

The Field.

The "Early Rose" Potato.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—Your extract from the *Practical Farmer*, in your issue of November 1st, relating to the "Early Rose" potato, reminds me of our success with this new and valuable seedling. We procured this last spring, from Messrs. B. K. Bliss & Son, of New York city, one and one quarter pounds of "Early Rose," costing, with postage, \$2.50. The tubers were cut as nearly as could be into one eye pieces, and were planted from eighteen to twenty inches apart, alongside and in the same soil as our common garden varieties. The plants were almost dried up during the period of our unprecedented drought, but the rains of August had the effect of renewing their growth, which continued till the vines were killed by the frost. Hence no idea could be obtained of their earliness or time of ripening. The potatoes were taken up September 29th, and weighed. They yielded one hundred and twenty-five pounds (125 lbs.) to each pound planted. We have no doubt the yield would have been much larger had the season been an ordinary one; but it was enough to show what an enormously productive potato the "Early Rose" is. Parties who have tried the "Early Rose" this season report generally of from one to eight bushels from the pound of seed.

The potatoes were all of good size (few or no small tubers), many weighing one pound and a quarter each. The great yielding qualities of the "Early Rose," its early ripening, producing marketable potatoes in eight weeks from planting, its fine table quality, its good size and shape, having full eyes, even with the surface of the tuber, and fine appearance—in these last respects being the best of all of the fifteen varieties in our cellar—go to produce a potato of great value.

We also tested, this past season, the principal Goodrich seedlings, from seed procured from original sources, in New York, the results of which are so extraordinary that we shall send an account for publication before next season. Suffice it to say here that the "Early Goodrich," one of the best, if not the most valuable of the Goodrich seedlings, produced at the rate of 300 per cent more than the common "Reds"—the variety raised in this section for the main crop—and 200 per cent more than "Californias" or "Rocky Mountain" variety, a coarse potato of little value, except for stock feeding and the largest yield cultivated here. All the varieties were grown on the same soil, and received the same culture in every respect, the object being to get an idea as near as could be, of their comparative values.

J. F. C.

L'Original, Ont., Nov. 11th, 1868.

Productive Vermont Farm.

THE *Newport (Vt.) Express* gives the following account of a farm in Derby, on the north line of the State of Vermont, near the Canada border:—

Last summer we spoke of the hay crop of Emera Kingsbury, Esq., of Derby, amounting to nearly eleven tons on a little less than one and three-fourths acres. This was cut June 21, and consisted of timothy, red and white clover; the timothy not headed, and the red clover not all in blossom. Mr. K. now informs us that his second crop on the same piece, cut Aug. 3rd, was 6,185 pounds, or a little over three tons, making the total yield from one and three-fourths acres ten tons, or five and three-fourths tons to the acre. Mr. Kingsbury has scales set in his barn, and weighs all his crops, as well as his stock before and after fattening, and after slaughtering, so that he is able to tell exactly what he is doing, and the results of all his operations.

We were so much interested in Mr. K.'s account of his hay crop, that we have prevailed on him to give us some further details of his farming. His farm consists of 192 acres, 40 of which are in pasture.

His corn crop was quite as remarkable as his hay. From 162 rods he has harvested this fall 251 bushel baskets of ears. One basket of this corn, when shelled, made eighteen quarts. This would give a yield of one hundred and forty-two bushels of shelled corn on two rods more than an acre of ground. In reply to our inquiry as to how the land was prepared for the crop, Mr. Kingsbury stated that last year he grew oats upon it with a light dressing of manure; this year he spread a compost of potato tops, cut cornstalks and straw (upon which he yarded his cows last summer), and which was thoroughly rotted; harrowed this in, furrowed four feet apart for the rows, and made the hills a little less than three feet apart in the row; into each hill he put a shovelful of muck on which he had yarded his hogs. Thorough cultivation did the rest. The variety he cultivates is a long-eared 12-rowed sort, which he thinks as early as the smaller kinds, more productive, and yielding a much greater quantity of forage. He says he had by actual weight from the above field 15,360 pounds of fodder, and that this fodder alone is worth as much as the corn and forage together from the same breadth of Canada corn. Last year, from one and one-eighth acres, he raised 237 bushels of ears, and over seven tons of fodder.

Mentioning some other large yields, Mr. Kingsbury stated that in 1860 he raised 762 bushels of oats on nine acres; and in 1866, 581 bushels on seven acres—the first-mentioned crop weighing 35 pounds, and the last 36½ pounds per bushel. Of Jackson white potatoes, Mr. K. has raised this season 192 bushels on 77 rods—one potato weighing 2½ pounds.

Mr. Kingsbury uses no artificial fertilizers on his farm, relying on his muck beds, his composts and his stock, to produce everything necessary to enrich his land.

While talking over the subject of exact weighing and measuring, and their importance to the farmer, Mr. Kingsbury alluded to the shrinkage of beef cattle and hogs in slaughtering, and gave us a few figures from his books to show that this shrinkage is usually overrated, especially by drovers and dealers. Four fat hogs killed by Mr. Kingsbury shrank 12½ per cent., or one-eighth. Two cows killed Dec., 1866, shrank—on 22 per cent, and the other 37 per cent. A four-year-old heifer killed Dec., 1867, dressed 987 pounds, and shrank less than 28 per cent. The figures are worth remembering.

Irrigation of Meadow Lands.

THE advantages and practicability of irrigation are being considerably discussed. The *Utica Herald* gives the following account of the results of the plan practically carried out:—

"Mr. Emey Allen, of West Turin, Lewis County, N. Y., who has a beautiful farm of some 335 acres lying along the foot of a range of hills, has practised irrigation upon his meadows for some years, and with excellent success. He has 100 acres of meadow in one field, the surface quite level, over a considerable portion of which the water is carried in the spring. This meadow lies at the foot of the hills, and streams come down and enter it at different points. In the spring the melting away of the deep snows from the hills and lands above, furnish a large amount of water, which is spread over the meadow, and all fertilizing matter mingled with the water allowed to settle upon the soil. The meadow is not naturally wet, but is dry enough for the plough. The soil is deep and of remarkable fertility, and by a judicious system of irrigation, is made to yield large crops of grass.

Quite a number of acres of the irrigated portions have never been ploughed, the hillocks and uneven surfaces having been levelled with the spade. Mr. Allen estimates the crop of grass grown upon the meadow the present season at 300 tons. We went over this meadow and found it covered with a luxuriant growth of herbage, the whole presenting one of the finest pieces of grass land that we have recently seen.

Mr. Allen says his average yield of hay from 120 acres of meadow, for a series of years, has been, one year with another, not less than 250 tons per acre.

Last winter his stock consisted of fifty-seven canal horses, five work horses, two yoke of cattle, twenty-six cows, five two year old heifers, seven yearlings, and twenty-seven sheep, and he sold and drew off twenty-six tons of hay, having several tons left over.

We should have remarked that forty acres of this meadow have never received a portion of manure, but have been kept in a high state of fertility, solely by irrigation. The water is let on very early in spring, and is about three weeks in working itself off. The annual product is about three tons per acre. The grass here is cut but once during the season, and the after-math is fed off in the fall, but never allowed to be closely cropped. Mr. Allen thinks he would get a finer quality of grass by feeding the meadows

in spring, say till about the twenty-fifth of May. The grass is mostly timothy, clover and red top, though of course largely intermixed with native grasses. When Mr. Allen's father came into the country and settled here in 1797, the whole country between Turin and Kingston, Canada, was a dense forest, in which no timber had been cut."

How to Kill Wild Oats.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—The following plan has been found very useful in eradicating wild oats. Plough the stubble early in the fall, and harrow well. Cross plough early in the spring, and after a few days harrow well. About the latter end of May, plough a third time and sow with barley.

This mode of cultivation will do much towards germinating and then killing the foul seed. But should wild oats still appear, there is one more chance. Barley will ripen in time to harvest when the "oats" are yet green, so preventing the seed from shaking off to pollute the land for another year.

Several farmers of my acquaintance have tried this method and found it good.

ROBERT BROWN.

Garafaxa, Nov. 18th, 1868.

Unprofitableness of Hop Farming.

OUR American exchanges are comforting unfortunate hop-growers by the publication of the following paragraph from Mr. Caird's, "English Agriculture," in reference to the culture of the hop in Sussex, England, where from 10,000 to 12,000 acres are usually occupied by this crop:—

"This plant requires the richest soil of the farm, and receives nearly all the manure produced, robbing the corn and root crops of the share which rightfully belongs to them. The farmer's attention is concentrated on his hoggarden, and the rest of his farm receives very little of his regard, and hardly any of his capital. The operation of the duty gives the business a gambling character. A favourable season, with a large yield of hops, is disastrous to the farmer, as the market value of the article falls, while the duty swells in proportion to the lucky character of the crop. When the crop is a short one the farmer prospers, as the price of the hop rises and the total amount of the duty falls. There is thus a constant succession of chances, extraordinary prices being sometimes realized, which tempt men to further adventure and withdraw them from that steady, persevering industry, without which agriculture cannot be profitably carried on. The uncertainty of prices and crops, and the peculiar bearing of the duty, are such that very few of the hop farmers are enriched by it, many are ruined, and still more are kept on the verge of bankruptcy. It is very probable, therefore, that if the cultivation of hops were to cease, it would in the end be no loss to the Sussex farmer, as his richest land would then be released for the growth of crops of a less hazardous kind, and the rest of his farm receive a fair share of manure and cultivation."

Loss in Stacking Hay.

A FARMER of sound judgment, and large experience in cutting and storing hay, estimates his own loss in stacking at twenty-five per cent. He cuts probably a hundred tons a year, and stacks a fifth part of it for want of barn room. He has very properly made up his mind to build a new barn. We think his estimate is not wide of the mark. There is a large loss from moulding at the bottom of the stack, and old rails, boards, or straw, will not wholly prevent it. Then the whole external surface for three to six inches is weather-beaten, and loses much of its sweetness, and it is not improbable that this loss of aroma extends through the whole stack. The conviction is universal among intelligent men, that barn-stored hay is worth much more than that which is taken from the stack. Why then follow this wasteful practice? Look at the great loss to this farmer who cuts one hundred tons of hay, worth \$2,000. According to his own estimate, he pays \$100 a year for the privilege of stacking one-fifth of his crop. This is but a small part of the loss where the hay is fed out at the stack. It costs at least a third more hay to keep cattle without shelter. These are strong arguments for more barn-room.—*American Agriculturist*.