

tion, and had done his best to give some one a handsome yield of potatoes, yet, with his well-known views concerning the injurious tendency of all forms of games of chance in which one man's luck is another man's loss, he could accept only those grown upon his own plot; and as parties had expressed a desire to secure seed for planting from these trial lots, he would direct that they be sold at auction, the proceeds to be placed in the treasury of the Club, to be used toward paying for a lecture during the coming winter. The other competitors agreeing to the same arrangement, the whole lot was sold, netting to the Club the sum of \$11.47, thus closing a competitive trial in which valuable experience had been gained by all and without loss to any. The following is the

STATEMENT OF A. W. CHEEVER.

The land on which I grow the trial rod of potatoes has been under cultivation several years, producing chiefly forage crops. Last year it produced a crop of rye fodder and a crop of oat fodder, and these were followed by a crop of barley, each crop being manured either with stable manure or commercial fertilizers. The soil is a heavy loam exposed to the east, quite moist early in the season, so that an early ploughing caused it to form somewhat into lumps, which remained unpulverized during the season. It was ploughed but once this year, a light coat of stable manure being turned in about seven inches deep. This was somewhat mixed with the soil by deep cultivation after ploughing. The rows were marked out with a large cultivator tooth about eighteen inches apart, run quite shallow, so that the potato sets, when planted, were scarcely below the surface of the ground.

Before planting, about 800 pounds of guano, and 400 pounds of sulphate of potash, per acre, were spread broadcast over the furrows. The seed was prepared by exposure several days to a strong light, to start the sprouts into a short healthy growth. When ready to plant, single eyes were cut from the seed, selecting only those which were well started and of good strong appearance. Most of the eyes were cut from the stem end or middle of the potato, where considerable potato could be taken out with each eye. As they were cut, they were laid in a basket, with plaster dusted over them in sufficient quantity to cover the cut surface, and to partially protect the sprouts from bruising while being handled. The pieces were dropped singly, and about fourteen inches apart, the whole amount of ground planted in this way being from two to three rods.

The sets were covered by hand not over an inch deep. Just as the shoots were

breaking ground, the plot was dusted over with guano, at the rate of 200 pounds per acre, and then raked into the soil with a garden rake, killing, at the same time, all the small weeds which had started. As the potatoes were so near the surface, and so thickly planted, it was found impracticable to hill them in the ordinary way, so the ground was mulched with chopped straw for a protection, not only against weeds, but to keep the new potatoes from being sunburnt as they showed themselves above the surface. The mulch also, in a measure, secured a cool, moist soil during the hot, dry weather of midsummer. The straw was put on some three inches deep, but soon settled to an inch, and was then covered with a second coat of mulch which remained undisturbed till digging time.

To keep the bugs in check, a sprinkling of dry plaster was used three or four times, with just enough Paris green to shade the plaster, giving it a slight greenish tinge. A very few weeds were pulled by hand during the season of growth, but it was the aim to travel over the patch just as little as possible, as the plants covered nearly the whole surface. The rod of land was measured off from near the centre of the patch, at digging time, by Horace Morse and S. W. Squire, and the potatoes weighed by Mr. Morse, who certifies that there were 183 pounds; a yield per acre equal to 488 bushels. The most important lesson I have learned by the experiment is that potatoes *must* have room to grow *under* ground, or the yield will be diminished and the quality impaired. I would never plant so near the surface again, and with an equally favorable season should expect to do better another year.—*New England Farmer.*

GREEN FIELDS AFAR OFF.

It is, always, almost painful to hear of young men leaving the Provinces for the far west, lured by some "will o' wisp" fancy that there the sun is always shining, the pastures are always green, and the fields yield abundantly without much trouble. It is a pity that they should go forth to break up the soil of Manitoba, when there is abundance of land in the Maritime Provinces, that would repay their labor. Great exertions are being made to advertise Manitoba as "the land of promise," "the bull's eye of the Dominion," as possessing the finest of agricultural soils. Many have been induced to settle there.—We by no means say that they have been induced to settle under false pretences, but are afraid that not a few will come to think that they have been deceived by the too flattering reports that have been given of the general fertility of its soil, and of its climatic advantages. There is little

doubt that the soil of that province, and particularly that of the valley of the Saskatchewan, has been too indiscriminately praised, as fit to grow the finest crops of all descriptions, and capable of sustaining millions of happy families. It is the fashion now to cry up the far west. But there are those who have been there, and tell a very different story of the far famed valley of the Saskatchewan, and who assert that only a small percentage of its soil, deserves the character that has been given to the whole of it, while the settlers subjected to far greater extremes of cold and heat (with a plague of flies superadded) than is experienced, let us say, in the Maritime Provinces. But even if the soil of the Northwest Territory, to speak broadly, was all that it is pretended to be, it seems to us that it is not for the interest of the older provinces of the Dominion that their young men should be enticed to settle there, while there are hundreds of thousands of acres of as fine land in the valley of St. John, the fertile bolts of Nova Scotia, and the productive hills and dales of P. E. Island, to be had on easy terms, why should our young men seek their fortunes in the valley of the Saskatchewan? Our provinces are young yet, and their extent but sparsely settled, and they require all their young energy and ability to develop their resources. How infinitely preferable is the position on the sea coast to that of landlocked and distant Manitoba. How finely placed are the Maritime Provinces for carrying on a trade in live stock, sheep and swine with England. With proper care given to the breeding, here as elsewhere in the Dominion.

It seems to us that in the cattle trade there is great possibilities for enterprising young men with a little capital to commence with. If the raising of stock for exportation was engaged in as regular business it would give an impetus to a profitable kind of farming, and employment to shipping. Steamers would have to be employed. But, as wooden sail vessels, will, in time, be driven off the seas, our St. John shipbuilders should prepare for the change, and commence constructing iron steamers. Then, if New Brunswick cattle are to be carried in New Brunswick steamers, the steamers must be managed by native captains, engineers and crews. Though wooden vessels will, in the opinion of many, be superseded, it will be done very gradually. For a long time there will be a demand for skilful captains to sail our vessels. The right sort of men are not plentiful, and good seamen are sure of employment. How great advantages, good schools and means of improvements do our young folks possess over the rugged pioneers who first made the province habitable? Even, if they have the pluck of the fathers of the province and go into the wilderness and