## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

### Turnip Cultivation.

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#### Farmers are now engaged actively, and, no doubt, also somewhat anxiously, in sowing the turnip crop. One of the most essential and valuable, the root crop is certainly one of the most costly and troublesome commonly grown. There is hardly any other crop that demands as much attention and for which skillful and liberal farming is so absolutely necessary. In the first place, land intended for turnips re-

In the first place, land intended for turnips requires very thorough cultivation. For turnips the soil can be neither too finely reduced nor too o'ean. Thorough cultivation economises manure, and minimises insect and fungoid attacks ; for it tends greatly to accelerate growth and to strengthen the constitutional vigor of the plant, valuable safeguards against the "fly," and "finger-andtoe." Weeds rob the land of its supply of plant food, withdrawing costly nourishment from the sown crop. Farmers as a rule are not so careful in keeping down and eradicating weeds as they ought to be. A little extra labor timely devoted to this work would result in great advantage to the farmer. And this remark applies with equal force to all crops, to pasture and meadow lands as well as to grain and root fields. By the rag weed alone terrible injury is done to pasture land. Avoid working turnip land while it is wet.

The manuring is an important matter, in regard to which there is still much to be learned. We know a vast deal more about the exhaustion and nourishment of soil then our forefathers did, and yet the glimmerings the general body of farmers have got into the mysteries of these and other difficult problems of a similar kind, have done little more than enabled them to realise more clearly the great deficiency of their knowledge of the ever active and unvarying natural laws that relate to plant and animal production. It is the prevailing practice to apply along with the turnip crop the main portion of the manure for the whole rotation. This, of course, adds to the difficulty of selecting a perfect mixture. Good farm-yard dung makes an excellent foundation. With a tolerably liberal dressing of it, from 15 to 25 tons per statute acre, a light dose of artificial manure should suffice, say from 4 to 6 cwt. phosphatic manure-dissolved bones or superphosphates.

The drills for turnips need not be more than 27 inches wide. Many prefer them less. Some years ago there was a tendency in favor of wide drills and of having the plants left far apart. The object, of course, was to encourage the growth of heavy bulbs. Recent experience, however, particularly where careful observation has been maintained, has shown that medium drills and medium thinning are preferable. The greater number of bulbs make up for any falling off in individual weight, and the quality of moderately sized bulbs is, as a rule, found to be superior to that of those exceptionally large. For swedes the distance between the plants may from 10 to 12 inches, and for yellows from 8 to 10 inches. About 3 lbs. of seed is sufficient for the acre. Some give one pound or a pound and a half more, with the view of helping to ward off the "fur" Thick source the pound and the source of the acre. Thick sowing has certainly been found useful for this; but as the plants come up weakly and spindly where the seed is over abundant, early attended to. It is impor tant that if possible the sowing should be done during moist weather, as brairding is thereby hastened. Keep down weeds in the drills by hand and horse hoeing-operations that greatly promote the progress of the crop.-[Exchange.

### A Popular Corn House.

This style of corn house is approved by many. It is only connected at the bottom by doors, consequently the wagon is drawn in the building and between the two cribs. It is supported on eight



pillars, all wooden (see plan of floor); should be one foot and a half in diameter, and stand upon stone blocks to prevent decay. The sides, as shown in the elevation, are covered with slats two and one-half inches wide, with one-half to threequarter inch cracks. When siding (vertical) up a building of this character, it is best to nail the lower part of each slat firmly to the sill and plate, two nails at each point in every slat, as it will add half to the strength of structure. In all cribs the inside slats should run horizontally.



## **Permanent Farm Improvements.**

July, 1883

#### BY D. D. T. MOORE.

Every owner and cultivator of a farm should aim to make, each year, some permanent improvements thereupon. Whether his acres be few or many, they may be enhanced in value by making additions and improvements in the way of good buildings and fences, the planting of fruit gardens and orchards, the clearing and draining of land, and adopting other measures to render his premises more attractive and productive. The appearance of a farm often makes a great difference in the price which it will bring when offered for sale, for in purchasing a homestead, even more than in many other matters, the old adage holds true that most people judge by appearances. Hence a good, neat and convenient dwelling house and outbuildings, with fences, shrubbery, flower and vegetable gardens and orchards to correspond, always tend to materially enhance the value of one's premises.

enhance the value of one's premises. But there are other items of equal if not greater importance in estimating the intrinsic value of a farm, and the first of these is its fertility or productive capacity. The man who augments the productive power of his acres by increasing their yield annually, thereby adds materially to their money value and advances the real worth of his premises correspondingly. This is a matter to which too little attention is given by many, if not the great majority, of cultivators—for they go on carelessly and negligently allowing their soil to deteriorate from year to year, whereas by adopting improved methods of culture and management the result would be increase of fertility and productiveness. And this unwise and profitless course is pursued from want of energy and enterprise, rather than lack of knowledge, for of many easy-going slow coaches, who ignore progress and improvement in their farming operations, it may be truly said that

They know the right, and they approve it too, Condemn the wrong and still the wrong pursue.

Let us urge upon all engaged in rural pursuits the advantage of making, every season, such permanent improvements as will tell in the future. In what directions this may be done we have already suggested. Just what improvements shall be inaugurated, or how they shall be carried out, each person must determine for himself, taking into consideration his circumstances and the condition better buildings or fences, or both; another en-richment of the soil by manuring, rotation of crops, etc., while the great necessity of another may be surface or underdraining. On many farms, the conveying of water, through pipes or logs, to dwelling, barn, etc., will prove a most valuable permanent improvement, while the arrangement of convenient watering places for stock (in barnyard, and pastures also where practicable) should not be overlooked. But we need not enumerate or par-Every farmer, whatever his specialty ticularize. -whether it be grain growing, dairying, grazing, fruit raising, or some other branch of husbandry-knows what is his most urgent need in the line of betterments," and should make efforts in that direction. The purpose of this article is to arouse those interested to the importance of instituting permanent farm improvements, and we are confident that if our readers give the subject consideration now they will ere long take such action as will prove advantageous. Those who look to the advancement of their best material interests are earnestly requested to give the matter such thought as will be likely to lead to decided action in the direction of our suggestions.

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There are over 80,000,000 seeds in a bushel of red-top seed, over 26,000,000 in a half bushel of timothy, and about 3,000,000 in ten pounds of clover seed. As this is about the amount usually sown to an acre, it follows that we put in 110,-000,000 seeds to an acre, or about 2,500 seeds to the square foot. This seems a great many, but as a square foot of turf in an old pasture has been found to have over 1,000 plants, and a square foot in a meadow that was irrigated and carefully manured had 1,798 plants, hence, making due allowance for that which falls upon stony and barren places, and that which is gathered by the fowls of the air, and for the poor seed and that which is buried too deeply to germinate, it is not probable that the above quantity is any too much.

The use of commercial fertilizers hastens the ripening of crops a week or ten days, hence they are especially important on late-planted corn or potatoes. In the frame plan the manner of framing the bents is shown. The attic is large, the corn being handed up from the wagon through the scuttle in the centre of the floor, which is partly laid with slats. During the season of corn gathering the farmer is often hurried, so that the corn is not sorted in the field. In that case it may be placed upon the floor of the attic, and sorted evenings or rainy days, the sound corn being passed down into

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#### WAGON PASSAGE

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the cribs through openings in the floor made for that purpose. This floor is reached by stairs hung with a hinge, so as to swing up and fasten. When down the lower end rests upon the walk; or permanent stairs may be built from the crib, bottom upward, reaching these from the ground by one or more transferrable steps.

I am well pleased with your paper, THE FARM-ER'S ADVOCATE. Every word of it is readable and useful. THOS. HASSARD, Caledonia, Ont.

A CATERPILLAR PEST.—Caterpillars in great numbers have put in their appearance in Colchester and other neighboring counties of Nova Scotia, and have even been in such masses on the railway tracks as to impede trains. They have stripped much vegetation in the suburbs of Halifax city. Many fields of potatoes have been destroyed. The slender worm is about an inch long, completely eating the core out of them. It has been observable also in this vicinity that great quantities of leaves have fallen from the trees, which is attributable to the operation of some kind of worm.

A correspondent pleads for restoration of the hollyhocks—for which fashion has substituted heavy-headed sunflowers. When well grown, in soil deeply trenched and made rich with manure worked in, it ranks among the most stately of autumn flowering plants.