

Partitioning Farms, &c.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER :

SIR.—May I trouble you with a few lines, in respect to the size of the fields on different sized farms. First, a farm of fifty acres, for convenience of working should be divided into ten fields of 5 acres each. You must have as many fields on a fifty acre lot, as you have on a one hundred acre lot, only when a farm of 100 acres, has perhaps 20 acres of bush land, that would be eighty acres, clear land. I would have 10 fields of 8 acres each. For a 200 acre lot, 12 acre fields is quite large enough. When you have a farm laid out in this way you can work it to advantage. You can make manure enough on the farm, to manure thoroughly two of those fields each year, and thereby keep your farm as rich as a garden. It would also do away with the bad practice of a great many farmers in having too large fields. They will put the whole of their stock into one field, and have no other pasture to change them to. Change of pasture is excellent economy in feeding stock during the summer months. You can change them once a week, from one pasture to another, and allow the previous one to grow a week. On turning them back into the first one again, it will be almost as good as when you first turned your cattle into it. By adopting this plan you can keep more cattle, on 10 acres of ground, than you could on 20 acres, if it was all in one field. By dividing the farm as proposed, you can put the whole of one field in with one kind of grain: say one with fall wheat, one with barley, one with oats, one with peas, one with grass, one with potatoes, one with roots, one corn, one pasture, and one fallow. The fallow I would plough and sow with rape, and after it got fit for the stock to eat, I would ease my pasture and turn my stock on the rape. Stock will eat it greedily. Put them into it two hours at once, for two or three days. They should then be taken out and put into the barn yard two hours, and then put back into the rape again. They will get accustomed to it in two or three days. The stock trampling and manuring the land will make it very rich. It is very convenient and beneficial to have one half-acre of tares or vetches close to the barn to feed your horses when you have them in the stable; and if you wish to grow a little flax-seed you can put an acre in the barley field, as it will ripen the same time as the barley.

A LAND OWNER.

Co. Wentworth, April 8, 1864.

More about Growing Potatoes.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER :

SIR.—I have been very successful in raising sound potatoes, when my neighbours all around have suffered more or less with the rot, so much so that some of them had scarcely grown enough for their own family.

My method is as follows:—

In the first place I select a dry piece of ground, (my land is sandy loam,) draw out the manure in the autumn, and plough it in as soon as spread, the manure having been kept under cover all summer. In the spring when the other seeding is done, I cross plough and harrow the piece until the manure is thoroughly mixed, and the soil well pulverised. From the 20th to the 25th of May, I drill the land in the usual way, making each drill 3 feet wide. I then drop whole good-sized potatoes, blue, or white pink eyes, about 3 feet apart, then take a hoe and draw down enough of soil to cover the seed an inch or two deep. When the sprouts begin to peep through the covering, I take a light harrow and harrow the drills lengthways until the land is level. If any weeds have started, this harrowing will check their growth. When the plants are about 6 or 8 inches high, I ridge them up in the ordinary way, and afterwards take a hoe and cut the drills across so as to form a hill level on the top. From what has been stated it will be seen that the seed is deep in the ground, and this, in my opinion is one reason why they escape the rot, for it is invariably the case that all the diseased potatoes are near the outside, or top of the drills. I do not know how many of these rules might be changed or omitted and still a sound crop be raised, but I believe in letting well enough alone, and am content to leave others to try other experiments.

JAMES PETERS.

Speedside, Eramosa, April 15th, 1864.

The Potatoe Disease.

A correspondent sends us the following letter, which appeared recently in the *Yorkshire Gazette*, and which will, no doubt, be read with interest:—

SIR.—In the year 1848 and '49 my attention was directed to the cure of the potatoe disease, and my mode is this. Procure as many potatoe apples as you can get; dry them in the sun a few minutes, cast out all the bruised ones, place the rest in a strong earthen jar or box, bury them deep in the earth secure from frost, &c. In the spring have ready a plot of ground the same as you would prepare for onions; sow the potatoe apples thinly on the ground, just covering them with fine, rich soil. Prepare a second plot of ground, and when the plants are strong enough to pull up without breaking, transplant them into your prepared ground, as they spring up in myriads, and are liable to become entangled. Have your ground ready in rows in the usual way, and when the plants are strong, dibble them in, not too deep, taking care they get at the manure at once. When they have begun to grow a top-dressing of diluted liquid manure is the best that can be applied.

The result is curious and very gratifying. The plants grow strong and vigorous; they produce flowers, apples and potatoes; are ready for taking up quite as soon as those produced in the usual way. You will have three or four distinct specimens of new varieties, a better crop, one-fifth heavier in weight, a fine, clean skin and shapely appearance, and, in fact, quite a new and regenerated vegetable. To increase the varieties, take the apples grown on the first year's seedlings, and proceed as before. You will have three or four kinds—two of kidneys, and one or two white, blue and red. You can choose and cultivate such as suit you best. When my plan has been tried, it being of such immense benefit to the agricultural interest, I feel certain I shall not go unrewarded.

JOHN WARD.

York, March, 1864.

When to Sow Timothy Seed.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER :

SIR.—The usual plan is to sow timothy seed with other crops, where the half-smothered grass is expected to eke out a miserable existence for the first season. The next year it has the stubble and coarser weeds to deal with; and so has the mower as he learns to his cost. If you wish to cut Timothy next year, where you have wheat, barley, peas or oats; this year, you have only to turn over your land after the crop is harvested, pulverize the ground properly, and sow some of your seed about the first of September. The grass comes up, forms a coating and like fall wheat produces its crop the next year. When land is rough or too wet to produce other crops with advantage, a summer fallowing will be an admirable preparation. Lowland meadows may be made to produce perpetually, by turning over the soil every three or four years after mowing; harrowing it down and seeding as before. Fall seeding upon a dry soil, in a very dry autumn, is of course liable to failure, but not so much so as spring seeding usually is. It certainly smotheres the weeds more thoroughly, produces heavier crops of hay, and gives a better mowing surface. Fall seeding is no new idea, but with all its advantages is seldom adopted in this country. Clover sown in the fall is I think more liable to winter kill, than when sown earlier. Will some of our farmers give their experience upon this point?

TIMOTHY HAY.

Selecting Seeds.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER :

SIR.—No part of the farmer's labours require greater care and attention than the selection of seeds. Frequent change is necessary to ensure good crops, but there is always danger of introducing noxious weeds, when purchased from an unknown farmer and farm. The large seeds can be thoroughly cleaned before sowing, but in Hungarian grass, timothy, clover, carrot, &c., it is difficult to discover the "pests," and still more difficult to separate them. A friend of mine purchased Hungarian grass seed and sowed it on a clean orchard soil, in 1862; now he has a fair chance for a permanent crop of Canada thistles on the same. This is a plant that ripens about the same time as the thistle, therefore it is not safe to purchase seed from stores. Is it desirable to sow at all?

R. W. S.

Woodstock, April 2, 1864.

Subsoil Ploughs, &c.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER :

SIR.—"G. Y." of Ormstown, C. E., enquires in your issue of 15th March where a good subsoil plough, to be drawn by two or three horses, can be bought. Though not a manufacturer, I would inform him that Atkinson & Brother, of Lambton, eight miles west of Toronto, manufacture a subsoil plough at once cheap, light and strong. I think their price is \$11. I have used one of the same pattern for several years, which gives me full satisfaction. Their post address is Etobicoke, C. W. Peter Malaby, of Weston, manufactures a very substantial subsoil plough of wrought iron. It is very heavy, and I prefer the former. Having said thus much for the information of "G. Y.," I wish to enquire if you can give me a good and convenient plan of a cow-house, for say eight or ten cows? I wish to have a good sized hay-loft above; and can you give me the name of the best book on Rural Architecture?

Etobicoke, April 9, 1864.

W. A. W.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—We will try to furnish a plan such as our correspondent desires in a future illustrated article on Farm Architecture. There are several good works on Rural Architecture: Downing's Country Houses, Allen's Rural Architecture, and the complete volumes of the Rural Register, may all of them be safely recommended. Which is best depends upon our correspondent's means and wants.

Best Way of Making Drills for Root Crops.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER :

SIR.—This being the month for preparing the land and planting root crops, it is a matter worthy of consideration, when the ground is prepared for Swedish turnips, mangold wurtzel, &c., what is the best way to make drills, whether in the ridge or on the flat. Probably drawing the drills on the flat will less expose the young plants to the drouth of our hot sun, thereby giving the roots a better chance of growing quickly, which is the main object in the successful culture of these crops. It has been recommended that the drills should be drawn East and West of the land. This plan, during the hot summer months, would assist the crop, by one shading another, in the middle of the day; whereas, when the rows are not so drawn, the mid-day sun shines directly over all the land between the drills. Some intelligent farmers may think this hint worth a trial, as no extra expense is created in the culture, and if the crop by this mode should increase even one ton per acre, the benefit is clear.

J. B. M.

Cramahé, April 19, 1864.

Raising Turnip Seed.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER :

SIR. Spring is now coming in, and as I have been in the habit of growing my own turnip-seed for a number of years, I will give you my experience. In the fall of the year I select all the very best turnips I can get, with small tops, of round shape and thin skin; I then cut the loose top off, being careful not to cut the heart-leaves out. Last season I planted a patch 13 feet square; I raised from that 8 lbs. of clean seed. I preserve my turnips in the cellar all winter. As soon as the frost is out I plant them a foot apart, and then put a quantity of straw over them to keep them from the frost, they being tender. As soon as they commence to grow I take the straw off, put on a small quantity of plaster, and keep them free from weeds.

J. L.

Spring Tares.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER :

SIR.—Unfortunately, our climate is not suitable for the growth of winter tares; but this should not prevent farmers from growing spring tares more generally. On some soils they can be cut for soiling purposes as early as the 10th of June, and from that time till the last of August one acre will feed more cattle or horses than five acres of ordinary pasture; or, if it be a dry season, will produce twice or thrice as much hay as the same amount of grass land. If cut when the early pods are brown, a farmer can obtain as much seed as he requires with very little loss in the feeding qualities of the hay. If left for seed, twenty bushels would be about the average yield.

R. W. S.

Woodstock, April 2, 1864.