

other forms. When these things are transported by rail long distances the freight becomes the chief item of the cost. We once freighted ten tons of ashes at a cost of \$80, and got 1,200 lbs. of actual potash (more than the average amount). We could have freighted 10,000 lbs. of potash in the shape of muriate from a nearer point for half the money. And this is the very point we would like to impress upon the producers of potash on the other side of the Atlantic, the immense saving of the cost of potash to the American farmer living far from the sea coast, by relieving him of the necessity for freighting so much useless material to get the potash he is after. They should send us more of the concentrated article, for the freight over the Atlantic is but a small part of the inland freight in very many instances.

W. P. MASSEY.

SOWING SEEDS IN DRY WEATHER.

A frequent source of complaint is the fact of seeds failing to germinate during long-continued dry weather, and it is very important that the gardener should always apply common-sense to his work, and not simply follow routine, for what will suit for one condition of *soil* or atmosphere would be unnecessary, or even wrong, for another. I will give a case to illustrate. About the 5th of May of 1871, I sowed a large patch of open ground with celery seed, and another with cabbage seed. The soil was in fine order, and the beds, after sowing, were raked—the celery with a fine steel rake, the cabbage with a large wooden rake, which covered the seed of each to the regular depth. The weather was dry, with indications of its continuing so, and after sowing had both the cabbage and celery beds rolled heavily, leaving, however, a strip of each unrolled, so that I could clearly show to some of my young men what the result of this omission would be if dry weather continued. Had a heavy rain fallen within a day or two after sowing, it would have compacted the soft soil and produced the effect of rolling it. But we had no rain for three or four weeks, and a burning hot atmosphere, passing through the shallow, loose covering of the seeds, shriveled and dried them up so that it was impossible they could ever germinate. This little experiment resulted exactly as anyone having experience in seed-sowing knew it must; our crop of celery and cabbage plants were as fine as need be on the rolled bed, while not one seed in a thousand of the celery, and not one in a hundred of the cabbage, started in the strips where the soil was left loose.—American Agriculturist.

Watering the Cyclamen.—Mr. Wm. Bacon, of Orillia, who wrote the article on the Cyclamen in our March number, writes: "When watering the cyclamen exercise care so that you do not let a lot of water settle into the clustering leaves and buds, as a constant dose of this kind would induce rot."