

him, that if he had left the creeping wood-pickers alone, they would have taken the borers out and saved his trees. I am glad to say that he immediately saw the truth of my remarks, and in future he and his boys will leave these birds alone. C. E. T.

Como, Argenteuil Co., June 20th.

Dear Sir.—I am sending you an article, on the cultivation of turnips, as it may be of interest to some of our Canadian farmers that have no success with their turnip crops. I have been informed that there are some farmers in Lower Canada that have left off trying to raise turnips altogether. I have never failed to raise a good crop of turnips, and I have carried off the first prizes for the best turnips every year but one since the exhibition has been held here.

I will first begin with the preparation of the land. The manure should be carted on the land as soon as possible after harvest and spread out as evenly as possible; it should be allowed to remain in this state until it has had some rain, so as to wash some of the liquid into the surface soil; then it should be ploughed in about four inches deep and no deeper, then in the spring as soon as the land is dry, it should be ploughed six or eight inches deep and the same width so as to mix the earth and manure as much as possible, then it should be harrowed on the 5th or 6th day after, and as soon as there is vegetation it should be ploughed again. I always plough my land in the spring three times before I make the drills, because the oftener the land is ploughed the sooner vegetation commences, then as soon as the land is in good order it should be put up in drills 30 inches apart; if the land is wet or heavy the drills should be well raised, then the sun will warm up the land much sooner and start growth at once. If the soil is sandy, the drills should not be raised very high, if they are, they will not hold any moisture, and if the weather should turn dry, the turnips will not have sufficient moisture to keep up their growth; this is oftentimes the cause of the failure to get a good crop. Some prefer to put the manure in drills, that is a very good plan if the manure is well rotten, but if the manure is what is called green, that is manure that is fresh made, the straw is not half rotten, if it is put in drills it will help to keep the land dry, and it will not decay to give any nourishment to the roots. This, sometimes, is the cause of the failure to get a crop, if it is a wet season and the land is low, a fair crop may be expected, but it is uncertain. There are a great many farmers do not understand how to sow turnip seed; they are afraid to sow it deep, say from 1 inch to 1½ according to the weather, if wet 1 inch will do; this is the proper depth to sow turnip seed; some will tell you that turnip seed should be covered with as little earth as possible. I have seen some farmers in Canada sowing their turnip seed, and they put so little earth to cover the seed that half the seed was not covered at all, still they expected to get a crop, but the turnips did not come up, only in some spots; and they were not deep enough sown to get sufficient moisture to hold out against the fly, and the dry weather, so the fly took them all. Then, some sow them over again, and some will say that they never could get a crop of turnips! I always sow my turnip seed 1 inch to 1½ deep according to the weather, with a drill machine or seed-drill.

There are a great many farmers that sow by hand, by making a small mark along the drills; that may do if they are made deep enough, and the seed sown by hand, then take a rake and use the back to cover the seed, do not be afraid of covering it too deep. I will explain why turnip seed should be sown deep. Some time when the drills are made and the seed sown, there is sufficient moisture to start growth, but dry weather sets in, and the drought gets below the tender roots; the hot sun and fly is too much for them; for a day or two they will be at a stand still, then they will begin to disappear gradually until there are none left, and of course the fly is blamed for the whole loss. Now if the seed had been sown one inch deep, before the leaf gets above ground the root is down one inch below the seed, and if the weather is dry and the hot sun will find sufficient moisture to continue its growth; then they will soon put out the second leaf, they will conquer the fly, and a crop of turnips is certain. About the 20th of May is a good time to sow Swede turnips, that is if the land is in good order, they will get a good start before the fly appears. A great many farmers do not sow seed enough to the acre: for the sake of saving 50c. on the seeds they will lose their crop. I always sow 4 pounds per acre, as every farmer will find the thicker turnip seed is sown, the faster they will grow; they shade the ground, and protect themselves from the fly. A. R. J. F.

Hoeing is another important point. When the turnips are 4 inches high I hoe and thin them, 9 or 10 inches apart is the right distance. Some farmers are afraid to use the hoe to thin their turnips; they thin them with their hands, a very bad rule, as they are never sufficiently thinned; they are oftentimes only 4 or 5 inches apart: men that are used to hoeing turnips seldom or never put their hands to them to thin them. The turnip is a root that should be kept free of weeds, as the weeds exhaust land more than crops do.

Buying is another very important point; every farmer should buy seed from good and trustworthy seed-merchants, as it depends a great deal on the kind of seed you sow to have a good crop. It is well known that some seed-raisers grow all kinds of seeds in a small farm. If swede turnip seed and white turnip seed, cabbage, cauliflower, rapeseed, are grown near to each other, they are not as pure as if grown on a farm by themselves. Of course the small nursery merchant will undersell the larger ones so as to get sale for his season's crop of seeds.

My dear sir, you must not think for a moment that I am under the impression that you are a book farmer, as I have watched your writing for some time, and I always have been, under the impression, that you must have been a practical farmer, as you appear to have, a thorough knowledge of farming in all its branches, or you could not have written as you have (1).

(1) Thank you, very much.—A. R. J. F.

I should very much like to meet you this summer, should you pay a visit to the county of Ottawa, you will find me at the well known Victoria farm, where you will be made most welcome. Be sure to call if you can.

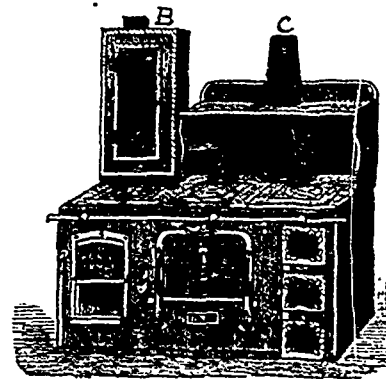
I am superintendent of the Victoria farm, and head depot for G. B. Hall & Co. of Quebec.

Should you meet Dr. Duhamel M. P., he will give you a little information about this place, as he is a friend of mine.

My next letter will be on harvesting grain.

I remains yours sincerely,
Rd. BOWDEN.

ARTHUR R. JENNER FUST, Esq



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There is a good deal of talk about ploughing in clover. Now a crop of clover of a ton and a half ought to be worth all expenses paid, \$9 00: that sum will buy at least 20 bushels of bone-dust, which will thoroughly manure 1½ acres of land for turnips. I prefer the bones.