

the wise old rogue was leading the usual bunch up the gangway, but when he got to the usual jumping off place there was none. 'Dick' had gone on with the herd. Before long he had been converted into dressed beef. Now that 'Dick' has suffered the same fate as his thousands of dupes his work all devolves on his former partner, known to the butchers as 'Phil.'

Fertilisation means, not the addition of manurial matters to the land, but the impregnation of one plant by the pollen of another, or of the ovum of the female by the semen of the male, in animals: it is all the same, as any one may see in the cucumber, melon &c.

Sacaline.—A letter from Monsieur Roy, of Emileville Q., who has tried this new plant, runs as follows:

"My friends and I, who have tried this crop, agree that we cannot recommend it: it has proved with us a complete failure. I set it out in my garden, as well as in other places, but in no kind of soil did it do any good, though I took the greatest possible pains in its cultivation.

In the garden, it grew about three feet high; at six inches from the ground it separated into two branches, and these were so hard that no beast could eat them, though their flexibility made them very suitable for whips.

I had to treat the plants with Paris-green, as there came an insect that ate all the leaves as fast as they burst from the sheath."

Altogether, we should not advise our friends to plant largely of this Siberian fodder-plant until our friend Monsieur Bouthillier, of Ste-Thérèse has completed his experiments with it: M. Bouthillier says, in a letter of the 16th March, '95:

Ste-Thérèse, March 16th, '95.

DEAR JENNER FUST,

I planted some seeds of P. S. in three flower pots on 3rd of March, and on the 9th there were two little 2 inches high plants up. I watered the earth every day, and kept the earth moist. The two shoots are about 3 inches long to day and there are 5 or 6 other ones about a quarter of an inch. They are in a window, with a south-westerly exposition. I shall only water them very slightly every two days now. I do not know whether they will come to anything or not, but I shall get more seed, and plant them every two weeks or so. I have sent the money, to Baltet, of France for some guaranteed plants, to set out in the spring. I do not think, that I can find out everything I want to know before a couple of years, as I should require 2 year old plants to experiment with satisfactorily.

I enclose a couple of letters, which please keep for me, in case I should want them for reference.

Mr. Roy's letter is not hopeful, but setting the experiments mentioned in the pamphlet against it, I do not feel inclined to give up until I shall have all the most carefully conducted experiments in connection with this matter during a period of a couple of years.

I have not been able to get satisfactory proof from the syndicate that, Mr. Roy, was supplied with guaranteed plants of *Polygonum Sachalinense*.

My experiments will be on a small scale, and as I do not want to throw away money, will take time, but I think not any longer, that would be necessary, to obtain reliable results one way or the other. I have requested

the Syndicate to get for me all the reports they can, from Messrs. Baltet, Doumet, Adamson, and others, in France. If the plant succeeds in France, I do not see, why it should not succeed in this country.

If you could obtain any information concerning P. S. from England, by writing to some one and only body that you would consider reliable, it would be useful.

Yours truly
C. F. BOUTHILLIER.

Alfalfa.—At our request, our friend, Mr. Lewis, wrote to his "Spanish" brother, as he calls him to ask him to send us the true meaning of the word "Alfalfa". He sends us the following in reply:

"Alfalfa is the Spanish for clover, and as far as I know was originally a Moorish word. It is not pure Spanish, although the only word used in some parts of Spain. In the North of that country, the word *trebol* is sometimes used, but in Valentia and the South, Alfalfa is the word."

Of course the word *Alfalfa* is a compound of *Al* the Moorish definite article, and *falfa*, so we suppose *falfa* must mean clover generically, and *Alfalfa*, the clover, emphatically; just as *alcohol* mean the quintessence; *alguazil*, the magistrate, i. e., the chief magistrate. The Moors colonised and governed Spain, more particularly the Southern parts: hence this language passed more into common use in that region.

Trebol, as clover is called in the North of Spain, is of course *tresfol*, i. e., three-leaved, and *falfa* are constantly interchanged in Spanish words derived from the Latin, such as *trifolium*.

We have received the following from Mr. Saunders, the Director of the Experimental Farms of the Dominion.

Distribution of Samples of Grain from the Experimental Farm at Ottawa.

To the Editor of the
"Journal of Agriculture."

During the past eight years samples of those varieties of grain which have succeeded best on the Experimental Farms have been distributed on application in 3-lb. bags to farmers in all parts of the Dominion free through the mail. The object in view in this distribution has been to improve the quality and character of these important agricultural products throughout the country. This work has met with much appreciation and a considerable degree of success.

Last year I was instructed by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture to forward, as far as practicable, two samples to each applicant, but the applications received were so numerous that on this basis of distribution all the available stock had been promised by the middle of February, and all later applicants could not be supplied.

This year my instructions are to send one sample only to each applicant, with the hope that with this limitation every farmer in the Dominion who so desires may share in the benefits of this useful branch of the work of the Experimental Farms.

The distribution now in progress consists of some of the most promising sorts of Oats, Barley, Spring Wheat, Pease, Field Corn and Potatoes. Already more than 7,000 applications have been filled. All farmers desiring to participate in this distribution

should send in their applications early, and state which of the above named samples they would prefer, and their wishes will be met as far as practicable, until the available stock is exhausted. The grain can be sent early, but the potatoes will not be distributed until the danger of being injured in transit by frost is over. Letters addressed to the Central Experimental Farm may be sent free of postage.

WM. SAUNDERS,
Director Experimental Farms.
Ottawa, March 11th, 1895.

Disposal of garbage.—What becomes of all our refuse throughout the country? In Montreal, and perhaps in Quebec, the rubbish is collected and burned; but when thus treated is it utilised? We really do not know, and we should feel grateful to any one who would give us full information on the subject.

At Birmingham, England, great pains seem to have been taken to utilise the refuse of that populous town.

Each house is supplied with a specially designed ashtub for kitchen garbage and other solid refuse as well as ashes; and the contents of these are emptied into a box attached to the van that removes the 'pans.' The whole work is organized by districts with perfect system. There are several receiving stations, all situated on canal wharves. The coarser garbage is consumed in furnaces, of which there are about fifty in operation. The fine contents of the ash-pits are mixed with a portion of the contents of the closet pans, forming a fertilizer that is removed by the canal-boats and sold to farmers. But most of the material from the pans is made into a dry, powdered fertilizer by evaporation in special machines. The heat derived from the burning garbage suffices to work the evaporating machines. The 'poudrette' fertilizer is sold at \$30 a ton. The residuum of the incinerated garbage is a mass of 'clinkers', useful for concrete or mortar, for road-making, or for filling low ground. All in all, Birmingham has evolved a most complete and satisfactory system for the public management of every form of waste material—a system adapted in all parts to the actual conditions of the place. From Shaw's 'Municipal Government in Great Britain.'

FARM WORK FOR MAY.

Now, indeed, our work begins in earnest: happy is the farmer who has everything ready for the start.

A busy time for all; the cows have lately calved, and the *spes gregis* require no end of attention, for it is not difficult to guard against the scours, but when once a calf is attacked by that malady, it is not so easy to cure it. Thrice a day feeding, at least, with full-milk at first and then with skim-milk and linseed-meal, given at the natural temperature of the cow's body—96° F., or so—will generally answer the purpose. A greedy feeder should be checked, and made to take its milk at three or four goes. A few oats, with some good fresh clover-hay for the young ones to pick at when so inclined will keep them easy between meals, but this will not be needed for the first month. Do not turn them out to grass too soon; for the wind is often in the East during this month, and a dash of rain with a chilly wind will often cause the young ones to set to

work coughing, and throw them back considerably. We do not want people to think that stock-calves should be fattened, but we never saw a stunted calf make a profitable cow. All stock on the farm should be kept in an improving state until they reach maturity. And, after all, the final appearance of the cow herself—on the butcher's block—must be borne in mind.

Ewes will have mostly done lambing; and here we must reiterate our advice that all male lambs, not intended to be kept for stock, should be castrated at ten or twelve days old. A few mangels or swedes may be in store, and no stock will better pay for their expenditure than the ewes.

In this province, it is not wise to let the cattle or sheep on to the pastures till late in this month. Nipping the first young shoot of the grass does incredible injury to the yield of the entire season. Another thing to be attended to is to make no sudden change from dry food to grass; a couple of hours range once a day for the first week of pasturing, with a continuance of the usual winter food at other times is the best plan.

Your horses will have long hours at work and you will of course feed them proportionately: three bushels of oats a week with the best of timothy will be none too much, and a cold bran-mash on Saturday nights will keep them in good health. For 14 years, in our English home, with a stable of sixteen horses of all kinds, from hunters to Welsh ponies, we never had a vet. called in, and we attribute much of this immunity from disease to the weekly mash.

The horse that is mashed on Saturday night must not be driven to church the next day and left standing for a couple of hours in a windy shed. He should enjoy his rest at home.

One of the first things to be sown, as we are now a dairy-country, is green-fodder crops. A succession should be put in every fortnight from the very earliest date on which the land can be worked until, say, the first of July. We still adhere to our old recipe, which has proved so effective at Sorol, and, we are happy to say, has been recommended, under the name of "Mashley," i. e., "maslin," by the authorities at the Provincial Farm, Truro, Nova Scotia:

MASLEY. (1)—A piece of land containing 1½ acres was sown with a mixture of vetches, pease, and oats. This was sown in three lots. The first lot was sown on May 11th, the second on the 21st, and the last on July 2nd. This piece had a light top-dressing of stable manure. It supplied a large amount of excellent feed at a time when it was very much needed. We began cutting the first lot on July 9th.

Quantities: 2 bushels of oats, 1 of pease, and 1 of the large spring vetch, or tare. A couple of pounds of rape an acre, rolled in after the oats, &c., and harrowed in, would thicken the bottom growth after mowing and give some food for sheep in the fall.

No tares or pease intended for green-meat should be mown for stock until in bloom, and at least 6 hours must be allowed to elapse after cutting before the cattle are fed, lest they get blown.

A mixture of 2 bushels of tares and 3 pounds of rape, to the acre, will be useful for the ewes and lambs. This should be ready for feeding off by the middle of July, and when done the