mackerel sky, mackerel sky,  
Never long wet, and never long dry.

Rain before seven,  
Fine before eleven.

A rainbow in the morning  
Is the shepherd's warning;  
A rainbow at night  
Is the shepherd's delight.

When the wind is north-west,  
The weather is at the best;  
But if the rain comes out of the east,  
'Twill rain twice twenty-four hours at the least.

If the grass grows in January,  
It grows the worse for't all the year.

A January spring  
Is worth nothing.

Of all the months in the year,  
Course a fair February.

As many milchcows in March  
So many frozities in May.

If March comes in like a lion, it goes out like a lamb;  
If it comes in like a lamb, it goes out like a lion.

A cold April  
The barn will fill.

April showers,  
Bring summer flowers.

When April blows his horn,  
'Tis good for both hay and corn.

Mist in May, and heat in June,  
Makes the harvest come right soon.

Who delf his coat on a winter's day,  
Will gladly put it on in May.

A dripping June  
Drings all things in tune.

Be it wet, or be it woe,  
Beams blow before May doth go

Come in early or come in late,  
In May comes the corn-quake.

Plant your 'taters when you will,  
They won't come up before April.

The west wind always brings wet weather,  
The east wind wet and cold together;  
The south wind surely brings us rain,  
The north wind blows it back again.

February fill the dyke,  
Lither with the black or white.

A dry March never begs its bread.

An April flood  
Carries away the frog and his brood.

**AN INCH A YEAR.**—A Minnesota farmer gives, in the *St. Paul Pioneer*, his experience with ploughing a field for wheat one inch deeper every year. The first year he ploughed the land four inches deep, and harvested seven bushels of wheat to the acre. The next season he ploughed one inch deeper and took off twenty bushels per acre. Continuing to plow one inch deeper the next year, he harvested thirty-one and a half bushels. He says, in conclusion: "Last fall I did not go down for the extra inch. I feared if I kept on until I got down 15 or 20 inches, the straw would grow 18 or 20 feet high, and that won't stand the storms of Minnesota; but if we want long straw and heavy wheat we must plough deep. One inch deeper each year is plenty, and if this rule is followed strictly, our farms will be in good condition 100 years to come."

**Changing Seed.**

If farmers were always careful to sow none but plump grains, of pure seed; that is, seed of one variety, unaltered, we see no reason why they should change the seed. Where seed of a good variety is sown, it will produce a variety inferior in quality, but

if greater vigor, the more vigorous kind will gain in the last place, and the quality will deteriorate. The old-fashioned, thrush-like grains are sown the most common, but where pure, plump grains are sown, a pure, plump seed will be the result. There is nothing in the seed that will alter the quality, or constitution of the wheat. We have known instances where farmers have carefully saved the most perfect ears of wheat from year to year, and the quality of the variety has improved. We believe, that if equal care were exercised in saving seed wheat, the seed would be better. We do not doubt that benefits have resulted from changing seed, but we suspect that it was where a careless farmer bought his seed of a more careful one.

We would advise, where a change is made, procuring seed from a better and cleaner soil, and we should consider this of greater importance than a soil of different texture or composition.

We should grow seed directly adapted to the climate, and we should change just as often as our seed becomes poor.—*Rural Home.*

**ANALYSIS OF THE POTATO.**—It has been found by analysis that in 100 parts of potato there are water, 70.00; starch, 24.00; azotic matter, 1.60; fatty matter, 1.10; sugar, 1.00; gum, 1.05; mineral matter, salts, 1.50; total, 100.00. The potato produces at least 20 per cent of dry matter, 1.65 of which must be subtracted from the starch, which reduces the food part to 23 per cent, 24 parts of which are starch.

Some one asked *The Prairie Farmer* how to kill burdock, and the reply made:—We have frequently killed the troublesome plant by cutting off the roots of which under the ground with a spade, and then throwing in the hole a handful of salt or quicklime. Sometimes we chose to kill them with water the better buds appeared on the stalks. Simply covering the roots would probably have killed them, but was found to make sure work. If there is any other effective way of squelching this pest, let it be made known.—*Rural Home.*

**ADVANTAGES OF DRAINING.**—A drained soil will keep off the water as it falls, or nearly as fast. And what is best? There is only moisture, and air is admitted; and the land is seldom so cold and wet that no progress of the seed is made; and once begun, it will stand a good deal, protected as it is by the soil. Truly our land, if it is drained, either naturally or otherwise, especially if there is considerable fertility, and the soil is dry and mellow at the time of sowing, fertility has a warming effect. At least this is our experience, and that of those around us.—*New York Herald.*

**CRIBBING CORN.**—The *Journal of the Farm* says: "Many a sore-fingered harker has wished that his loads of corn could be shoveled direct from the wagon into the crib, without having to throw out a portion by hand and the shovel could reach the bottom of the wagon. In such cases every finger is like a false horse leaping from the collar, and the work is only done from a conviction that there is no help for it. In loading corn take out a piece of pine board six feet long and a little wider than your shovel; place an end on the tail board close to one corner of the wagon, and the other on the bottom end; fill up as usual. In unloading, shovel down the board to the bottom of the wagon, and not an ear need be touched by the hands."

**PURE WHEAT.**—In Yates County, New York, a careful experiment was made by a correspondent of the department with Tulek and Treadwell wheats, with reference to testing their respective merits. During the summer of 1872, an eight acre field of gravelly loam, which had been cultivated the previous year in fodder-corn, was summer-fallowed. The field was manured in 1871 and 1872, in the latter year the manure ploughed under at first ploughing. Upon a plot of one-fourth of an acre of this ground, five quarts of Tulek were sown broadcast, September 10, 1872. Treadwell was drilled upon the remaining part of the field September 18th, at the rate of two bushels per acre. The former was harvested July 7th, and yielded four and a quarter bushels, or thirty-fold upon its seed; the latter was harvested July 25th, and yielded twenty bushels per acre, or ten-fold upon its seed.