

To the Editor of the Journal of Agriculture :

SIR,—I have just finished hauling in my last heap of turnips from the field where they have been stored, and find that as usual they have kept badly. They had sprouted badly—some of the sprouts being five or six inches in length,—and yet they had frozen considerably, especially on the top and along the north side, showing that they had felt the extremes of heat and cold. This is the second winter that I have tried storing in the field, and I am far from being satisfied with the results. My manner of storing was this: I dug a trench about a foot in depth, six feet wide, and long enough to hold 260 bushels when piled up for covering, perhaps twenty feet. I made three ventilators one inch by four inside, with slats placed one end on the ground, and piled the turnips around them, they running about a foot above the top of the heap.

The turnips were dug the last week in October and first week in November, covered immediately with a thin layer of straw and about two inches of dirt. On the 29th November they were covered with a layer of fine spruce boughs and about eight inches more dirt. Last year I covered them with a much heavier coat of dirt, but as they heat so badly I concluded to give them less covering this time. I have tried storing in the house cellar right from the field but they almost invariably heat and rot. I have tried putting them in a building for a week or two and then storing in the cellar, with much better results, but where one is raising them in large quantities this cannot well be done.

I have been thus particular in describing my method, hoping that some of your readers who are more experienced will show me through the "Journal" wherein I have missed it, and point out a remedy.

I have learned to grow turnips without difficulty but have yet to learn how to keep them. I have also learned that they are profitable feed for all kinds of stock, and that with good straw they will make good beef, and am fully convinced that we ought to grow more of them to feed on the farm, and grow less potatoes for export. H.

Cornwallis, Feb. 7, 1884.

[We hope some of our readers will give H. and others the benefit of their experience in the storing of turnips. —ED. J. A.]

CORROD seed meal, such as is not fit for feeding, is being sold and used as a fertilizer. About 300 lbs. per acre is the average quantity recommended. This meal has been used extensively in Connecticut and Massachusetts during the past two years by tobacco growers, with, it is said, satisfactory results.

WE reprint a portion of the Directors' Report of the King's County Agricultural Society, as we think it is deserving of a wider circulation among Agriculturists than it can attain in the Journals of the House of Assembly:—

The past season, notwithstanding the partial failure of the potato crop, owing to an unusually wet spring, has been a fairly prosperous one for the farmers within our district. The soil in Lower Horton, for the most part, contains a large proportion of clay, and many farms are insufficiently drained, and during a rainy spring such land dries very slowly, and seed-time is greatly delayed. This was the case last spring, and sowing and planting, hoeing and haying, were crowded so closely together that the farmer could scarcely overtake them, and in some cases potatoes were planted too late to be hoed more than once, and the blight killed the growing tops, and the crop was dug green, and was light in consequence, and more or less diseased. The average would probably not exceed one hundred bushels per acre, and the market is dull at 25 cents. The potato crop in this locality is largely relied upon for ready money to meet current expenses, and this shrinkage will be injuriously felt. Other crops have yielded fair returns, however, and every other article of produce which the farmer has to sell is commanding a good price, and there is every reason to return thanks to the Giver of all Good Gifts for the health and prosperity with which we have been blessed during the past year. We will now consider the Grain crop. A much smaller area of Wheat was sown than in the past two or three years, owing to a return of the weevil and the uncertainty of the crop. With some farmers this crop was a total failure, while others harvested a fair return. But a small quantity of Barley, Rye and Buckwheat is raised here, the great staple grain crop being Oats. This Grain will come up to the average, some acres on the Grand River yielding fifty bushels, and the bushel weighing over the standard. The bulk of the Grain crop has been threshed and garnered (Dec. 4), three two-horse machines in this neighbourhood having threshed about 12,000 bushels, the proportion of all other varieties to Oats being about one-fifth, and the larger part of this fifth Wheat. The total Grain crop within the bounds of the Society would probably reach 25,000 bushels, and, deducting a fifth, we have 20,000 bushels of Oats, the product of a strip of the Township some twelve miles in length by four in breadth. Now, applying this yield in a somewhat reduced ratio to the whole County, and the neighbouring Counties of Annapolis and Hants, we have a large quantity of Oats, and considering their superior quality, and the nutritive properties of Oatmeal

as an article of diet, it is a little singular that there is not one mill in the three counties for the manufacture of Oatmeal. As far as your Directors know, Pictou and Colchester are the only two counties in the Province where it is manufactured. It may be that it pays the farmer here better to sell his Oats for 45 or 50 cents a bushel, and buy his meal in Ontario or the United States, at 4 or 5 cents a pound. We would call the attention of the Society to this matter. The Oat crop is sure and abundant, and can be cultivated and harvested with less expense and labor than almost any other crop raised, and we think oatmeal could be as profitably manufactured at home as wheat flour. Many are ignorant of the value of Oatmeal as a food, and the way to cook it to make it palatable. The meal should be coarse, and a large quantity of water used, and after the first stirring it should be left undisturbed, and boiled quietly nearly two hours. The great secret is to cook it *thoroughly*. Many labouring men think the day's work cannot be well begun without a breakfast of fish or meat, and potatoes and bread; but Oatmeal contains a larger proportion of albumen or nutritive matter, fat, starch and salts than wheat flour, and excels every other vegetable substance in uniting a large quantity of the four alimentary groups. Peas and beans are a little richer in albumen, wheat in starch, and corn a fat; but in producing muscle, which is the same thing as producing strength or labor-power, it surpasses all other articles of food, and at a less cost. A table, as been prepared which shows that one pound of labor-power from potatoes costs 94 cents; fine flour 54 cents; unbolted 44 cents; corn 17 cents; beans 15 cents; while from oats it only costs 13 cents. It is, therefore, the laboring man's diet, *par excellence*, and, as it is easily digested, it is also excellent food for children, and it should be a regular article of diet on every breakfast table. The Scotchman's oatmeal has become proverbial, and where can we find a more hardy race, or one endowed with more shrewd common-sense and brain-power? The Scotch both eat and drink it; and, indeed, during the heat of summer there is no drink equal to oatmeal and water for quenching the thirst, and cooling and refreshing the tired laborer. It is no wonder the horse thrives on oats; but we think a part of their nutriment is lost by not grinding them. We now come to the Hay crop, the most important crop grown in this valley; for the farmer depends chiefly upon hay to winter his stock, and upon his stock to make fertilizers for his land. In a few years ensilage will probably be made to largely supplement the dried grass of our dyke land; but at present there are only two silos in the county. It