

Agriculture.

CULTURE OF WHITE BEANS.

(From an Ohio Paper.)

SOIL.—The bean will grow well on any soil, from the stiffest clay to the hottest sand; but in our experience of its culture, we have found that of a light gravel, abounding somewhat with stone, to suit it best. In a clay soil the bean does not ripen so well, or show so pure a white, and it is somewhat subject to mould and rot; in rich loams it runs too much to vine; and in light shifting sands its growth is small and somewhat parried.

PREPARATION.—We are supposing the soil a hard poor gravel; in this case it is customary to plough about 3 inches deep; but as the bean sends out innumerable fine roots from its main stem, it is important to leave the ground loose and mellow to a greater depth, and yet keep the most fertile part of it on the top.

SEED.—The best kind of field bean, is of small size, plump, round, slightly oblong of shape, and a white colour.

PLANTING.—For this purpose, some prefer throwing the field into ridges; but this should only be resorted to when the soil is stiff, or possesses a superabundant moisture; in every other case, planting on a level surface is best; Drills $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 feet apart is the favourite method of planting with those who are desirous of making the most of their ground; hills $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 feet distant each way, answers nearly as well; some sow broadcast, but when this is done, no after-culture can follow, and the crop is liable to be weakened by the growth of weeds, and the land is left in a foul state.—Beans are frequently grown among corn, being planted between each hill at the second time of hoeing. The crop under these circumstances is small; it takes also from that of the corn, and it may be considered upon the whole, as scarcely paying for the extra trouble of culture. It is customary to plant beans after corn and potatoes are got in. The first week in June is quite early enough in this climate; farther north, the last of May is perhaps better; it grows quick, and we have seen first-rate crops gathered from planting as late as the 15th of June, in the latitude of 42 deg. The quantity of seed usually allowed per acre, in hills, is one bushel; in drills it would require a little more; broadcast, at least two bushels. Yet this will depend something upon the size of the bean used, and the economy in dropping the seed. Six to seven beans should be dropped in each hill, and four or five stalks be left to bear; in drills, drop the seed every two or three inches, and leave a plant every four or six inches. When planted in hills, the field may be checked off by a light one-horse plough as for corn, then drop the seed by hand, and cover with hoe or shovel plough; for drills run the plough about two inches deep, then drop as above, or from a long-necked bottle, or a tin up with a hole in the bottom and a handle attached to it, slightly making the cup or bottle as the person dropping walks along. Children are best for this work, as they are not obliged to stoop so much as men, and they will do it quite as rapidly and well.

After dropping, cover about two inches deep with the hoe, or run back the furrow with the plough. When this is finished, it is best to pass a light roller over the ground. For drill planting, there are various machines which answer as well for beans as for corn, but in stony ground, or a stiff soil, they do not cover well.

AFTER-CULTURE.—This is very simple, and only requires the cultivator to be passed up and down the rows two or three different times during the season, for the purpose of keeping the weeds down and stirring the earth, followed by a slight hilling with the hoe or a light plough, throwing the dirt to the plants.

HARVESTING.—This should be done in dry weather as soon as the bean is well formed, and there is no danger of its moulding or shrinking; if left till touched by a hard frost, the pods are liable to crack open, and much waste ensues from their shelling. When sown broadcast on smooth land, the most rapid way of harvesting is by mowing; when in hills or drills, especially in rough ground, it is customary to pull the vines by hand, which is light work, and demanding a good deal of stooping, may, like the dropping of the seed, be performed by children. The bean-vines are pulled, they are thrown into small heaps, and sunned daily, like hay. As soon as sufficiently dry, they would be taken to the barn, thrashed, and the straw stacked. It has never found it answer to stack beans before being threshed, they have invariably become dark coloured or spotted, and in addition to this, we lost more or less by rot and mould.

Mr. Solen Robinson, Vol. VIII., of the Cultivator, recommends the following method of curing beans on a clay soil in Indiana:—

“Take poles or stakes (common fence stakes), into your bean field, and set them stiff in the ground, at convenient distances apart, which experience will soon show you, and put a few sticks or stones around for a bottom, and then, as you pull an arm-full, take them to the stakes, and lay them around, the roots always to the stake, as high as you can reach, and tie the top course with a string, or a little straw, to prevent them from being blown off, and you will never complain again, that you cannot raise beans, because they are too troublesome to save.”

When situated something like Mr. Robinson, we have tried the plan recommended by him, and approve of it. Where there was no stones at hand, we used small chunks of wood in their place. In the more stony and silicious soils of the east, the stakes, &c., are unnecessary, beans will cure well enough on the bare ground. After being thrashed, the beans should be cleaned, in the same manner that grain is, and then put into barrels or sacks and sent to market. The whiter they are in colour, and the neater they appear, the quicker they sell, and the higher the price they bring.

PRODUCT.—This varies greatly according to soil and cultivation. When planted with corn, 7 to 12 bushels is a fair yield per acre; when planted alone, 20 to 25 bushels. We are persuaded that, by subsoiling, even the poorest gravel land, and only lightly top dressing it with the proper kind of manure, from 30 to 35 bushels per acre may be counted upon as an average; and if so, beans would be a much more profitable crop than anything else which could be produced from it.—The highest product which we have known taken from a single acre was 53 bushels, but we have heard of 60 bushels being raised.

VALUE.—White beans of a good quality, well cleaned, and neatly put up, usually bring from \$1.00 to \$1.75 per bushel in this market; and occasionally they are worth from \$2.00 to \$2.50. We do not recollect of their being less than \$1.00 for years. The straw is valuable as food for sheep, and when properly cured they eat it with avidity.

News.

It is highly honourable to the St. Patrick's Society of Montreal, that they had not this year their usual dinner on that day, preferring to give the sum that would have been expended on it to their furnishing brethren in Ireland.

Mr. Richard Evans, of Rougemont, St. Cesaire, was lately drowned in crossing the ice with a span of horses over the Richelieu on his way home from Chambly.

Parliament is prorogued to the 24th April, and not then to meet for the despatch of business.

Messrs. Livingston and Wells have made a contract with Messrs. Thomas & Co., for 65 tons best charcoal wire, 330 lbs. to the mile, for the Montreal Telegraph. Preparations are already made for pushing on the work energetically.

We deem it of importance to take notice of the comparative low rates of freight, when compared with New York, at which vessels are being chartered at Quebec. Two ships for Liverpool were taken up on Saturday last, for flour, at 5s. 3d. for one of about 900 tons, and 5s. 6d. for a ship of 700 tons. There will be 20 vessels, now building, ready for sea by the 20th May, capable of taking 150,000 barrels of flour. The attention of Upper Canada papers is requested to this fact.—*Quebec Mercury.*

The Hutchinson Family did much by their songs to promote the cause of temperance in England.

HABITS OF LOUIS PHILIPPE.—Of all the inhabitants of the kingdom the King is perhaps the most rigid observer of the rules for preserving sound health. He rises at five o'clock in the morning, at all seasons, works in his cabinet while fresh and clear, and therefore with ease—breakfasts simply—then takes a long walk, which promotes a mild and salutary reaction towards the skin; at dinner, has constantly half a fowl dressed with rice, and for his drink takes only pure water, about which his Majesty is very particular. He sleeps on a single mattress, laid on a camp bedstead, and for never more than six hours. Such is the sober austere life of our Sovereign, and with such a regimen men may live long. It is known that Louis Philippe has some medical opinions of his own. His remedies, however, are most innocent, and have the sanction of one of the greatest practitioners by whom our art is honoured. Like Sydenham, in fact, the King may