

cautions are not used in the way of saving of seed. It is not improbable that much bad seed has been sent out for *Raphanus caudatus*, and that in this way the attempts to introduce a new and valuable salad have been neutralized.—Ed. J. A.]

RASPBERRY CULTURE.

These should be planted from three to four feet apart, if the canes are sufficient in number and in length. One-half of the canes should be taken from one stool, and placed with a half of another stool, and be tied together, a stake driven down in the middle being the support. They will then form an arch, which should be continued throughout the rows. I ought, however, to have first said that five or six stout canes are enough to leave when thinning them out. I find this plan of arching them better than tying them upright. My reasons are—1st, the stake cannot injure the roots when driven down; 2nd, the fruit is more easily gathered, and has a better chance of ripening; 3d, the young wood for the next year's supply can be more easily taken away, and will be more exposed for ripening the wood than if growing around the fruiting canes. These plants like good deep soil, and good mulchings with manure from a pigstye. They like to make roots near the surface of the soil; therefore, the less they are disturbed the better.

Communications.

HEMP, MAST, &c.

Halifax, 4th March, 1870.

I am pleased to see that your Board is taking some steps for the encouragement of Hemp cultivation, and trust some good will come of it, though I think the Government will make a mistake if it does not provide the necessary machinery in a few favorable localities.

I am sorry there is no Bureau of Acclimatization, as well as of agriculture. Does it not properly belong to the functions of your Board?

The planting of mast bearing forest trees does seem not at all to attract the attention of the people in these provinces, and they remain in ignorance of its great importance. A few seed put into the ground would in time yield an immense profit. I have already called your attention to the Chestnut, Walnut, and Filbert, as among the trees well suited to this climate. Unfortunately, our climate will not suit the Palm, one of the most profitable of trees; but I read in Somerville's Physical Geography, page 349, Philadelphia edition, 1850:—"Large forests of *Araucaria imbricata* grow in the Andes of Chili and Patagonia. This

tall and handsome Pine, with cones the size of a child's head, supplies the natives with a great part of their food. It is said that the fruit of one large tree will maintain eighteen persons for a year."

If this tree thrives in Patagonia, it ought to do well here. Why not try it? The province is not too poor to do it, and I trust our legislators are not too shortsighted and mean.

I well know that your time is fully occupied, and with matters which you may deem more profitable; but I feel sure you will excuse my calling your attention to matters which in the end may be quite important.

Are you going to be able to induce your Board to put up a set of Hemp-cleaning machinery at Bedford, or some place equally convenient to us?

WILLIAM GROVE.

[We cordially thank Mr. Grove for his valuable suggestions, and hope they will receive attention. The *Araucaria imbricata* was destroyed by frosts in Scotland a few years ago, and is too tender, we fear, for our Nova Scotian winters.—Ed. J. A.]

EARLY POTATOES.

By Alfred Saunders.

THE FOUR BEST VARIETIES IN CULTIVATION.

"*Climax*" seedling of Early Goodrich originated with D. S. Hefron, Esq., in 1864.

Description—Stout, erect stalk, large leaves, tuber medium sized, smooth, form cylindrical, eyes shallow but strongly defined, skin russet netted, flesh white and solid, boils quickly, no hard core, is mealy and of floury whiteness, superior table quality, as productive as early rose, but a few days later, earlier than the "Goodrich," while keeping qualities are as good as "Peachblows."

Bresee's Prolific.—This remarkable variety originated with Albert Bresee, Esq., of Hubbardston, Vt., who was also the originator of the justly celebrated "Early Rose;" both varieties produced from the same seed-ball of the "Garnet Chili."

Vines medium height, bushy and spreading, tubers large and regular in shape, smooth, slightly oblong, skin inclined to russet, eyes little depressed, and slightly pinkish, flesh white, very mealy, and of excellent quality, yield very large, after exceeding one hundred fold, a most valuable variety.

The Rev. C. Granger, of Hubbardton, Vermont, says:—"I planted two rows of 'Bresee's' Prolific' across my garden, which yielded me nine bushels."

Worcester, or Rieley, has proved to be mealy, dry, and of most delicate flavor, fair size, roundish, colour light pink,

flesh very white, skin thin, eyes very deep, and of superior quality, will mature in ninety days and yield enormously, and will be found dry and mealy, when but two-thirds grown.

Early Rose.—This popular potato has proved all that was claimed for it, when offered last spring. It is very productive, and produced with us in Halifax, under ordinary culture, fifty fold.

Skin, a dull rose; flesh white, and one of the best varieties for flavour, in cultivation—highly recommended for its earliness, being at least two weeks earlier than the "Goodrich," and on account of its large uniform size and productiveness.

The Rev. Arthur Wilkins, Book Rectory (England), says:—"I cut the one pound of 'Early Rose' into forty-two (42 sets); the produce was 105 lbs. 12 oz. I never ate a better potato."

[Specimens of the above were shown at the recent meeting of Board of Agriculture, from Mr. Saunders, who has them for sale.—Ed. J. A.]

NORWAY OATS—LUCERNE.

Yarmouth, March, 1870.

Your reference to us for Norway oats led to numerous applications, from Societies mostly. The bulk of them we have engaged to Avery, Brown & Co., (30 bushels), who will be situated favorably for distributing them. We have none now not promised. I would like to say this to all who try them the coming season:—when you sow in your field, try, say two ounces, in a sheltered part of your garden, in good, deep, drained soil. Sow 12 inches apart, in drills, 12 inches apart. The yield will be from one to two bushels. In field culture, the nearer approach you make to these conditions, the nearer approach you will make to the crop.

DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING OF LUCERNE?

Several articles have been recently published in the "Country Gentleman," which have claimed the first place for it as a soiling plant, and for hay; that one acre will keep five cows from 1st May to 1st October; and that an authenticated crop of twenty-five tons of hay to the acre in one season is on record; that there is no better food for stock, cows yielding more milk from it than from any other grass, &c. In a recent order for seed, I did not omit lucerne.

I shall try to persuade some of our sea-shore farmers to give hemp a trial this season. Many of them are within easy reach of inexhaustible quantities of sea manure.

CHARLES E. BROWN.