To committeemen and salesmen of factories I would say, keep yourselves well advised as to the markets and what is doing, and be prepared to act when a buyer comes along. It is very annoying to come to a factory, examine the cheese, like them in every way, but on asking the price to be told that the committee will have to be called together before they can sell. If the patrons of a cheese factory must have a committee let that committee name one of their number as salesman, with full power to sell, but with the understanding that he consults the others. I would further add, sell your goods when they are fit to move, let the price be what it may, and you will find that you will do as well on the whole, if not better, than those who hold for better prices, for very often instead of better there is worse. Then, again, your goods are gone, you are relieved of any further trouble, you have your money and save all risks and shrinkage.

A Present to Every Subscriber.

We have imported some choice sugar-cane seed, which is claimed to be a valuable food for stock, an ornamental plant, and a fine shade. It will do to plant until the 10th of this month. It grows something like corn, but much taller. It can be sown broadcast, in rows or in hills. It must be cultivated when young.

To any or every one of our subscribers who wish to try it, we will mail a small packet, on receipt of your application, and one postage stamp for postage and packing.

We feel satisfied you would be pleased to see it growing. You might plant it either on the farm or in the garden, or any place where it would get plenty of sun. It would look well near the lawn, or to cover some rough, unsightly places. It must be cut before it becomes woody, if you wish to try it for food for stock. It may become of value as a soiling crop, and as such several of our exchanges speak of it in the most commendatory manner.

Patent Rights.

The latest invention we have seen in the way of patents and patent vendors was a real live Yankee woman, who was on the market square in this city with a patent churn. It might serve some of our bachelors right if they were caught, but to those that have purchased the fanning-mill right or any other patent have most probably had experience enough. Our advice to our farmers is, never purchase patent rights, although a fortune be made to loom in view. The price which is asked is $400 or $500 per county. Remember there are over three thousand patents out on churns.

Notes on the Garden and Farm.

ROTATION OF CROPS.—As desirable as rotation in office may be, in cannot be more so than a judicious rotation of crops on the farm. No matter how fertile the soil, it is conceded that constant cropping with one, two, or three kinds of grain, will wear out the land. All good farmers concede that a proper rotation of crops, including the grasses, should be followed. Chemists inform us that the nutriment of food-producing plants is taken in part from the soil in solution through the roots, and partly from the air throght the leaves, and therefor that suitable food must be provided, or a manifest deterioration will result. The good farmer, while he aims to produce the largest crops at the least expense, will also be careful to keep up the fertility of the soil by a judicious retation of crops, supplemented by the application of manures to the land.

THE VEGETABLE MARROW AS A WINTER VEGETABLE.—Why do we only grow this really serviceable vegetable for summer consumption, and not seek to produce a crop for winter use? Is there a prejudice against it when in a ripe form, or does this negligence arise from that indifference for new things that is so much the characteristic of the English people? It took a long series of years to teach our ancestors the great value of the potato as an article for winter consumption, and now we realizise its value in the greatest degree. It cannot, however, be denied that we have in the potato an exceedingly uncertain crop—one on which no positive reliance can be placed—as a full and complete crop is now the exception, and possibly a very sparse crop may some day become the rule. The severe check that the potato has received during the last two years is, I fear, begining to shake the confidence the growers had reposed in it; and should it at any time prove to be a general failure, it would not be merely a severe loss to the potato-growing community, but a heavy national misfortune also. To advise the cultivation of the marrow for the production of a winter crop is thing new; but the advice is just as strongly needed now as it has ever been in days past; and although it would be absurd to set up the marrow as having pretentions to fill the place now orcupied by the potato, yet it may well become a valuable adjunct to our somewhat sparse winter vegetable supply, as it is ridiculously easy of cultivation, easy to store, and are easy to cook.—*The Gardener's Magazine*.

DEEP OR SHALLOW WHEAT CULTURE.— Mr. Mechi has been in the habit of cultivating wheat after the mangel, kohl-rabi, cabbage and turnips. For the preliminary crop he subsoils deeply and manures heavily, but for the subsequent wheat crop he breaks the ground only with a single plowing with one pair of horses. He finds that deep cultnre just before wheat sowing enlarges the straw product at the expense of the grain. The heavy foliation of the plant is often very deceptive in regard to its yield, while light-looking fields generally produce largely in quantity and of very superior quality. He quotes Liebig in support of his views as follows: "But in proportion as the conditions for the formation of the straw became favorable, so did the quality of the seed deteriorate as the quality diminished." He cites the practice of some successful farmers, who, on finding their crops too rank, trod them with men and horses. Salt stiffens the straw and checks a rank vegetation, but it should be used in moderation. He always scattered it in connection with guano. *Dep. of Agr. Report.*

One word of caution as to relying solely upon gypsum as a fertilizer. Excellent as it is, land must have something else, or it will finally run down. Plants require at least a dozen elements in order to live and thrive, whereas gypsum furnishes only three, sulphur, oxygen and lime. When plaster first came into fashion in this country such were its magical effects that many farmers thought they could sell all their hay and still keep up their farms by purchasing yearly a ton or two of plaster. They found themselves deceived. The phosphorus, potash, soda, etc., were in a few years exhausted, and a prejudice arose against plaster, which it did not deserve. It was accused of being merely a stimulant to land, enriching the father and impoverishing the son. Rightly used, it is one of the cheapest commercial fertilizers used, and will enrich both father and son. If hard-wood ashes can be bought for twenty cents per bushel, they deserve to be ranked No. 1, as they contain all the inorganic elements of plant life, but even in this case we would like to mix some plaster with the ashes.

WHAT MAY BE DONE BY PLANTING.—We notice that the timber on a part of the Cawdor Estate, in Scotland, has been sold for more than £16,000 sterling. It occupied only some 300 acres of hilly ground, which has no value for agricultural purposes. It was planted 56 years ago, and has in that time become worth more than £50 per acre, besides the money which has been realized from time to time by the sale of the wood cut for clearings. Are there not a great many places in Canada where plantations of suitable trees would create, with little subsequent trouble, a large sum of money for children, as certainly as assurance. We are inclined to think that many landholders might usefully and profitably plant portions of their property, and though they rarely enjoy the benefit themselves, except in the way of an increase in the value of the investment, they would have the satisfaction by this means of making an excellent provision for their families.

GREAT LOSS OF CATTLE.—Mr. Andes Smith, Dereham, near Ingersoll, has sustained a very severe loss in his herd of cattle by the death of fourteen head. Several veterinary surgeons have been called in to examine into the cause and nature of the disease, but as yet have great difficulty in agreeing upon it. Thi disease commences by swelling in the upper part of the legs and descends to the lower parts, when they break out in sores. The tails of the animals also drop off within about seven inches of the stump. The malady broke out about six weeks ago, since which time fourteen head of valuable cows have died and four are now sick. Singular to state, although the cows have been all more or less affected, a bull which has had the same treatment and shelter, has shown no sighs of disease, and none of the herds of neighboring farmers have been affected.

The District of Tevitsdale, Scotland, has been suffering from an extraordinary scourge of mice, supposed to be the consequence of an indiscriminate slaughter of hawks and other birds of prey having disturbed the balance of nature, and allowing the mice to multiply without restraint. The Scotch, naturally a shrewd people, have concluded that the hawks, being comparative few, consume less of the products of the earth than the innumerable hosts of mice, and have reversed their course of action. The Duke of Buccleugh's head gamekeeper has accordingly got orders that hawks and other birds for the future be preserved, that they as was their habit, aid in the destruction of the vermin of the farm.

Advices from Australia to the 26th of February state that £20,000 have been subscribed by stockholders towards £25,000, the estimated cost of shipping to England 200 tons of fresh meat under the freezing process of Mr. Thomas Mort, who during the past ten years had invested a considerble amount of capital in testing and maturing his plans and erecting very substantial factories, both in the Blue Mountains and at Sydney. The Government statistics show there were in Australia, and Tasmania on December 31st, 1867, 38,866,093 sheep and 3,574,133 cattle; at the close of 1875, the number of sheep had increased to 50,566,928, and of cattle to 5,643,091.

SOIL PROTECTION.—John Beard, of Alameda Co., Cal., is one of our best farmers. Finding he could spare a portion of his land, he leased part of it to a neighbor, who planted it in corn, beans and potatoes; the lease being up, Mr. Beard plowed the land as usual, and sowed it all in wheat. That planted with corn produced very little wheat, the straw was short and burned by the sun; but where beans had been planted it did a little better, while that part which had been planted in potatoes produced a splendid crop of wheat. He cannot explain it, but gives the information for the benefit of farmers, who can experiment for themselves.—*Ex.*

The *California Live Stock Journal* says of rust: Rust is likely to attack wheat fields in seasons when there is much moisture, producing a rank, tender growth of straw. Morning fogs, which wet the growing grain and then clear up suddenly, exposing the still wet fields to a hot sun, also showers and sunshine immediately following, are favorable to the germination and growth of the fungus rust. As a preventative, a bushel of salt to the acre, sown upon the growing grain, is good. As a general thing, when the rust once shows itself, it is safer to cut the wheat for hay before it is entirely ruined.

Gypsum is often used extravagantly. It does not follow that if 100 pounds of gypsum to the acre will increase the crop of clover by a ton that 1,000 pounds will add ten tons to the yield. The rule of three does not work in the plaster business. Homeopathic doses of plaster is the rule. Possibly 300 pounds to the acre may be allowed when plaster is cheap, but if it costs half a cent or more a pound, we would call it wasteful to use over 200 pounds per acre, and we have seen great effects from 100 pounds. The latter amount will furnish forty-six pounds of sulphuric acid, and few crops will carry off this much acid from an acre.

Complaints are general of the Exhibition Railroad rates. There is great dissatisfaction with the smallness of the regular rates. "A reduction of 50 per cent. is usually deducted to conventions, country fairs and similar gatherings of the people, but now, when it is especially desirous that as large a number of the people as possible attend the National Exhibition, a miserable reduction of twenry-five per cent only is made on the roads."