

saleable, but people on your side must learn to make an article containing less water. The authorities are becoming more particular here, and look like fixing a standard as to the percentage of water that butter will be allowed to contain. The great thing is to send the butter sweet and solid. These are two points to remember, solidity and sweetness, and the man who pays attention to them is the one who will get most for the article he puts up.

There has been considerable outcry lately in this country as to the use of preservatives in butter, and it looks as if we are likely to have shortly a law passed which will prohibit the use of preservatives altogether, and the use of boracic acid will have to be discontinued.

There is a demand here for medium-grade butter from 50 s. up to 70 s., with an almost unlimited outlet. The chief place for the trade is the port of Liverpool, which is in close touch with all the large manufacturing districts and the great centres of population, and is far and away the best place for the distribution of the goods.

If you can induce the dairymen of your district to pay attention to the points to which we have referred, we have little hesitation in saying that the result will more than pay them for the extra trouble in putting up a first-class article suitable for the requirements of the English market.

HODGSON BROS.

Liverpool, Eng., June 1st 1898.

## LUCERNE.

MORINFLATS, June 10, 1898

*Mr. Editor:*—Sir, please let me know where I can get 25 lbs. Lucerne seed and the price. I suppose the Department keeps it but I don't know whom to address, or where the office is. I have a little growing; and it is doing well; which encourages me to send for more. How would you advise me to sow it; in drills? or broadcast. I should like any information you can give me about its cultivation and oblige,

ALLEN HAMMOND.

Morinflats, Argenteuil.

Answered by letter.—Ed.

**Lucerne.**—Mr. John Craig, late of the Experiment-Farm at Ottawa, seeing our correspondence with Dr. Fletcher and others, concerning the bare places in Mr. Bouthillier's lucerne field, is good

enough to suggest that they might be caused by frost. Now, against this, we have to say that there was no injurious frost in the spring of this year. The previous season, 1897, the whole of the lucerne was destroyed by the frost, and the entire piece was re-sown a few weeks later and took very well. At all events if frost had been the cause of the partial—the very partial—loss of plant in patches this season, we do not think we should have had to trouble Dr. Fletcher for an elucidation of the reason of the loss, as, so far, we flatter ourselves we are quite competent to decide the question without troubling men of science.

## The Poultry-Yard.

**A question re Early Moulting.**—What is meant by the moulting season—How early moulting may be brought about—Some rules to adopt. What experience has taught.

A. G. GILBERT.

I have a letter from the managing editor of one of the leading Agricultural journals of the U. S. in which he asks "Is there any way in which I can care for a flock of 75 vigorous hens so that they shall get through their moulting early and go to laying again in late October?"

The question is a very important one. It opens the whole subject of early moulting and its discussion at this period of the year will not only be timely, but I hope, also of benefit to your numerous readers.

### What is meant by moulting?

What is meant by the moulting season? The moulting period is the time taken by the hens to shed their old feathers, to be replaced by new ones. It occurs every year and usually occupies from 2½ to 3 months. Moulting generally takes place sooner or later in the summer or autumn months, according to the age, care and management of the laying stock. During their moult hens do not lay. It is really a season of non-production and it is important then to shorten if we can, this season of non-revenue making. We will see how that can be done presently, but meanwhile to show that the moulting process is, to a certain extent, a critical one in the life of the hen, and that she requires extra care and attention while passing through the ordeal, I quote from Dr