

drainage at the bottom of each pot, fill it up with rich earth, and plant from one to half a dozen seeds in each. Fill the box with clean horse dung, free from straw, and plunge each pot in it up to its rim. If handles are put on the box, it can be easily carried in at night, and put out in a warm sheltered spot during the day, watering regularly when dry. As soon as the seeds grow, pull all the plants but one out of each pot, leave that to grow and get strong, and when transplanting time comes you have only to have your holes ready, take your pot out, and holding it upside down, with the rim resting on your fingers, and the plant down between them, give a rap or two on the bottom with your other hand, and on lifting the pot, bottom up, the ball of earth in which the plant grows will be left adhering together, and can be put in the ground at once without disturbing the roots, or any risk of loss of the plant from transplanting, and it will do without shading. If properly put away after using, and cared for, these little pots will last many years.

J. M.

Alsike Clover a Permanent Pasture.

Some five years since, I sowed twenty acres of new land with Timothy Clover and Alsike. At that time Alsike Clover was very high priced, and as a natural consequence, only a few pounds were sown on the twenty acre field. The soil was clay loam, the land generally lay low, and wet, being a hemlock swamp. It was, however, well drained by surface ditches, and about 1st June was seeded with the above grass seed, sown with spring wheat on about ten acres, with millet on about five acres, and with carrots on the remaining five acres. The seed took well on all parts, but the growth on that part sown with carrots was monstrous. About one-half of the carrots were smothered. The remainder did pretty well, but about 1st November the Timothy was in many places two feet high, and plenty of it out in flower; yet although so rank a growth of grass had taken place, we harvested several hundred bushels of carrots. However, the carrots as a crop were certainly a failure. But from that hour to this year, the grass has been splendid, and far better on that first sown with carrots than anywhere else in the field. This fact I account for by the grass seed having such firm root and rank growth the first year. But what I particularly wished to call attention to was, that the Alsike Clover is ten times as thick now as it was when first sown. It seeds before Timothy, and possesses the power and inclination to "catch" in sod land, especially if rather low, and damp. In passing over the field each year about June, I notice thousands of young plants springing up everywhere; so much so, that I believe the Alsike will ultimately have all the land to itself.

C.

Experiments with Wheat in 1868.

For some years we have sown some small portion of our garden with various kinds of wheat, and have derived much amusement from watching its growth, and the date and peculiarities of the insect plagues. Last fall we sowed as usual, on the 7th September, eight different kinds of wheat, and up to the 4th of February of this year 1869, the wheat—notwithstanding the inclement season and entire absence of snow all through January—looked remarkably well. Not a blade seemed injured. It is, at the time I am writing, entirely bare of snow, and has been so far several weeks, and the wonder is that it is not injured past recovery. But more strange than this is the fact that some wheat presented to us by a friend, but too late to sow with the rest, is also uninjured, although not sown until the end of October. I examined it yesterday, and found it to consist of single tender blades—far too late sown to stool out in the least. If the general crop of Canada does as well as this unsheltered experiment, we have as yet derived little injury from the want of snow.

From these facts there would seem to be some other reason than frost and thaws to account for the destruction of the wheat crop, by "winter killing," in March, as we usually find the case. We rarely have such a freezing and thawing January as the one just past, to experiment on. If the young blade and that more mature survive the March trial, I will again communicate the result. The wheat in the experiment above mentioned is entirely unsheltered, and quite as much exposed as any wheat in the fields; and moreover, the wheat was harvested from the same piece of land in 1868, which was again at once sowed with wheat, but was well manured. I have long been convinced that wheat does not injure land to any extent by continuous cropping with the same grain, provided it is well manured.

C.

Goodrich and other Potatoes.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I have noticed several communications lately in your paper concerning the Goodrich seedling potatoes. One correspondent writes in the CANADA FARMER that "the Early Goodrich, Harrison, Calico, and Garnet Chili, are the best of all the seedlings originated and disseminated by the late Dr. Goodrich."

I differ from him in opinion with regard to two varieties, namely, the Calico and Garnet Chili. In 1867 I planted the Early Goodrich, Calico, Cuzco, Gleason and Garnet Chili, on the same quality of soil. The Calico did not yield as much as the Gleason, and the Garnet Chili did not yield over half as much. In 1868 I planted Early Goodrich, Gleason, Cuzco, and Garnet Chili, on the same quality of soil. From half an acre

planted with Garnet Chili the yield was 97 bushels. From a quarter of an acre of Early Goodrich, 130 bushels. One-eighth of an acre Gleason gave sixty, and one-eighth of an acre Cuzco produced 83 bushels. I plant in drills, each piece of potato 15 to 18 inches apart. One of my employees dug from the production of one piece of the Cuzco twelve potatoes that weighed eleven pounds.

The quality for the table of all the varieties mentioned here is excellent so much so that I could sell them in Kingston, if I chose to do so, for fifteen cents per bushel above the market price of other potatoes.

I have never had any experience with the Harrison, but clip the following from the *Napane Express*, Dec. 11, 1868:—

"A Pennsylvania farmer reports to the *Country Gentleman* that the Cuzco, for profit, outstrips any other potato he raises. He gets this year 400 bushels an acre, where the Peachblow goes less than 300 and the Harrison about 200.

FRED. MEMBERY.
Bath, Ontario.

How to Prevent Smut.

Many of our cereal grains are liable to a disease known as smut, which is caused by the growth of a cryptogamous parasite that fastens upon the grain in the ear, just after the bloom is past, and turns the seed into a mass of blackish dust. This parasite is produced from minute spores or seeds, that seem to adhere to the seed grain, and if not destroyed before sowing, will in some strange and unaccountable way reach up to the heads of the grain, and there become developed into activity. In order to prevent this, it becomes necessary to destroy the spores while they adhere to the seed grain. It is well known that salt acts as a destroyer of all fungoid life, so that by steeping seed grain for a short time in strong brine, or sprinkling a mild solution of sulphate of copper over it, the vitality of the spores of smut attached will be effectually destroyed. Brine is always safe to use, while sulphate of copper is dangerous, it being a deadly poison, and a small portion of the grain impregnated with the latter might accidentally get within reach of poultry or pigs, or even by chance get mixed with what is to be made into flour. When brine is used, it is a good plan to spread the grain, after steeping, on the barn floor, and sprinkle over it fine air-slaked lime, stirring all up together till every seed grain gets a coating of the lime. The operation is to be performed a day or two before the seed is to be sown. We have always adopted this plan with the seed of both fall and spring wheat, and found it greatly diminish, if not entirely prevent, any liability to smut.

Since trees have been planted in Egypt they are beginning to have rain. Plant trees—nut trees and fruit trees—they'll pay for their room and care in beauty, shade and fruit. Plant trees.