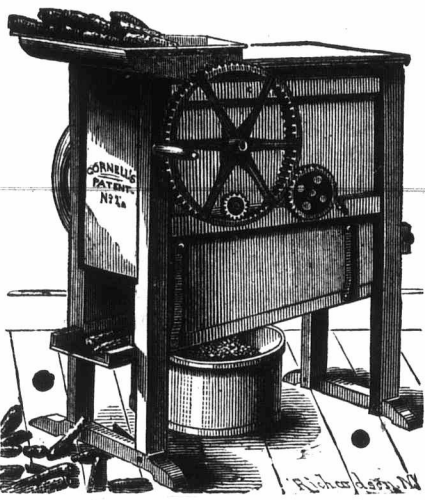


Carrot Culture.

D. E. Mc., of West River, Pictou Co., Nova Scotia, writes:—

"Please direct us how to sow carrots, what sort of manure we are to use for them, and how far to put them apart. Please give us all directions for the culture of beets."

The preparation of the ground should have been commenced last autumn or fall at the latest. It would be a means of having the land in better condition in seeding time. The autumn labor, however, may be dispensed with. If preparing in autumn for carrots, plough stubble ground as soon as the crop has been removed. After about two weeks, when the weed seeds have germinated, plow again; then give a heavy coating of farmyard manure and plow in high narrow ridges, the sod well turned and raised, and the furrows so cleaned up that no water can stagnate on the ground. By this autumn and fall tillage the land will in spring be dry, mellow and clear of annual weeds, and the manure will be amalgamated with the soil, an important point in carrot culture, as unrotted manure makes the carrot grow forked. If the land has not been prepared in the fall as described, the preparation of the soil in spring must be of a like tendency, pulverizing the soil well to a good depth, and using thoroughly-rotted manure. To have a good carrot crop it is necessary to sow early—as early in the spring as the ground is dry enough for labor. Some sow the seed in the fall. In spring level the ridges by cross harrowing; ridge it up by turning the two furrows together with the plow—the ridges about two feet apart; roll those high ridges lengthwise; sow with a drill and cover with a common wooden roller. Two pounds of seed will sow an acre. Cultivate and thin with a five-inch hoe when the plants are up strong and have got their second leaf. Thin them out carefully, six inches apart. Keep down the weeds by frequently hoeing and cultivating. Cultivate for beets as for carrots.

Cornell's Corn Sheller.

This is claimed to be the best corn sheller known. We consider it the best we have seen. It took the first premium at the Centennial Exhibition. This machine has double-feed tubes and double sheller; it is adjusted by coil springs to pressure bars, and will shell corn clean, whether damp or dry, and small or large ears. It has a wire sieve below, and separates the corn from the cobs after shelling. It is a very efficient implement, and is easily worked. We have never seen any sheller work as well. None of these implements are yet made in Canada that we are aware of. The manufacturers are Messrs. Freeman, Green & Co., of Ithaca, N. Y. We have seen one working in this city. We presume our manufacturers will make them here and save the duty. The machine has shelled 600 bush. in a day by hand power.

Notes on the Garden and Farm.

At the Michigan Farmer's Institute, C. L. Ingersoll, in a paper upon the relation of live stock to a farm, says: In the production of live stock our grain is much more cheaply and easily marketed, and the manure left on the farm, which many farmers do not take into account. In this manure we have about fifty-six per cent. of the amount of substance fed out, while about forty-four per cent. is used in the animal economy, with which to grow and lay on fat, as proved by experiments. It is also shown as the result of experiment, that of the many kinds of substances fed to produce flesh and fat, there is very little difference in the value of the manure. About ninety per cent. of the nitrogen on an average, is returned in the manure; and as corn, oats, barley, linseed-cake, etc., vary greatly in amounts of nitrogen contained, other things being equal, it pays best to feed that food which contains the most nitrogen, as by this means the manures are made more valuable.

This is very true. Live stock necessitates meadow and pasture, and grass is a true source of wealth, for the farm that will not produce grass must soon of necessity become impoverished, unless a large quantity of manure is bought. The great value of live stock to the farm is, that a large proportion of the farm produce may be consumed thereon, and at a profit, leaving the manure to be returned to the soil largely embracing the yield, of such cereals as are raised for sale. The importance of permanent pasture is beginning to be more and more felt in the West. The sagacious farmer will allow no means to be left untried to secure suitable grasses for his location. What we especially need is varieties that will produce succulent food during the droughts of July and August. This want is especially felt in dairying, and the introduction of such varieties will be a real boon to stock-growers generally. It is to be hoped that practical experiments in this direction will be followed out until we shall obtain them.—*Prairie Farmer*.

The prompt Canadians have secured a space of fifty feet square to the centre of the main tower of entrance of the Foreign Department of the Paris Exhibition—a most advantageous situation—for the erection of a trophy of Canadian produce one hundred and ten feet high.

The following cheap and simple method of exterminating rats is said to have been successfully employed by Baron Von Backhofen and his neighbors for some years past:—A mixture of two parts of well bruised common squills and three parts of finely chopped bacon is made into a stiff mass with as much meal as may be required, and then baked into small cakes which are put down for the rats to eat. Several correspondents of the *German Agricultural Gazette* write to announce the complete extermination of rats and mice from their cow-stalls and piggeries since the adoption of this simple plan.

No Chinese farmer ever sows a seed of grain before it has been soaked in liquid manure diluted with water, and has begun to germinate; and experience has taught him that this operation not only tends to promote the growth and development of the plant, but also to protect the seed from the insects hidden in the ground.

A correspondent of the *Pacific Rural Press* says, "The only effectual remedy for the wire worm I know of is thorough cultivation of the soil. Those that are troubled with them will find by examining their soil that it is cold, and by stirring in thoroughly it will get warmer. By so doing they will kill the wire worm, as it cannot live in warm ground."

Deep plowing should be confined to rich lands plowed in the fall, and shallow to thin ones plowed in the spring, leaving the middle course for the medium soils. Manure when used should, if possible, be spread and plowed in during the fall; but if spread on the surface as fast as made, during the winter season, it suffers less waste and depreciation than when heated in the barn yard. Barn yard manure stimulates stalk and leaf growth at the expense of the ear; but manufactured fertilizers exercise a contrary effect. In fact, to grow the largest crop of corn, grain being considered, recourse must be had to plant or animal ashes.

Plants respire by leaves, and dirt obstructs their perspiration; they feed by leaves and dirt prevents their feeding; hence the efficiency of leaves is considerably promoted by their being kept clean.

THE COST OF FENCING.—The fences of the United States are reported to be worth \$1,800,000,000, or \$45 per head for each inhabitant. The expenses necessary to keep them good is at least \$100,000,000. Major Brisbane, of the United States army, estimates the annual destruction of timber in the United States at 5,500,000 acres annually, and that one-half this immense area is required for fencing alone. However true this may be, and we cannot help regarding it as a wild statement, it is nevertheless true that fencing is one of the most expensive items the farmer has to deal with. The increasing scarcity of timber in the West has caused the total abolishment of fences over large areas, and the plan, where tried, seems to be effectual.—*Western Farm Journal*.

A French agricultural journal, the *Basse Cour*, describes the result of some experiments in potato growing recently conducted by scientific men in Germany, in which it is demonstrated that the "eyes" at the top of the potato produce a much more vigorous offspring than those in the lower part, and the consequence is that those agriculturists who cut their potatoes in half before planting them are not well advised in cutting them vertically, but should always divide them horizontally, planting the upper half and using the other as food for cattle. But the best plan of all is to plant the tuber whole, cutting out, nevertheless, all the "eyes" except those in the top part.

A New York farmer, the past year, cut from two acres of land six tons of clover hay, then plowed and sowed ruta bags turnips, and raised 800 bushels. These turnips were regarded as equal to eight tons of hay, making a product of that which was equal to fourteen tons of hay from two acres in one season. The turnips were used to feed the horses, at the rate of half a bushel per day, with what oat-straw they might eat, and no grain. The horses were fat and looked well, and were in good condition to drive five or six hours per day.

Professor Arnold suggested, in a recent address, that those who give us large milk records would throw a helpful light on the subject by communicating, also, a statement of the weight and cost of feed of the cows.

Poultry Yard.

SIR,—I hope you will give in the *ADVOCATE* the information that the following inquiries suggest:—

1st. I have had a flock of fowls—turkeys and hens. One day I boiled a pot full of carrots and squashes; I mixed some bran and about a tea-cupful of salt in the pail, and then fed it to the fowls rather hot. Next morning when I went to the hen house to feed them again I found one of the turkeys staggering and would not eat; his crop was as full as when he fed the previous day. Some of the hens did not come to the feed either. Next morning I found four hens and the cock all staggering, with their crops as full as they were when they fed the day in question. In short I lost seven of my best hens, a cock and the turkey. I gave them black pepper and milk, and also castor oil, but nothing could digest the food in their crops. I thought it was some disease.

Now, the query is: Was it the salt or the hot feed, or both together, that did the mischief? The solution of the query may be a warning unto others.

B. C., Walkerton.

A small quantity of salt is sometimes beneficial for poultry—two much is injurious. In this case the salt killed the birds.

Ontario Poultry Exhibition.

The Ontario Poultry Exhibition took place in London the last week in February. It is claimed by poultry men to have been the best display of poultry ever made in Canada. One American poultry dealer stated that he had gained 20 prizes in the States, but his stock would not have taken any prizes at this exhibition. He said that this exhibition was better than any he had seen there. The birds were in fine feathers and were well arranged. No names were allowed on the coops before the prizes were awarded. This gave more satisfaction than having the names on the coops. Each variety was placed by itself. This facilitated the movements of the judges and gave the public a better opportunity of seeing the birds. The directors and managers of the Provincial and other exhibitions might, with great advantage, adopt the two plans above alluded to.