

Duration of Vitality in Seeds.

There are few plants, the seeds of which will not grow in the second year after maturity, if kept in a cool place, neither too dry nor yet too damp. The seeds of most of the grains and grasses will keep their vitality for very many years. Instances have occurred of wheat having been grown from seed supposed to have been buried 2,000 years.

Par-nip and onion seed can only be depended on to grow the year after it matures. Beans are safe only for two years, as also are carrot, egg plant, and several of the pot-herbs. Radish, lettuce, spinach, parsley and asparagus, are good for three years. Celery, cabbage, cauliflower and turnip seed, may be tolerably relied on for four years after maturity. Beet, mangels, tomato, squash, pumpkin, cucumber, and melon, are good for five to ten years, and the four last, which are bi-sexual, generally produce the largest proportion of female blossoms, and consequently fruit, when grown from seed that has been kept from three to six years.

J. M.

White and Grey Plaster.

To the Editor.

SIR.—In the February number of the CANADA FARMER you have an article on Plaster, of which the following is an extract:—

"It is found in workable quantities in two localities in Ontario, namely, Paris and York, both situated on the banks of the Grand River.

"The whitest plaster is the best, and to be pure it must be beautifully white and semi-transparent.

"The dark colour of the York or Grey plaster is owing to its being impure.

"The grey York plaster is the lowest in price, &c., &c."

In the above you have made a mistake, which please correct in your next issue.

The grey plaster comes from Paris, and the white plaster from York. We have no grey plaster in the York beds.

At the International Exhibition, London, England, 1862, specimens were received from different parts of the world, and those from Canada were sent from the several plaster beds at the expense of the Geological Survey. There was only one first-class prize medal given for plaster on that occasion, and it was awarded to me.

ALEXANDER TAYLOR.

Manufacturer and wholesale dealer in plaster, from his beds of pure white gypsum, York, Grand River, Ontario.

Caledonia, Feb. 13, 1869.

SAVE THE MANURE.—Farmers are not aware how much is wasted on their farms, that with little care and trouble might be made into valuable manure. Everything that can be decomposed, either in process of time, with the assistance of the elements, or by the aid of chemical agents, should be saved for the

compost heap. Select some place in the barnyard, or adjacent lot where it will be convenient of access, and there gather your compost, adding from time to time such solvents as may be necessary. Here bring all the weeds, sods, briars, thistles, &c., that you are compelled to dig and cut up through the summer, and add to these from time to time whatever you have of waste material, muck from the swamp, decayed fruits, potato vines, leaves, the deposit from the sink, &c., and at the close of the year you will be surprised at the size of your heap, and be able to see for yourselves how much is really wasted on your farms that might be turned to valuable account.—*Rural American*.

OUTS.—To judge by the talk in the American agricultural papers about Norway oats, Surprise oats, &c., and the big yields claimed by those who have the article for sale, the oat fever bids fair to outrival the potato fever. If any of our cousins across the line want a big thing in oats, let them send to Australia for seed. There they can obtain oats weighing fifty pounds per bushel, and giving sixty, eighty, and even one hundred bushels per acre, with the most ordinary care in culture, or almost no culture at all.

EXPERIMENT WITH SALT.—A correspondent in the county of Huron writes some of the results of his experiments with salt as a fertiliser. He tried it on fall and spring wheat in 1868, at the rate of one barrel to the acre. The time of sowing was the 18th of April, and it was sown on ridges in different parts of the field. The result on fall wheat was imperceptible. The spring wheat was treated at the same rate and same time of application. It was sown immediately after harrowing in the wheat. The result on spring wheat was "worse than useless." He gives as a reason that the salt brought the ridges, on which it was sown, forward of the rest, so that the ridge ate every bit of it, and concludes with the advice to "experiment with caution."

FIELD PEAS.—Peas will be extensively grown this year, in view of the demand for the article from the States, and the prospect that pork will command a price at which it will pay to fatten hogs. In answer to enquiries as to what variety is best to sow, we can hardly tell; so much depends on circumstances and seasons, that it becomes difficult to recommend one variety over another. Among the newer varieties of field peas lately introduced, the "Crown Pea" holds a high rank for quality and productiveness. The "Golden Vine" is a good variety for rather light soils. For a later ripening variety the "Black-eyed Marrowfat" is growing into favour. The Crown Pea has been extensively grown of late years in the county of Oxford, and a farmer near Ingersoll writes that "they are larger than the common pea, command a higher price, and will yield a third more. They are especially suited to rich strong soils, as they do not run to straw and lie down. They can be cut like hay. I

A mine with a mowing machine. The

straw is much liked by stock, and they ripen earlier than most other kinds. I have grown them for the last four or five years, sowing at the rate of three bushels of seed per acre." The price of seed of the Crown Pea is \$1 per bushel, delivered at Ingersoll station. Bags or barrels 30c. to 10c. each extra.

BEAVER MEADOWS.—A correspondent, G. W. P., at Bathurst, desires information as to how to treat a beaver meadow that has been cut for forty years, and is now run out. Although we have seen many of these alluvial deposits, and had one on a farm of our own, we cut the natural grass without attempting to improve it. If any of our readers have had experience in breaking up and seeding a beaver meadow with cultivated grasses, we should be glad of the information as to how it can best be done. We think if the soil was dry enough—and if it is not, it might be made so by proper drainage—the natural grass could be turned under with the plough, and the land sown with oats, or which timothy and Kentucky blue grass might be seeded down. If the meadow is wet and mucky, and cannot be drained to advantage, it would be throwing away labour to try to grow cultivated grasses on it; the value of the muck upon it to use in manufacturing manure by composting in the barnyard, stables, &c., would be its chief advantage. Probably filling up the break in the old beaver dam, and thus flooding the meadow for a year or two, would kill out the grass in it, and when the water was let off after the operation, a new and strong growth of blue joint grass (*Calamagrostis Canadensis*), which is one of our best and most common wet meadow grasses, would take possession of the soil as soon as it became tolerably dry on the surface.

WOOD ASHES AS A FERTILIZER.—This is one of the most valuable fertilizers within the reach of the farmer. The attached article has the more potash, but the leached is thought to be quite as valuable. In leaching they shrink a good deal, and lime is usually added, which increases their value. They are generally sold, too, at a less price. Ashes are well suited to all farm crops, and are very beneficial in the fruityard and orchard. Most farmers sell wood in the cities and villages, and rather than go home empty they should carry back ashes and other fertilizers, to replace the potash, lime and phosphoric acid that have been carried off in the crops and animals sold. Ashes show immediate effects from their application, and at the same time last long in the soil. They are very highly appreciated in the onion growing districts, but may be applied with equal advantage to ordinary farm crops. They should be kept as near the surface as possible, spread and harrowed into the seed bed or applied directly to the growing crops. Make a business of saving, buying and storing ashes during the winter for the next season's operations. *American Agriculturist*.