

ous bodies, the supply of sulphur for the same, and finally, the supply of lime. But why it should cease to do good, is a question that has been answered only hypothetically. We may suppose that in the first place the soil requires, at the time, no additional matter which plaster itself can furnish; it is in this case a negative. When it ceases to do good at the end of a few years, it may be from exhaustion, that is, the soil originally light may be deprived of phosphoric acid, of chlorine, of magnesia, or soluble silica and the alkalis particularly, at a much earlier period than if plaster had not been used. It has aided in the removal of a much larger quantity of inorganic matter, different from itself, in less time than if it had not been employed. If a crop is increased one third, it has taken up one third more of the potash of the soil than would have been obtained without it. If this be true, we may see that the further use of plaster will be worse than useless.

There is nothing plainer than this, that every element which is found in a plant, in analysis, is necessary to its constitution, and is liable to be removed in a series of cropping. This leads to the necessity of supplying it directly, but what element or elements may be wanting can be known for a certainty only by analysis. In plaster sickness, therefore, our remedies need not be hypothetical, if we pursue the method proposed; analysis will reveal the cause of plaster sickness, and probably any other sickness which follows from constant cultivation.—*Farmer and Mechanic.*

CORN TOPS FOR CATTLE.

Those farmers who are in the practice of topping their corn will find it to their advantage to let milk cows have a good supply while they are green. By throwing out a good supply of the tops now, the fall feed will hold out better, and as much hay may be saved in this way as by drying the stalks and putting them into the barn.

At this season cattle eat the butts clean, and no part is wasted, but when they are dry, not one half is eaten. The juices are gone and cattle care but little for anything but the leaves. By throwing them to cows as soon as they are cut, the whole labor of drying, and tying, and picking, and housing is saved.

Some farmers complain that when they throw out stalks to their cows in pasture they are unwilling to eat anything else, and hang around the place where the tops are thrown waiting for more.

This trouble may always be avoided by having a set time for feeding. Let the stalks be strewn around in a certain place in the pasture early in the morning, and let the cows see nothing more of them through the day. Then they will go off and feed on grass as usual, not expecting anything else till another day.

It is easier to save the fall feed in a good condition till late in the fall, than it is to save the tops in a good condition to increase the milk of the cows.

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT.—A member of the Agricultural Society of Brest, lately sowed some wheat, without preparatory ploughing or digging, and covered it with fresh straw, after having walked over it to press the grain down. The product is said to have been superior in quantity and quality to wheat raised in the ordinary way from the same amount of seed, and the soil was of the worst kind. The same experiment, with wheat and other grains, has often been tried before, and with apparently similar results; but the result has never proved sufficiently advantageous to induce farmers to abandon the established mode of cultivation.—*American paper.*

MESLIN.—In the Eastern and Northern portions of the United States, it is a common practice to sow broadcast, a mixture of peas and oats, which, ripening together, are mown and saved as provender; and very strong and excellent food for horses does this *Meslin*—as it is called—afford. The seed are threshed out and led separately from the stems and straw which last make good fodder. The pea generally chosen for this crop, is the green pea from Canada, which ripens about the same time with the oats; whilst growing the oats act the part of supporters. Peas and oats are often ground together as food for fattening cattle, and are considered valuable, though not perhaps so as unmixed Indian meal. Forty bushels of peas and oats per acre is reckoned a large crop. The common proportions sown are one-fourth peas and three-fourths oats, but some farmers sow at the rate of one third peas and two-thirds oats.—*Philadelphia Model American Courier.*

A REASONABLE CAUTION.—As the grain threshing season is now at hand, it may be deemed necessary advice to caution those who have the charge of threshing machines to be careful in the use of them. Not a season passes over, in which we are not called upon to record some painful accident by the recklessness with which they are sometimes attended. Only last week, a man by the name of James Hall, in Queen Anne's county, Maryland, had his right hand torn off while feeding a threshing machine, and to save his life his arm had to be amputated near the shoulder. An admonition like this should not be disregarded.—*Germanstown Telegraph.*

News.

RIOT.—On Sunday afternoon last, the Quebec Suburbs was the scene of much riot, confusion and bloodshed. It appears that one of those pugnacious juvenile fights which are too common between boys of different schools, or different neighborhoods, took place. In course of time, parties arrived at more years, but void of discretion, took part in it, and the fight became general. The police came to the rescue, but not until two or three hours had been spent fighting, and much mischief had been done. The ringleaders are in custody. At a later period the same evening, after a drinking bout, the fight became renewed, and with more serious results. We regret to hear that Sergeant O'Brien, a very efficient Police officer, has been dangerously wounded. Many of the rioters have been apprehended, and the Police are on the track of others.—*Montreal Herald of Tuesday.*

LAUDABLE.—We understand that the Hatters and Furriers have unanimously agreed to close their respective places of business at 7 o'clock, p.m. during the winter, commencing on Monday evening next, the 13th inst. Customers will please remember this, and facilitate such a desirable arrangement, by making their purchases before six o'clock.—*Pilot.*

MURDER AT SHEFFIELD.—On Friday last, we understand a murder was committed in the township of Sheffield on a person of the name of George Townsend, who was shot in the course of a drunken quarrel. Two persons were arrested on the Coroner's warrant and sent to Kingston in charge of only one constable; but on reaching the neighborhood of the town, the prisoners escaped from the custody of the constable, and have not since been heard of. Their names are John and Thomas Kennedy.—The Sheriff has offered a reward of £50 for their apprehension.—*Kingston News.*

SCHOOL EXAMINATION.—On Tuesday last, an examination of the Dundas Common School, under the tutorage of Mr. Calder, took place, in presence of P. Thornton, Esq., District Superintendent, and a few others. The number of scholars usually in attendance, we are told, ranges from 125 to 140; of these about 65 are well advanced in the principal branches of an English education, and the remaining portion in the juvenile departments. 30 are free. The class was submitted to a close examination by their teacher, and also by Mr. Thornton, at the close of which the latter expressed himself greatly pleased with the proceedings of the day, but regretted that so few were in attendance. He exhorted the scholars to be diligent in the acquirement of knowledge, urging on them the growing importance of education; and concluded by expressing his regret that the services of so able a teacher as Mr. Calder were not better appreciated.—*Dundas Warder.*

ACCIDENT AND LOSS OF LIFE.—We regret to learn that an accident attended with the loss of human life occurred on board the ill-fated steamer *Comet*, on her last trip up from Montreal. The casualty occurred on Sunday morning at a very early hour; by some accident, the cause of which it was difficult to ascertain, a large quantity of steam escaped from the boiler, scalding two men to death, and a third in a very serious manner. The name of one of the men killed is Mathew Nolan, and he was one of the firemen of the boat, the names of the other two injured we have been unable to learn. An inquest was held by Mr. Coroner Duggan on one of the bodies shortly after the arrival of the boat, in this city on Sunday morning, and a verdict recorded in accordance with the facts. It is but right to state that no blame whatever attaches to the officers of the *Comet*, who were all at their posts at the time this melancholy accident took place.—*Toronto Globe.*

CREDITABLE.—At the recent Perth Assizes there were but two civil suits tried, and not one criminal case in a district containing