

My neighbour, M. Daigneault, plants his potatoes—early-roses—at the curious distances of  $3\frac{1}{2} \times 6$  inches. Twenty-four by 12 would be better. They were hand-hoed after the horse-hoe, and of course the hoe could not work between the plants in the row—a very important point in cultivating this crop. His beans, at 18 inches apart, were too near together for the horse-hoe, which worked well between the rows of corn, adjacent, at 34 inches! In no case was the horse-hoe used more than once. The couch-grass was 6 inches high when ploughed in for oats. Altogether, this valuable farm is not pleasant to look upon.

But little wheat grown here. Oats are, as they naturally would be with such a dripping season, magnificent. Fruit poor, but all vegetables abundant.

**Swedes.**—Very sensible is the American Agriculturist, generally speaking, but why allow Mr. F. H. Wilcox to advise sowing swedes on “spring-ploughed sod-land.” “It is best,” says that gentleman, “not to manure the *ruta-baga* land unless with superphosphate. Mark the ground one way with rows  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet apart; ridge slightly, and sow the seed with the drill as nearly two inches apart as possible.” What can he mean? But then follows a sentence that makes one condone all previous errors: “It ought not to cost more to grow an acre of swedes than an acre of potatoes.” Well, a little more, but not much.

“The best time to sow pickling cucumbers is when the sun is in ‘the Twins,’ (Gemini), which this year comes on June 23. This is an old German’s secret, which insures *twm* pickles”!!! *The Farm and Home*. Comment is needless.

**Muck.**—Apropos to the discussion at the L’Assomption meeting between MM. Chapais and Marsan, which appears in the Report of the Dairy-meeting, I offer an analysis of four samples of *black earth*, or *muck*, from the laboratory of the Maine Agricultural College, neglecting the unimportant constituents, carbon, alumina, &c.:

	1	2	3	4	Dung.
Nitrogen of organic matter in 100 lbs. water-free muck.....	1.29	1.98	1.15	1.51	1.75
Phosphoric acid.....	1.16	.27	.26	1.97	1.75
Potash.....	.07	.17	.04	.27	1.40

But we must not forget that muck is never to be had ‘water-free.’ Shovelled out of the bog and left to dry all the summer, it will even then contain about 50% of water. Dung, on the other hand, contains about 25% of water.

And the difference of contents in the various samples must not be passed over carelessly. How can you farmers tell whether you are using a muck containing only 2.20% of sand as No. 2, or one like No. 3, which holds 35.53% of sand. Again, No. 3 contains only .26% of phosphoric acid, while No. 4 has 1.97%, or nearly 8 times as much! Nobody denies the usefulness of muck, in the absence of straw, as an absorbent of urine, but in a high-waged country like Canada, to talk of drawing from 40 to 60 loads of muck a mile and spreading it over an arpent of land, when sulphate of ammonia is to be had for \$3.25 a cwt. and superphosphate for 60 cents a cwt., appears to me to be a most extravagant proceeding.

One sample of muck is mentioned in the report of the Maine College that contained as much as 2.77% of nitrogen in the water-free condition, i. e. 1.34% in its half-dried

state after a summer exposure to the air. But the rest of the valuable contents were trifling—potash 0.2%, phosphoric acid, .17%; and I should say from experience that the muck in question had been taken from a part of the deposit in which some animal had been engulfed. At all events, as the Director of the Station very sensibly puts it: “The whole matter of its use turns upon the cost of getting it to the barn, and from the barn to the field..... The value of the small amount of plant-food it contains would not average \$2.00 a ton in the case of the samples analysed, reckoning the nitrogen, &c., at such prices as these ingredients would cost in coarsé bone, Carolina rock, and muriate of potash, and it is doubtful if these are as valuable in muck as in the materials named.” This, at least, we are sure they are not.

**Cotton-seed meal.**—Mr Barnard writes me word that cotton-seed meal is now to be bought, delivered, at Quebec for \$24 a ton by the car-load. At this price it is a very cheap food; cheaper, even, than linseed and pease mixed, but as I am sure of the two last not being adulterated, I still prefer them. I have used linseed for cows whose milk was turned into butter, and I never found it cause illness, as some people complain, but I never exceeded a pound a day for milch-cows, with 4 lbs of pease. However, more on this subject when the weather is more agreeable.

**German feeding standards.**—“In fact,” says the Director of the Maine Agricultural College, “the practical tests of the German feeding standards which have been made during the last few years, show that a ration may be very efficient when it differs from them considerably. The proposed ration for the college to decide upon, compared with the German ration is as follows:

	Proposed ration.	German ration.
Organic matter (total nutrients).....	14.45	15.40
Protein (albuminoids).....	1.32	2.50
Other (Carbohydrates).....	12.59	12.50
Fat.....	.52	.40
Nutritive ratio.....	1:10.4	1:54

This proposed ration is, of course, deficient in albuminoids, but, it seems to me that that the German ration, with nearly double the amount of nitrogenous matter contained in the other, must be too expensive for this country, where good bullocks only fetch  $4\frac{1}{2}$  cents per lb. live-weight.

**Shorthorns.**—The whole of the Sittyton herd of shorthorns has been sold by private contract (£10,000) to go to South America!

**The Royal at Windsor.**—The engravings for this month’s journal consist of representations of parts of the Queen’s farms, the Jubilee meeting of the English Royal Agricultural Society being held this year at Windsor. My readers will be interested to know that the space occupied by the exhibition exceeds 130 acres, and the *shedding is more than ten miles in length*. The amount of money distributed in the United Kingdom as prizes for agricultural stock, implements, &c., exceeds one million, six hundred thousand dollars! None of this immense sum comes from government grants.

**Hayricks.**—Hay is never put into close barns in England. The stacks are generally made 14 ft. high to the eaves, and the height to the ridge is about 20 ft. After heating, the subsidence will be from 4 ft. to 5 ft. In building, the hay is well trampled and pulled by hand, all the length and height of the sides, as long as any loose stuff can be extracted, after