



AGRICULTURAL.

GRASS FOR HAY.

F. G., in the *Country Gentleman*, writes:

"Grass obtains nearly all its strength from the atmosphere. It is for this reason that natural pastures sustain themselves, and the more of the growth that is left on the ground the richer it becomes and the better the growth; hence the fertility of the prairies; hence also the rich muck beds which are sometimes found on the poorest of land. And so our farms may be improved by simply leaving part of the crop—the more that is left the better for the land. This I will say—and I wish I could reach the ear of every farmer in the land and induce him to test the matter—that we have grown and seen grown for many years in succession, good crops of timothy averaging two tons per acre, and varying but little from it, on land that was light and had produced but moderate crops, running out grass in a few years, and this alone by leaving the aftergrowth; not a hoof was permitted to touch it.

"Heavier crops are realized from better land. The secret of this is the reproduction of the crop, the aftermath. The growth retained not only protects the roots of the grass, but it rots down and forms pabulum in the spring for an early start and for further growth. This, lying on the ground, comes in direct contact with the roots, and there is an immediate benefit. In some winters and localities the grass (aftermath) keeps green, and thus has a start in the spring, and advances at once, occupying the soil before the coming hot sun strikes it, and thus warding off drouth."

THE PEACH BLOW VS. PEERLESS POTATO.

Shelbyville, Ky., April 29, 1873.

MESSRS. EDITORS.—I see an article under the above caption in your issue of April 10, in which the writer endeavors to laud the peach blow potato to the detriment of other varieties. Of the peach blow I have nothing to say in regard to their eating qualities, but experience with us proves them not productive, liable to be affected by fall drouth, and the vine subject to be eaten up by the potato bug before the tubers are formed—on account of their late maturity—while the early rose, russet and peerless are our dependence for a main crop in this locality, more particularly the peerless, which three years' experience has proved them to be the opposite of what the *Journal of Agriculture* asserts. We have found the peerless productive, a good keeper, mild and mealy throughout the year. Out of 1,000 bushels I raised last year not one was found hollow. The same is the experience of all my neighbors. For seed this spring they sold at \$1 to \$1.50 per bushel, while other varieties would not bring over 50 cents; and are considered by all who have tried them as the coming potato. The writer in the *Journal of Agriculture* has either never seen the peerless potato or soil and climate has much to do in their growth and eating qualities.

Yours truly,

J. D. GUTHRIE.

[Here is thoroughly reliable evidence further corroborating what was said in our last issue on the subject of the peerless potato, a variety the great general merits of which are now all but established in so far as this section is concerned.—From the *Home Journal*.]

PLOUGHING UNDER GREEN WHEAT.

Long experience and close observation have convinced me that buckwheat is the best and cheapest plant known to turn under to enrich the soil. Clover is much better to fertilize land than any other crop, but it will not grow in poor land, or, if it does grow, will amount to a poor crop—not one-fourth as much as buckwheat—consequently not so profitably adapted to the purpose of promoting fertility. Buckwheat is only the best crop because there is no other plant that will grow so luxuriantly on very poor soil. In the list of plants to plough under in a green state for manure, besides buckwheat and clover, we might name oats, rye, corn, turnips, &c., any of which will answer a good

purpose, but not so reliable as the two above named, owing to the superabundant saccharine matter they contain, which is apt in certain stages of growth, and the circumstances of too much moisture or coldness of the earth when ploughed under, to make the land sour, and to do more harm than good.

My plan would be to plough and harrow the land fine and mellow, then saturate the buckwheat seed with stale chamber lye or greasy pickle from the mackerel barrel, then dry with hickory ashes—a peck or half bushel to every bushel of buckwheat, which will be pabulum to the infant germ, directly in contact, to give it a vigorous start. After the buckwheat is a few inches high, sow a bushel of gypsum to the acre as late in the evening as possibly can be sown, or sow a compost over it made with slacked lime and swamp muck or road scrapings, three parts of the earth to one of the lime, either of which will make buckwheat grow on poor land. In case the soil is very dry at seeding time it is best not to sow the prepared seed in the hot earth in the morning or the middle of the day, but wait till the evening and let it lie all night, then harrow it and roll it with a heavy roller very early in the morning while the soil is wet with dew.—*Ex.*

TO PREVENT CLOVER GROWING TOO COARSE.

It is sometimes objected to clover that it is too coarse as a feed, this being the case where it is grown on strong ground, making a large stalk. This can be remedied by sowing thick, and thus getting a fine-stemmed crop, also shorter in length, the stalks varying from fifteen to twenty-five inches, according to the quality of the land, the season and whether plaster has been used.

But the point is to sow thick—from ten to twelve quarts per acre, evenly scattered on even, mellow soil, and brushed in if sown with spring grain. This forms a close growth, and must be cut before it lodges much, and this is generally about the time of flowering. Else, if lodged badly, and permitted to remain so for some time, it will partially rot, and lose much of its value as a feed. But harvested in good time, and well cured, there will be no deterioration of the high value which this plant has obtained among our best dairymen.

Three tons per acre may thus be realized, and, if the season is a good one, the amount may be doubled by two cuttings, and clover should always be cut twice, each time about the blossoming period.

We prefer the medium size or June clover, as it is earlier and finer-stemmed than the large kind, and less apt to lodge, and always permits of two cuttings. On poor land clover may be grown successfully, improving the land. But it may be raised on the richest of land with the most gratifying results, only get it close so as to have it fine-stemmed, and cut it in time.—*Country Gentleman*.

WORKING HARD.

Working hard is not always working to the best advantage. A man may work very hard chopping wood with a dull axe, or pumping water with a pump that "sucks air," but he is not working with economy.—A man gets pay, or ought to get it, not for "working," but for what he accomplishes. This is as true of the farmer as of his hired man, though we do not feel its force so fully in the one case as in the other. We do not like to pay a man for carrying one pail of water when he might just as well carry two, or for plowing or harrowing with one horse when he might just as well drive three. But farmers themselves often do things equally wasteful of time and labor. Do we never take a load to the city and come back empty, and then go empty to the city to bring back a load, and thus lose half our own time and that of the team, and pay double toll into the bargain?

All analysts agree that old, brack swamp muck contains just about the same ingredients as the solid excrements of horned cattle when hay or grass fed, except that the soluble alkalies of the former—potash and soda and a little common salt—have been washed out, while they remain in the latter. This shows for swamp muck a considerable value, since the addition of a little wood ash, very little common salt, and a little lime to neutralize its acidity, all costing but a trifle, make it almost the equivalent of manure from under the stable window.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S SHOW.

The Exhibition of the Royal Agricultural Society at Hull, England, is said by the *Magnet* to have been of more than usual interest. The entries amounted to 1,145; of these 281 represented horses, 308 cattle, 365 sheep, and 191 pigs. The Short-Horn bulls above three years old were a capital class.

The Short-Horn cows are said to have been much the best collection ever brought together in England, and the yearling heifers were also good. The Herefords, although not half as numerous as the Short-Horns, were of the highest quality, among them five splendid Hereford cows. The Devons numbered thirty-one—a small number but again of the best quality. Sheep were a fair average as to quantity and something more as to quality. Mention is then made of a potato planting machine on exhibition:

"The machine opens a couple of channels in worked ground, sows artificial manure along the bottom, and drops the potato sets and covers them over at one operation. The sets are deposited at tolerably even intervals, excepting when two small-sized potatoes occasionally chance to fall in place of one set; and hence, in practice, the rows will probably be left open for a lad to correct by hand-basket."

The department of seeds and vegetables, especially roots, is always an important one at the English Agricultural Exhibition, and the great contributors upon former occasions were not absent upon the present one, their respective stands attracting as usual crowds of admiring visitors. In this connection it would be well for American farmers and gardeners to take a lesson from their English brethren. Farm products should be one of the most important in the category of exhibits at our State Fairs, and yet it is seldom that more than mere samples are offered, and these not always of excellent quality.

VAGARIES OF THE POTATO DISEASE.

Notwithstanding the prevalent idea that nature places things just in the exact places where they are best fitted, it does not seem to be a truth always borne out by experience, whether we regard the animal or vegetable worlds. The writers on American weeds tell us that foreign varieties which come over here and contest the palm with our own native pests usually grow better than they do in their own country, and it seems to be true with our relatives when they go making an European tour. There has, for instance, been a discovery lately of an insect injurious to the roots of the grape vine, called the *Phylloxera*, which is supposed to be one cause why some of our grapes do not do so well. It does not, however, entirely destroy our grapes. But this American has been journeying across the ocean with our Catawbas and Isabellas, and is giving the English what our small boys call "Hail Columbia." Wherever it sets its little feet the grape vine is completely done for, and there is rising up in England a prohibitory cry and a "stamping out" agitation such as marked the early history of the cattle plague.

The potato fungus is said to be of American origin, but, bad as it has been with us, it has never been so serious a trouble as it has been found in British experience. There are acres of potatoes, one day in vigorous healthfulness, will, within a few days, have the whole field of stems blackened and filling the air with an odor of seething rottenness; and the tubers are seized and decay as rapidly. So great is the damage done by the disease that it is becoming customary to plant much more than will be required in order to allow for the disease. The increased price of potatoes in a short crop makes up for the loss if there be any. A recent writer says that the usual full crop of an English potato field is from five to seven tons per acre. The disease, he says, has thinned out the crop terribly, but, even though the final result should be but an average of two tons to the acre, there will yet be enough for the demand, if not, indeed, potatoes to spare.

MANGE IN SWINE.

Upon the first indication of mange in swine wash the hog thoroughly with a strong suds of Castile soap and water, and then apply an ointment made by adding to each pint of hot lard, one ounce of carbolic acid, stirring the whole until cool. Apply this thoroughly to the hog, rubbing it well into the skin. Two or three applications will usually cure the subject.

BET SUGAR.

A company has been formed in the Town of Cobourg for the purpose of manufacturing sugar from the sugar beet. Seed has been imported from France, machinery has been purchased for the factory, and experiments already made have proved highly satisfactory.

SMALL FARMING.

The Paw-Paw *True Northerner* says: As an evidence of what may be done on a "Small Farm" the following exhibit of the productions of a small portion of the farm of Hiram Jacobs, of Prospect Lake, may be of interest to some of our readers. From three acres of raspberries he gathered and sold the present dry season 3068 quarts, which sold for \$320. From one-fourth of an acre of strawberries he sold last year 912 quarts for \$100.35, and from the same plot he sold this year 546 quarts, which brought \$82.50. He has a plot of one-fourth of an acre of blackberries which the severity of the last winter killed. He makes the cultivation of small fruits a specialty, and will supply those in want with choice varieties of raspberries, blackberries, strawberries and the choicest varieties of currants.

SALT FOR CUT WORMS.

A great deal of attention is attracted to the application of salt to corn hills to prevent the attacks of the cut worms. The late Isaac Newton, Commissioner of Agriculture, said:—"Take one part of common salt and three parts of plaster or gypsum and apply when the plant first makes its appearance about a tablespoonful around every corn hill. It will be found a sure protection. The mixture should not come into contact with the plants, as it may destroy them." This method has been tried over and over again by some of our best farmers, and, when properly applied, has never failed. Newton further said that he tried this in alternate rows, which completely proved its efficacy, as, while those where it was not used suffered greatly from the grub, not a plant in the other rows were touched. Let it be tried, as it can be so easily done by those who are troubled with cut worms in the corn-field about these days.

UTILIZING CARCASSES.

In answer to the question how is the best way to dispose of dead animals, the Massachusetts *Ploughman* says: "The most economical way is to cover the carcass six or eight inches deep with muck, and let it lie and decompose. It may take six months or more. It is better to put it within sight of the house if possible, so that it may be watched a little to keep the dogs and crows off. The muck or loam will absorb and retain the gases which are given off in the process of decomposition. After it has lain through a summer, fork over the mass and throw out the bones, add half a bushel of plaster or gypsum and another load of earth; let it lie a month or two longer, when it will be fit for use. The bones can be broken up as much as practicable, put into a cask and covered with ashes, to be kept moistened from time to time till they are softened. Every dead animal is worth saving, and it is very poor economy to haul it off to one side of the farm and leave it for the dogs and the crows."

BONE DUST BRICKS.

An Australian paper, speaking of the vast quantities of bones that have been accumulating in Melbourne since the meat preserving occupations commenced there, says: "The Militaries, bound for London, has on board a shipment of 100 tons of bone dust, prepared for exportation in an altogether novel manner, and one which promises to come into extensive use. To facilitate the trade, an apparatus has been contrived for compressing bone-dust into half its original compass, reducing it at the same time into a form very convenient for shipment. By means of strong pressure, the crushed bones are moulded into cakes of six inches square and three inches thick, something like flooring tiles, each cake weighing a little over 4 pounds. These bone-dust tiles are just adhesive enough to admit of their being handled freely—thrown about like bricks, if necessary—and are yet so free, that when required for use they can readily be crushed, or melted by the application of a little hot water. A ton weight of the manure measures 26 cubic feet, and contains 252 of the cakes."

CLEANING

The idea of cleaning wheat, as degenerating into another employment. If absolute cleanliness is the product of the grain, constantly brought and sold at a price, and remaining called into existence.

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