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NEW SERIES.

The Field.

Laying Down Permanent Pasture

This is a matter the importance of which is as yet little understood by our farmers. What we mean by "permanent pasture" is not land laid down to grass with a view to the crops of hay to be obtained from it, but such as is intended to be used for many years in succession solely for pasturage, and generally speaking on land that is not well adapted to the growing of grain and roots; and also in cases where, owing to the introduction of the dairy system of husbandry, it is most desirable to economize labour as much as possible, and yet obtain the best results from the soil as regards its productive capabilities.

The preparation of the soil is a matter of primary importance. If the land has been previously cropped, it must be brought to a high state of tilth, and made free from weeds, by a root or corn crop, heavily manured. In the fall, after the preparatory crop is removed, the soil should be ridged up with the plough and left to lie for the ensuing winter. In spring the cultivator and harrow may be set to work to level the surface and bring it to as fine a tilth as can be got for the reception of the seed. The seed should then be sown as soon as the land is dry and warm, and brushed in or covered in with a very light harrow. No other crop should occupy the land, and if enough seed of good quality is sown, (less than thirty pounds per acre is too little), there will be a heavy thick growth of grass covering the soil by the end of July or middle of August following. Care must be taken, however, not to allow stock to run on the land till the grass has become well established, and the soil compact and full of the roots of young grass. Sheep

will do no harm, if not allowed to eat down the grass too closely; but as a rule it is better to keep out stock the first year. When it is desired to make a permanent pasture out of low lands, or restore a wet meadow already run out, it will be necessary to thoroughly summer-fallow the ground first, and seed down the following spring.

The greatest difficulty we have at present to contend against is a want of knowledge as to what are the best and most desirable grasses to be used for this purpose, suitable to the conditions of our climate. To obviate this and make sure that enough will grow and become established in the soil to continue on the productiveness of the meadow, it is desirable to procure as many kinds as we can that are adapted to that purpose, and mix them together. White clover, small alsike clover, rye grass, Kentucky blue grass, orchard grass, and rib grass, together with some others well known in Britain, will succeed here. But there are still many very desirable varieties that have never yet been tried, and it requires some outlay, and considerable patience in order to test the matter properly, and it would be well for some of the better class of dairy farmers to try experiments to that end and report results.

After the pasturage has once become permanently established, it can be kept up for many years by an occasional dressing of well composted barn-yard manure, superphosphate, or even a mixture of plaster and unleached ashes, giving at the same time a sprinkling of fresh seeds on those spots that show signs of having run out. Particular care must be taken all along to carefully cut out, root and branch, all noxious weeds that may make their appearance, and not to allow stock to pasture it down too closely in the autumn so as to have the roots unprotected during the winter.

About Hop Growing.

Last year we warned those who had hop plantations not to be too hasty in sacrificing them, under the then prevailing idea that the business of hop growing had been overdone, and that the low prices then prevailing would but result in future loss to the growers.

What we then said proved true, and great breadths of land, probably over one-half of the entire area devoted to hop growing in the United States, were turned under by the plough, and sown to corn or wheat. As a consequence, there was but a small crop grown, and this, coupled with the fact of an almost entire failure of the crop in England, raised prices to a very remunerative figure for a really good article. Still the price did not go to any extreme rate, owing mainly to the large surplus left on hand from the previous year.

A writer in *The Country Gentleman* of April 7th, discussing this matter, says:—"The recent estimates made of hops on hand, and the requirements of the trade, show that the merchantable hops will be all used up long before the new crop will come into market," while at the same time the European markets will take all that can be spared from here, and let the new crop be ever so good or heavy, the prices must pay, for there will be an empty, hungry market for them in the fall of 1870." In view of these facts, it will be well for those who are so fortunate as to possess hop plantations to take the greatest pains they can this spring to have the land made clean and mellow, and everything possible done to ensure a good return the coming season, and especially to endeavour to secure a growth of large fine hops, rather than to crowd the vines with small ones. Particular attention must be paid to curing and putting up,