

### A Large Crop of Corn.

To show what has been done, and may be again perhaps, I refer to an old record. In 1820 my father prepared a field for corn, which had been in grass three years, and had been ploughed in the fall of 1819. It was manured in the spring and ploughed again. The corn—eight-rows yellow—was planted in drills, or rather dibbled by hand, the rows three and a half feet apart, and the kernels—one in a place—eight inches apart. The corn was dropped in place by children, as I well remember, the place for each kernel being marked by a wheel run along the furrow, with projections on the rim. If a kernel failed to come up it was replaced. Of course the land was well tilled with plough and hoe; there were no cultivators in those days. A good many suckers came up, and they were pulled off twice, also by the children. This, my father afterwards judged, was not necessary. The stalks were cut above the ears, as the practice universally was in those days.

When the corn was ripe, two acres of the field were measured, which were oblong in shape, and four rows, lengthwise of the pieces—two each side of the middle—were husked, shelled and measured, which showed as near as possible the produce of the acres. It was not yet time to harvest the whole. The yield of one acre was ninety-nine bushels and four quarts, and of the other acre the yield was ninety-four bushels and six quarts. The measurement was by a competent surveyor, and all the figures verified in order to be reported to the old Dutchess County Agricultural Society.

In 1822 my father prepared another field—six acres—by heavy manuring and once ploughing. The corn was planted in hills three and a half feet one way and two feet the other, with about three grains in a hill. The yield was not so completely measured as the other; only a small part of the field and crop were exactly measured. The showing of that measurement, and the final harvesting of the crop, was that the crop of the whole field was equal per acre to the best acre in 1820.

I hope it will not be suspected that the old farm is going down, because we do not get a hundred bushels of corn from an acre. We do not put all our manure on the best land now, and we raise good crops of corn and wheat where my father did not venture to sow wheat at all; and the product of grass is more than fourfold. And now I shall not be satisfied till I can do again what has been done. C. J.

### Hop Yards at Waterloo Village.

A correspondent of the *Guelph Mercury* gives the following account of Mr. George Moore's hop yards, which are located at Waterloo village, near Berlin, in the county of Waterloo:—

Your correspondent visited the above hop yards last week. Mr. Moore has 43 acres of land in three fields, some distance apart; 40 acres are under crop, and will yield over twelve tons of hops this season. In one field he has erected a fine brick building, containing three large dry kilns, 25 feet square, each one furnished with a stove capable of taking in five feet wood. These stoves are placed in the centre of the building on the earthen floor, with pipes equally distributed round the stove room, to convey the heat regularly to the hops in process of drying. The hops are laid on slats covered with canvas, about five feet higher than the furnace pipes. On these are laid the hops after picking, from 15 to 20 inches deep, and require from 12 to 18 hours to dry, when they are removed to the store room, with which two of the drying rooms are attached. This room is 30 by 40 feet. The other drying room is attached to a stove room, 30 by 30 feet, where the hops are allowed to remain two or three weeks before they are ready for being put in bales. The ground that below the store rooms is used for pressing the hops into bales of 200 lbs. Mr. Moore gives employment to a large number of hands, both men and women, during the spring and summer months. Early in the spring he employs from 30 to 40 men in grubbing and setting poles, for nearly six weeks, paying them \$1 12½ per day. When that part of the work is done, he then engages about 60 women and girls to train the plants, that is, to fasten the young shoots to the poles. When that is finished, he keeps about 30 of the women to haul hoe round the vines. These women receive 62½ cents per day. During the remainder of the season, until picking time, two teams are engaged ploughing and cultivating between the rows. Hop picking generally begins about the 25th of August, but this depends on the season. In picking, he employs from 300 to 400 hands, who have steady employment for two weeks. A good haul will pick

two boxes per day, each box making about 26 lbs. of dried hops. After picking, the hops are removed to the drying kilns, which are kept in operation night and day, when sufficient pickers can be obtained to keep them going. As Mr. Moore has had long experience in the business, and thoroughly understands the growing and saving of hops, he has a great number of local customers, thereby doing away with shipping to a foreign market altogether. The majority of hop growers have only one field or adjacent fields, when, if one is taken with blight, it is very apt to spread through the adjoining fields. Mr. Moore prefers 15 acre fields, situated some distance apart, for the reason that if one field should be destroyed by a storm or blight, the others might escape. Also one is more likely to have a variety of soil, so as to suit the different seasons.

### Value of Covered Manure.

At various times, says the *Philadelphia Press*, we have pointed out to our readers the profits resulting from covering manure, instead of allowing it to get soaked by the rains or dried by the sun, as is generally done. We have given this advice from what we have actually seen. When rough sheds have been built to cover the manure heap, the crops fertilized by this rule have been increased in productiveness sufficient to pay for the shed covering the first year. We had never seen any exact figures of the proportionate value of covered and uncovered manures that we remember until the following. They present the best statement possible, we think, of the advantages of the plan:

Four acres of good soil were measured; two of them were manured with ordinary barnyard manure, and two with an equal quantity of manure from the covered shed. The whole was planted with potatoes. The products of each acre were as follows:

Potatoes Treated with Barnyard Manure.	
One acre produced .....	272 bushels
One acre produced .....	282 bushels
Potatoes Manured from the Covered Shed.	
One acre produced .....	442 bushels
One acre produced .....	471 bushels

The next year the land was sown with wheat, when the crop was as follows:

Wheat on Land Treated with Barnyard Manure.	
One acre produced 41 bushels 10 pounds (of 61 pounds per bushel.)	
One acre produced 42 bushels 33 pounds (of 61 pounds per bushel.)	

Wheat on Land Manured from Covered Sheds.	
One acre produced 65 bushels 6 pounds (of 61 pounds per bushel.)	
One acre produced 53 bushels 47 pounds (of 61 pounds per bushel.)	

The straw also yielded one-third more upon the land fertilized with the manure from the covered stalls than upon that to which the ordinary manure was supplied. In view of these facts, we hope that our farmers will give this subject their full attention for their own benefit; and in making shelter or stalls for stock, it might be done with a view to the increase of manure under the cattle, as it is not removed before it is intended for use, if it is likely to remain there for months.

### Weeds on the Road Side.

There is a law in New York, we believe, that requires every roadmaster to see that the weeds along the roadside in the district over which he has jurisdiction are cut twice a year—that is, twice during the season of growth. In some road-districts and by some road-masters this duty is performed faithfully; but by the large majority no attention is paid to it.

Every good farmer is interested in the faithful enforcement of this law; because the roadsides are great weed-breeds and disseminators unless they are carefully kept clean in the manner described. The question of the tidy appearance of the roadsides is a secondary consideration. It is not probable that the law originated in the motive of tidiness, but as an economical measure—a means of protecting careful farmers from the carelessness or slovenliness of untidy neighbors.

Attention is therefore called to the fact that every roadmaster's warrant does or should contain this as one of his specified duties; and that if he does not discharge it he should be complained of to the road commissioners of the town.—*N. Y. World.*

### English Soil.

It is a matter of general knowledge that tile underdraining is much more popular in England than with us. It is not only in the matter of expense, but in the absolute benefits derived from the practice that a great difference exists. The comparative cost of underdraining here is much greater in comparison with the cost of the land than in England, and this chiefly because the price of labor and tile is so much against us. But even with these, the actual results of underdraining are not generally as they are represented to be in the Old World. There is no difference certainly in a wet piece of ground. Where the water lies in winter, and has to trust to evaporation to dry away, or in a marsh wet at all times, here as there underdraining pays. But they have found, at least so we are told, that it pays to underdrain any and all their lands, and it certainly does not do so here. And this paying is not meant wholly in a money sense, but that the same good results represented to follow the underdraining of comparatively dry ground in England, has not been seen here. The question arises whether there is not something wholly different in the mechanical structure of English soil. In recent reports from that country we note that frequent reference is made to the summer cracking of the land, and spoken of as if it was a general thing after every dry time. Of course every kind of soil that has clay in it cracks to some extent, but imagine cracks so that "everywhere young birds and animals fall into them and are destroyed!" Some are so large, says an English paper, that huge walking canes have been lost down them! We do not think anywhere in America soil behaves like this, even in the driest times, and it would seem to indicate that there may be something in the nature of the English soil which accounts for the difference in its underdraining results.—*N. Y. Times.*

### Drilling Wheat.

A singular discussion arose in the papers last fall as to whether there was really any advantage in the drill over broadcast sowing. It is strange to find such subjects come up. To experienced minds it is like arguing whether we had not better abolish reaping machines and return to the old cradle, if not indeed to the sickle at once. To us a more reasonable matter would be the width of the drills. We do not know of any extended and satisfactory experiments in the country, so as to test the matter beyond question. At any rate, what a foreigner would call very close sowing is the rule here. In England, however, where close calculation is much more the rule in farming among the more intelligent than with us, there is a growing feeling in favor of wide drills. Some set them as wide as ten inches, and the reports, especially this year, are generally in favor of the wide drills.

The great trouble with most of the experiments of this kind is, when made in experimental grounds, that they extend but over a single season, when it is only after trial through a series of years that a general rule can be formed. It makes a great difference, for instance, whether the experiments are made through a dry season or a moist one. In a dry season like the present, when there is a deficiency of moisture in the ground, a wide row will have the advantage over the narrow, as there would not be enough for all. In other seasons when there is more moisture, and enough for all, the result might favor closer rows. So also the nature of the soil might make much difference. A soil which does not dry out easily will permit of closer sowing. The one element of moisture for the growing crop alone makes a considerable element to be considered. Still an average of years would show what would be best on the whole, and we should like to see such figures.—*Germantown Telegraph.*

### Road-Dust.

The *American Agriculturist* strongly advises farmers to make a business of gathering up road-dust for use as an absorbent and fertilizer. It says:—

"This is the most convenient absorbent the farmer can command, and a few barrels of it will save a large amount of ammonia in the barnyard, the privy, and the stable. Hens should have a large open box full of it under cover, where they may dust themselves at their pleasure. It is an excellent thing to have in the stable, and, when saturated with urine, makes a valuable fertilizer. The fineness of the dust, continually ground by the iron tires and horse shoes, is one cause of its favorable action upon crops. That gathered from a clay soil is best—indeed sand, whether from the road or elsewhere, is of but little use as a desodoriser or absorbent."