

### Saving Manure.

It is often remarked that those who farm near large cities must have great advantages over people at a distance, in the ease and cheapness with which they can obtain manure. We are not sure that this is so. We have seen many a country town where manure may be had nearly for the trouble of hauling, while the writer has had to purchase many a load for his land near Philadelphia at the rate of two dollars a horse. That is to say, four dollars for as much as two horses could haul away. Perhaps near these large cities we have a better idea of the value of manure than in many other places. We have learned that it costs no more for labor on rich land than on poor, and labor costs far more than manure—poor and dear even as labor generally is.

These remarks are introductory to the suggestion that it would pay many people to look more after saving manure than they do. Here we find it much to our interest. As a general rule we suffer no weeds to grow, but it very often happens in the hurry of spring work that the weeds get tremendously ahead, and if we had a weed law, and malicious neighbors near us to prosecute under it, we suppose we should very often get hauled up before the court.

When the season is somewhat wet, as the present one was with us, the weeds seem to run riot for a while. Before we could put the cultivator through some of our hood crops, the weeds were in many instances a foot high, and the first time the harrow went through there was little more impression made on them apparently than if it had been dragged through a clover field. A couple of times, however, tells the story; and our practice in these cases is to have the heavy weeds dragged together, often times by hand-raking, and hauled away to the compost heap. This we have done for some years, and believe it is a very profitable item in our experience.

Many are afraid of the seeds of the weeds, but the immense mass of vegetable matter we gather together soon ferments and heats, and most of the seeds are in this way destroyed. We suppose the labor of one man for three weeks is spent on this clearing up of coarse weeds, at a cost of about thirty dollars, while the manurial value of the material collected in that time is at least one hundred dollars to us.

Not perhaps just in this way, but in similar ones, many people would find it to their interest to look well after waste vegetable matter, with regard to the manure. Sometimes it may seem that there is little if any profit over the labor expended, but there will seldom be any actual loss, while the gain very often would be great.—*Forney's Weekly Press.*

### Oat and Wheat Stubble.

After harvest, on the stubble of grain crops where grass seeds were not sown in the spring, there generally arises an amazing mass of weeds, which to any tidy farmer must be an unsightly nuisance. As there is time enough for weeds to start up, grow to a great bulk, and produce seed in such quantities as to cover the ground, why should not something be grown which would be useful for live stock? Or if the farmer is one who does so little in that line that forage is of no account to him, why not grow something to sell? It seems as wasteful for any man to let his land do nothing but run to weeds through July, August, September and October, as it would through April, May, June and the beginning of July.

In England the grain crops are never harvested so early by a month, or the farmers there, instantly after the crop was removed, would plough and drill turnip seed with the drill machines which have been in universal use for fifty years, and which at the same time run into the channel some kind of artificial manure. Thus they would obtain a valuable root crop for their sheep; but as United States farmers keep none, excepting in some localities, and many of them there have so few as to make fields of turnips out of all question, it is necessary to think of some other crop to put in to prevent weeds taking possession of the soil. If the land in this country was kept up in the same high condition of fertility it is there, a crop of corn for fodder to be used through the winter could be grown; for if drilled in July, it would on rich land become of immense bulk by growing all August and September, and in early years there might be two or three crops' start in July. A crop of buckwheat, if only to plough under, would be better than nothing. There is also another crop which would be a dense mass of herbage, viz., rape, which is grown a good deal in Canada. This is in some places called colwort, or colseed.

It depends a great deal, of course, on the state of the land, on what animals there are to be fed, and

on what the land is intended to do the next year, whether one crop would be more advantageous than another, but in cases where clover or timothy have failed, a crop of something like clover would be desirable. *Trifolium incarnatum* would be a substitute, and in instances where there is not time to plough, it would be very convenient, for this seed is very sure to grow if there is only a little fine mould harrowed on the surface, just sufficient to cover the seed, which has to be sown about as thick as, or a little thicker than common clover. The finer the soil beneath the better. Between thirty and forty years ago it was introduced into England, the seed being very cheap, and it was sown extensively in some parts, to be penned off the same as vetches are, and it comes very early in the spring, and if used just as it is coming into bloom, and before the flowers fades it is exceedingly nutritious. It is extremely hardy, and grows a great weight of seed per acre, but dies away after the first crop, as peas, vetches &c. do. I have seen nothing of it in America, but it has been mentioned in one of the agricultural papers this summer, but I forgot which, and do not remember what was said about it.—*Cor Country Gentleman*

### Drilling Wheat vs. Broadcast Sowing.

The subjoined statement of the comparative merits of drilling and broadcasting is taken from the *Rural World*. The writer says.—

Let me offer my experience in wheat growing for ten years past—five years broadcast and five with the drill. The wheat sown was the Swamp or bearded Mediterranean. Soil, sandy loam. Number of acres experimented on, 100.

Yield from 1½ bushels seed per acre, sown broadcast and harrowed twice:

1861, 33 acres, 14½ bushels per acre.
1865, 35 acres, 15 bushels per acre.
1866, 50 acres, 16½ bushels per acre.
1867, 48 acres, 17½ bushels per acre.
1868, 40 acres, 18 bushels per acre.

Yield from 1½ bushels seed per acre, sown with drill:

1869, 32 acres, 21½ bushels per acre.
1870, 30 acres, 20 bushels per acre.
1871, 33 acres, 23½ bushels per acre.
1872, 42 acres, 24 bushels per acre.
1873, 22 acres, 25 bushels per acre.

Sown with drill eight inches apart and two inches deep. Land in 1871-72 broke twice—all harrowed before drilling, and all for ten years sown in September, and all but twice before Sept. 25.

The above shows an average of something over six bushels per acre in favor of the drill, or about \$3 per acre. I am firmly persuaded that, were two bushels sown per acre, the average would still be better, and would pay. I am going to try two bushels this year on fifteen acres, along with one and a third bushels on thirty two acres, and mark the result. If farmers could break their land twice, I am sure it would pay, indeed, I think the better order land can be placed in, the better it will pay. American farmers desire to farm more land than they can till well, because it is fashionable and looks grand. It is to be hoped that as we grow older we will grow wiser.

### Changing Seed.

A change of seed in agricultural operations is almost always beneficial. Growing the same crop in one locality from the same seed, year after year, often tends to deterioration. The advisability of this change of seed from one locality to another is well instanced in the oat crop. Seed grown in the cool atmosphere and soil of northern Vermont and Canada is found to grow more luxuriantly when re-sown in the middle and western states, and uniformly turns out heavier weight to the bushel. If the same seed is sown every year in the latter states, without new importation, the produce per acre and weight per bushel gradually deteriorate. The farmers of Bermuda always grow their potatoes from American seed, and never from their own seed. Hence they are able to attain a remarkable success in potato culture, such as we never know here. Vegetable seeds should be changed frequently, and obtained from localities remote from the farms where sown. The farmers of England, who raise excellent cereals, roots and grasses, are very particular in selection of seed, and procuring it from a foreign country, if possible, and in steeping it in liquid manure before sowing. In the north of Ireland, where flax is grown extensively, the farmers prefer seed brought from Russia or Holland to that grown by themselves, as they find the change very beneficial. The finest bulbous and tuberous rooted flowering plants are annually im-

ported into England, the United States, etc., from Holland and Germany; and the change is very beneficial for two or three years. Forest tree seeds obtained in the mountains of the Tyrol germinate in other parts of Europe with much greater vigor than those of home growth.—*Montreal Daily Witness.*

### Bogs.

Farmers well know how laborious it is to subdue a marsh covered with well developed bogs. Yet, when subdued, they make the best of mowing lands. Brain is of great value on a farm. One farmer used his brain to good purpose when he executed the process of leveling a large piece of the worst of bogs, thus. He cut a ditch through it in the dry season, then made a dam across the outlet of the marsh (which happened to be quite narrow), in this dam, near the bottom of his draining ditch, he constructed a gate for shutting off the water. During the fall and winter storms this was kept shut, until the whole marsh was flooded some three feet deep. The ice in this shallow and still pond froze to the depth of about two feet. He then opened the gate, drew off all the water, allowed the vast mass of ice to press upon the saturated and softened marsh, crushing down the bogs, and reducing the surface to the smoothness of a floor. In due season he broke it up and conquered it.

A SECOND CROP OF POTATOES.—It is said that what has been done can be done again. One of our gardeners dug his first crop of Early Rose potatoes all up by July 17, three or four years ago, and planted the same land again with old sprouted seed that had lain in his cellar. He put one eye in each hill, and when harvested, to the surprise of all, many of the potatoes weighed one pound each. Perhaps some of your readers would like to try the experiment.—*C. Spratt, Utica.*

TRAVELLING ON THE FARM.—Did any of your readers ever think of the amount of travel it takes to raise a crop of corn? I never saw an illustration in print, and I thought I would give you one. I have a 20-acre field, 40 by 80 rods. To break this up would take 166 miles, harrowing it, about 40 miles; furrowing out, 90 miles; planting, 45 miles, if with a planter, and if dropped and then covered, 90 miles. Thus you will see it takes about 800 or 900 miles of travel to raise twenty acres of corn, not counting going to or returning from the field. Besides, there are replanting, thinning, rolling, etc.—*Ind. Farmer.*

THE GRAIN COUNTRY of North America is far greater than many have supposed. The district of Manitoba, so called from a lake of that name in British America, which lies south-west of Lake Winnipeg, and is connected with it by the Dauphin River, has peculiar claims in this respect. It will soon be open for settlement. Its magnitude can be understood when we mention that the distance from the point where the Pacific Railroad will cross the Red River of the North to Lake Manitoba, is 360 miles, or about 600 from St. Paul, Minn. It is divided into thirty-two stations or places, the most of which are mostly new to the world, but will soon grow familiar by use. The included grain growing country scarcely yet entered upon is nearly 600 miles in width by 1,000 or more in length, full of prairies, navigable streams, great lakes and countless small ones, too numerous to designate on the maps of the country, and mineral wealth as yet unknown. A few pioneers only have gone into this rich agricultural country, but before many years have passed it will be the home of millions.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RED AND WHITE WHEAT.—It is said that the hard wheats are all natives of warm climates such as Italy, Sicily, and Barbary. The soft wheats are from more northern climates, such as England, Russia, Belgium, Denmark and Sweden. There is, however, one exception to this general rule, as the celebrated Polish wheat is hard, and for this reason it has been contended that it is not a native of Poland, but was introduced there from a milder climate. The English atmosphere is so humid that it is impossible to ripen wheat hard, but in many cases it requires artificial heat to harden it before it can be ground into flour. Different soils and climates materially change the nature and variety of wheat. The difference between red and white wheats is not in variety, but is owing chiefly to the variety of soil on which it is grown. A generous dressing of wood ashes applied to the growing wheat in the former part of the growing season will exert an excellent influence in rendering wheat of a lighter color than it would be without potash. Lime is excellent also for the same purpose.—*N. Y. Tribune.*