

five to six per cent. in salting, and as much more by drying. Pork, hams, and bacon, may be treated in a similar way, but will require double the quantity of salting mixture; and if not smoke dried, they should be taken down from hanging, after three or four weeks, and kept afterwards, in boxes or tubs, amongst dry oat husks.—*Morton's Cyclopediu of Agriculture.*

WHITE BELGIAN CARROTS.

Mr. Edward Smith, of Isabel Mead, Harbledown, near Canterbury, favoured the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society, on the 9th inst., with the following account of the cultivation of the white Belgian carrot:—"I beg to offer a few remarks on the cultivation of the white Belgian carrot, and the system I have followed for several years in Wales upon a poor stony soil scarcely six inches deep. I plough the land early after harvest, either wheat, barley, or oat stubble, and in November, if dry weather, balk or ridge up the land to remain for the winter. About the middle of April, if the ground will work well, harrow and pick off all the couch or grass, and again strike out the furrows from 20 and 24 inches apart, and haul or cart in the balks about 20 loads of dung, and cover in the same for turnips. I have found this plan answer so well that I have adopted it in preference to the usual way of putting the dung on either in the autumn or spring, and ploughing it in, and have always found the carrots free from scab, and quite straight, and have had far better crops. Upon the ridge I draw with a small hoe a shallow furrow, and sow the seed by hand with a tin two feet long made like a funnel. I have had a much better plant by sowing by hand, which amply pays for the extra expense. The seed is then covered in by a boy following with a rake. I find from the middle of April until the first week in May the best time for sowing the seed. I do not approve of too early sowing, as the young plants are apt to be cut off by the spring frost, and much stunted and injured, and never appear to thrive so well after. I find about 4lbs. of seed sufficient for an acre, and I wet the seed a week before sowing, mixed with a little sand. As soon as the carrots appear above the ground, so as to be seen in the rows, I take advantage in dry weather to hoe between the drills, to give air to the plants. When the carrots come out into second leaf, and to be clearly seen from the weeds, I have boys to pull the weeds in the rows by hand twice before I thin any of the carrots as it gives an opportunity of seeing where they should be left. I leave the carrots about 4 or 5 inches apart, and never allow the hoe between the plants, as they can be done much better by hand, and without injury. I do not use the horse-hoe until the carrots get up strong, as the earth is apt to fall upon the crown. I have found by taking the earth from the carrots after they are about half grown they have been much larger. I usually commence digging the roots about the middle of November, and I lay them in lumps about 40 bushels on the field, or cart them off into clamps and put a good covering of straw without earth, unless very sharp frost. I have had the

white carrot kept in this way up to the middle of May, and have been quite sound and as good as when first put in, which is a great advantage in the spring for sheep and other stock, when the swede turnip is not so good late in the season. I think the white carrot might be grown with much success in many soils, in addition to the swede, as there is sometimes a failure in one where there may not be in the other.

RECLAIMED SAND BANKS IN HOLLAND.

All voyagers between the Maas and the Scheldt, along the inland waters of Holland, have noticed the immense sand banks lying uncovered when the tides are out. Near Bergen-op-Zoom these sand banks are of enormous size, the abodes of innumerable seals and porpoises. Plans for reclaiming these islands, and for connecting them with the main land by means of a double sea wall, have been often broached; but while the Dutch possessed a magnificent colonial empire, the cost and labor of shutting out those stormy tides appeared to the merchants of Amsterdam as wholly disproportioned to the gain. Now, however, that the energies of Holland are contracted into a comparatively narrow space, every rod of land in the old country is gaining in value—and gigantic works like the draining of Haarlem Lake and the inclosure of Batt are undertaken in earnest. The latter works, including 36,000 acres, were commenced on the 10th of July last, and already very nearly 3,500 of these acres have been partially reclaimed by embankments. As the land reclaimed by these great works is from six to eight feet above the level of low water of spring tides, it will drain itself, having in this respect an immense advantage over the reclaimed land of the Haarlem Lake, which is from 6 to 11 feet below that level. The first great outer bank is already completed. During the winter the labours of the workmen will be applied to the internal completion of the portion thus reclaimed; and to the construction of a canal connecting the Eastern and Western Scheldt between Hanswere and Wemelding, which the company have undertaken to make in lieu of the branch of the Scheldt between Batt and Bergen-op-Zoom, which their reclamations will include. The canal to supersede for purposes of navigation, the branch of the sea thus recovered will be five miles in length, and have eighteen feet of water. Five hundred men are at work upon it. Sir John Rennie is the engineer employed. The benefits of this reclamation of land are more than local. To the King of Holland it will give forty square miles of additional territory, to his subjects a large extension of employment and wealth, and to the commerce of Europe it will yield 180,000 quarters more of wheat per annum.

THE COAL ERA OF GREAT BRITAIN.

It is indeed remarkable that so small a country should furnish so mighty a supply of fuel. England has 12,000 square miles of coal era—nearly one-tenth of the entire area of the Island; but still this bears but a small ratio to the total quantity in all countries. According to the estimates of Professor Austed and Mr. Taylor, the ascer-