

# Colonial Farmer

LUGHIN & SON, Proprietors.

POSTAGE PAID.

SUBSCRIPTION--\$1.00 a year

OLD SERIES, VOL. 13 NEW SERIES VOL. 4.

FREDERICTON, N. B., APRIL 2, 1877.

NO. 26, WHOLE NUMBER 709

## Correspondence.

### For the Colonial Farmer. RURAL TOPICS.

#### SEEDING TO GRASS.

It would be a great improvement, in regard to the hay, and the pasture after the hay is cut, to seed down land to timothy and Kentucky blue grass, or June grass, as it is also called. The June grass makes a firm sward, which is not injured by pasturing cattle upon it in wet weather; and it makes excellent hay either alone or when grown with timothy. Clover had better not be sown with these two grasses, as it would be liable to crowd them out too much. I see no good reason for growing clover with itself quite as profitably to farmers as to grow it with timothy according to the old stereotyped custom. Then, the old custom of seeding down land to grass with a grain crop is not now followed as closely as it used to be in years past. The land now is often plowed early in the spring, and seeded down to grass with no other crop. Early in September is a better time to seed down lands, but it will do nearly as well in the spring if the seed is sown early. The seed of June grass is generally very chaffy, and a bushel of such seed, at least, should be sown with from four to six quarts of timothy seed per acre. Let the land be well harrowed, after being plowed, then sow the seed, and cover it with a brush harrow; and then roll the land, which covers a good deal of seed that was not covered before, and presses the seed firmly upon it, which causes the seed to germinate sooner than it otherwise would, especially in dry weather. A fair crop of hay is often cut the first season when grass seed is thus sown, or good pasture is obtained by August. It has been found by numerous experiments that but very little grass seed of any kind germinates when covered two inches deep; therefore, ordinary harrows cover much of the seed too deep.

#### GROWING ONIONS.

Growing onions as a field crop is generally profitable, if rightly managed. They require a rich, mellow soil, and it must be highly fertilized every year with well-rotted stable manure; then they will grow luxuriously on the same land every season. In Wethersfield, Conn., onion-growing is the main business of the people, and the same land has been used for this crop a hundred years! The soil there is a rich, sandy loam, and the soil that one would desire for a garden. Every spring the ground is covered with fine manure, plowed in but not deep; then the land is harrowed and rolled, and the seed is drilled in with a seed-sower, the rows from 12 to 15 inches apart. The profits are frequently enough from two or three acres to support a family comfortably; and here is where the labor of girls and boys "pays" in weeding the crop. Some onion growers plow the land in the fall, after the crop is removed; and in the spring spread the manure, applying all the horse manure and ashes that they have, and harrow all in, and then with a hand rake clean the land ready for the drills 15 inches apart. Ten days before the seed is sown, it may be put into tepid water, and so keep it, as far as practicable, for eight days; then turn off the water, and mix plaster with the seed, leaving it a little moist; and in three days after being sown it will sprout, and it will soon be above ground, and ahead of the weeds. The seed, when thus managed, is generally sown by hand; but by adding a little more plaster, I can see no reason why it may not be sown with a seed sower. This is not the Wethersfield system, and it is an improvement on their system, in regard to having less weeding to do, while the onions are quite small. But onion seed must be sown very early, and the ground, after sowing the seed, ought to be rolled with a hand roller, or otherwise made very compact over the drills. Probably, there is no better variety than the Wethersfield red. In regard to the onion grub, an English gardener says: "We used nitrate of soda pretty extensively for agricultural purposes, and I took to sowing it on the onion beds when I saw that the grub was at work, with the result that I found a perfect cure for this pest, as well as materially assisting in the growth of the onions. The proportion in which I used it would be about four cwt. to the acre, and used it two or three times a season, never more. I have also used for the same purpose gas lime, which will also prevent it. In using the nitrate of soda, it is necessary that the foliage of the onions be dry, as to let it drop on the plants when they are wet causes a burn, shriveled place wherever it touches them. It is a good plan to water after sowing it or to select a time when a shower may be expected soon."

#### GRAFTING GRAPE VINES.

It is doubtful whether there is any special advantage in grafting grape vines now, when good two years old vines of nearly all varieties can be bought for 25 cents to \$1 each. In grafting such varieties as the Delaware on the Concord, to obtain the free growth of the latter, success has not been the result in my experience and observation, as the nature and habits of one variety cannot be imparted to another by grafting; yet many persons are inclined to experiment in this way. Nor is the fruit changed as to size and quality in the least, being the same in that respect as in grafting apples, pear and other fruit trees. When one has a choice variety and also has an old, worthless vine, it may be advantageous to graft the poor variety to obtain fruit sooner than can be done from cuttings propagated in the ordinary way, as the grafts will have the support of the entire roots of the old vine. Grafting should be done before the sap begins to flow, or after the main flow is over, in June up to July; but old vines ought to be cut off in the fall to be safe from excessive bleeding; and if grafted then, I think the chances of success would be greater than in the spring; but in no case should the stem or trunk of a vine be cut off in June or July, as it would be sure to bleed to death. The scions should be cut in the fall, without regard to the time when the grafting is to be done; yet the experiment may be made of cutting them in March, and keep them in moist sand (slightly moist) till used. A California grape grower states the method of stump grafting very clearly as follows: "I cut my scions from last year's growth, long enough to include three or four buds, and keep them in a dormant state until the vines I graft in are well started to grow—say one or two inches long. I then remove the earth from the vines down to, or near, the first root; then rub off all the old loose bark, and saw off from one to three inches above the first roots. With a saw, make one, two or three straight cuts down into the stump. If the stump is small I only make one cut in it, but if the vines are large they will admit of two or more cuts. Each saw cut will admit of two scions, one on each side of the stump. With a sharp knife, trim the saw cuts in the proper shape for a wedge graft. Trim the scion to fit accurately, leaving a small shoulder on each side of the scion; then insert in the stump, being sure to push it down to the shoulder, and also make a connection with the bark of the old stock. Cut the scion down to two buds. When finished, fill up, with fine dirt level with the top of the ground, leaving one bud of each scion uncovered." Vines may be grafted as soon as the frost is out of the ground, or in June, if some of the canes be taken that grow near the ground. Cut them square off, and graft them the same as you would an apple tree; and bend over the grafted cane a little below the level of the ground, and fasten it with stakes, with the end turned up, and then fill in around the graft with soil, up to the bud, back it down firmly, and the job is done.

#### STRAWBERRY GROWING.

In field culture, strawberries should be set out in rows three or three and a half feet apart, and about 18 inches apart in the rows. Set them as soon as the ground becomes dry, not far from the first of May. Mark off the ground when well fertilized with fine stable dung and properly prepared, and drop the plants along rows as near 18 inches apart as possible, and set them nearly as soon as dropped, so that the roots will not be exposed to the sun, if the weather be clear. The rows should spread out as set, and press down the soil upon them with your foot on both sides of the plants. A good way to mark off the rows is to have a stout line to reach across the ground to be planted, and to be set with stakes at each end. Then with a spade the holes for the plants can be made rapidly, by placing the back of it against the line, pressing it down with your foot, and by one operation throw out sufficient earth to give room for a plant. Or the marking may be done with a corn-marker, if you have one that marks not over three and a half feet apart; and the holes may be made with a spade or a hoe, whichever way you can make them the most rapidly. The plants should be watered soon after being set, unless the weather be cloudy or the ground quite moist. When stable manure cannot be obtained, superphosphate of lime may be used to advantage, if it be pure. Five hundred pounds per acre will suffice, spread broadcast and harrowed in; then sprinkle a little in each hole as the plants are set. Ashes are also a good fertilizer. Or in the place of ash, muriate of potash will do as

well. It contains 50 per cent. of pure potash, and is now quoted at \$3 to \$3.50 per 100 lbs., and less by the ton. The following formula is said to produce very large crops of strawberries. "One part nitrate of potash, one dr. glaucous salts, and one do. of sal soda," all to be dissolved in water, one barrel for three pounds of the mixture, which is enough for a bed 40 or 50 feet square, to be applied early in the season from a water-pot several times till the fruit sets. I have no doubt of this fertilizer being good, because potash is always valuable for any crop. The fruit of plants set this spring will be of no value till next season, when the largest crop may be expected that they will produce, not less than 100 bushels per acre, if the variety grown be good, and if the soil be rich and well cultivated. The Wilson is still considered the best market berry by many; but the Charles Downing is beginning to take its place, it being nearly as prolific, and the quality of the fruit much better. One hundred dollars per acre is often cleared on this crop over all expense.

#### PLANT GRAPE VINES.

I cannot too strongly urge farmers and others to grow all the grapes that their families can consume, at least, and as many to sell as you please. What is the use of having land, and not making use of it to the best advantage? If every country family were to have all the grapes they could eat from August to January, many of the physicians would be driven into the cities, as it is an admitted fact that grapes are a powerful curative of many diseases, when eaten freely as long as they can be kept fresh. If there be any thing in this world to delight a family, as its members walk in their garden, it is the large, rich clusters of grapes that load down an extensive arbor. A neglected vine or two are of little value. What you need is an arbor from 50 to 100 feet long, over a walk, with vines eight feet apart on both sides, or you can have a trellis eight or nine feet high wherever you please. The posts should be twelve feet long and eight feet apart. Then have slats 16 feet long, about an inch and a half wide, nailed to the posts, beginning two feet from the ground, and then placing them 18 inches apart to the top of the posts, or you can use wire instead of slats. One or two year old Concord vines can be bought for 25 cents each, and from some grape growers at a less price. If you propose to wait till you can grow some vines yourself from cuttings, go immediately to some neighbor who has good grapes and get some cuttings, if his vines were not closely pruned last fall. They should be about a foot long and each should contain two or more buds. Keep them in moist sand till wanted to plant, then set them a foot apart with the upper buds near the surface of the ground. Set them at an angle, so that the earth can be pressed very hard round the lower buds. Place small stakes by the side of each cutting to show where they are, and as soon as the grass has grown high enough to cut, spread some lightly over the cuttings to protect the buds from the sun when they begin to grow freely. The next season these vines may be transplanted where they are to grow. Cuttings clipped in November are best, but if cut now, before the sap flows, I think they will grow.

#### Miscellaneous.

##### Disadvantages of Farm Life.

Col. George E. Waring, of Newport, has a paper in *Scribner* for April, advocating a better way of country living, namely, the grouping of farmhouses into villages—as is often done in Europe. He speaks as follows of the loneliness of American farm life: "It may seem a strange doctrine to be advanced by a somewhat enthusiastic farmer, but it is a doctrine that has been slowly accepted after many years' observation.—a conviction that has taken possession of an unwilling mind,—that the young man who takes his young wife to an isolated farm-house dooms her and himself and their children to an unwholesome, unsatisfactory and vacant existence,—an existence, marked by the absence of those more satisfying and more cultivating influences which the best development of character and intelligence demand. It is a common experience of farmers' wives to pass week after week without exchanging a word or a look with a single person outside their own family circles. The young couple start bravely, and with a determination to struggle against the habit of isolation which marks their class; but this habit has grown from the necessity of the situation; and the necessities of their own situation bring them sooner or later within its bonds. During the first few years they adhere to their resolution and go regularly to church,

to the lecture, and to the social gatherings of their friends; but home duties increase with time, and the eagerness for society grows dull with neglect, and those who have started out with the firmest determination to avoid the rock on which their fathers have split, give up the struggle at last and settle down to a humdrum, uninteresting and uninterested performance of daily tasks.

In saying all this—and I speak from experience, for I have led the dismal life myself—it is hardly necessary to disclaim the least want of appreciation of the sterling qualities of which have been developed in the American farm household. But it may safely be insisted that these qualities have been developed, not because of the American mode of farm life, but in spite of it; and as I think over the long list of admirable men and women whose acquaintance I have formed on distant and solitary farms, I am more and more impressed with certain shortcomings which would have been avoided under better social conditions. If any of these is disposed to question the justice of this conclusion, I am satisfied to leave the final decision to a fair consideration of what is herein suggested.

If American agriculture has an unsatisfied need, it is surely the need for more intelligence and more enterprising interest on the part of its working men and women. From one end of the land to the other, its crying defect—recognized by all—is that its best blood—or, in other words, its best brains and its best energy—is leaving it to seek other fields of labor. The influences which lead these best of the farmer's sons to other occupations are not so much the desire to make more money, or to find a less laborious occupation, as it is the desire to lead a more satisfactory life,—a life where that part of us which have been developed by the better education and better civilization for which, in this century, we have worked so hard and so well, may find responsive companionship and encouraging intercourse with others.

**FEEDING AND CARING FOR HORSES.**—Oats should be fed dry, unless very dusty, when they may be slightly dampened. Should a horse be out of condition, a good plan is to scald the oats. Corn is best fed on the cob, and in summer should be soaked 24 hours in fresh water with a little salt, changing the water every time; this somewhat extracts the fusil oil and prevents heating in the system. Hay may be kept constantly in the reach of an idle horse, but not so with one who has much labor—give him a little morning and noon, say 4 lbs., and 10 to 20 lbs. at night. Salt should be given pure, and not mixed. Cut feed is economical, but is only adapted to slow-work horses. No wood ashes are needed. The leather-backed currying comb is preferable; use the currying comb to loosen dandruff, then dust with a good half-worn broom, or horse's tail made for such purposes, and use the brush. Above all, give a clean, airy, sunny place, so arranged that the eye is relieved from the immediate rays of the sun. On no account place a window of any kind in front of the horse—anywhere else, best from behind. An occasional bran mash, and in winter a mess of carrots and other roots, is of paramount good.—*Country Gentleman.*

**BUTTING RAMS.**—Rams at a certain season of the year develop combative propensities and their fights frequently terminate fatally. A correspondent of the *Ohio Farmer* has hit on a novel method of preventing a display of their rude butting warfare. He says:—"It is well known that they always 'back up' to get a start to butt. Stop their backing up and you disconcert them entirely. To do this, take a light stick (a piece of broom handle will do), about 2 or 2½ feet long. Sharpen one end and lash the other end securely to his tail; the sharpened end will then draw harmlessly on the ground behind as long as his majesty goes straight ahead about his business; but on the attempt to 'back up' he is astonished to find an effectual brake in the rear. Don't laugh and call this 'all gammon,' but if you have a butting ram, try it, and the time to laugh will be when you see him jump out sideways, and whirl round and round, trying to upset the machine, which will keep behind him."

A young lad named John Tew, aged 16, on Mr. Hugh Douglas's farm, North Yarmouth, went to the barn to pick up some corn. While he was thus engaged a host of rats came pouring in upon him. They surrounded him but grasping a cudgel he made such good play with it that he speedily discomfited the invaders, of whom thirty eight were left dead on the field of battle.

#### FARM LABOURERS.

This is the season of the year when farmers are looking around for "help" and a few suggestions on this subject may be timely. We have had some little experience in this matter, and if we have learned anything by it we are more than willing to share the benefit with others. Probably the first question that will arise in the minds of farmers will be, "Shall we employ cheap, unskilled labour, or that which is high-priced and more experienced?" The answer to this question cannot be given categorically. We are aware that the common doctrine is, as a learned President of one of our colleges puts it, "The educated workman in any productive employment will put his blows in the right place, and strike them at the right time, so that his labour shall be more efficient for the good of himself and the world than the ill-directed efforts of the ignorant man." We do not dispute that there must be brain-work to make any labour productive, but if the farmer himself can be with his hands, and can furnish brains, we see no reason why he cannot direct the labour of his men as he does that of his horses. Men, however, differ from horses in this respect that they can soon be taught to become experts in every branch of farming to which they have a natural aptitude, and if our experience has taught us anything in this line it is that the better plan for the farmer is to hire some smart young fellow or fellows and to keep them or them along for a series of years. Young help may be awkward at first, but is cheap and tractable, and at all events there are no fixed bad habits and principles to be eradicated. There was much sense in the old Greek music teacher who charged double price to all students who had ever taken lessons before coming to him—one half for correcting bad habits. Gen. Washington said he preferred a young and raw recruit to one that had been poorly trained in military drill. This is in accord with our experience on the farm. We have hired smart boys and kept them for a decade, and in one instance for nearly a score of years. Such fellows may be said to grow up with the farm, and to be so identified with it that they consider it, in a certain sense, as their own, and are jealous for the reputation of its products and the success of its principal proprietor. \* \* \* We think the practice of hiring a farm hand each spring for six or eight months, and then turning him off to hibernate as best he can, is pernicious to both man and master. It is too much like the old custom of hiring a new teacher in our common schools with each succeeding term. A teacher once said to us, "It takes one term to get the hang of the school and the school-house." Just so it takes one season for the hired man "to get the hang" of the farm and the farmer. We have uniformly found help to be more helpful the second season than the first. It takes some time to learn the character and capacity of the teams, to become acquainted with the ways and wishes of the farmer and his neighbours, the quality and wants of the farm, and more than all these, to become so identified with the farm and family to feel that the interests of the one are the interests of the other. The man hired for eight months is simply a hireling; the man hired for the year, with the prospect of continuing along during good behavior, or till he accumulates enough to become a proprietor himself, feels that he is part and parcel of the family and estate, and works with a will for the common weal. We know whereof we speak. We have been there and seen the workings. Frequent change of help, whether in the kitchen or on the farm, is in itself an evil, and is one of the great pull-backs to the profit and comfort of American husbandry.

We sometimes hear farmers say, "We can't afford to hire a man by the year, as we have little or nothing for men and teams to do in the winter." As for the nothing to do it is much like Flora McFlimsey's having nothing to wear when her trunks were full of dresses. We pity the farmer who can find nothing to do in the winter, but in nine cases out of ten, if not ninety-nine of one hundred, the trouble is in the will, not in the work; a lack of enterprise, not of business. We never saw the day when there was not something to be done on the farm both summer and winter. As to the difference of expense between hiring a farm hand for eight months and a year, it amounts to little, if anything, more than the board of a man for the winter.

In order to secure permanent help and all the advantages which the relation implies, there must be sympathy and co-operation between the farmer and his man. If he expects them to become identified with him, without any manifestation of interest on his

part, he expects more from humanity than it is wont to furnish. "I love them that love me," is a divine principle, and surely the divine is more than human. We hear some persons speak of their hired men as though there was some necessary antagonism between the employer and the employed, and as though the latter were always in fault for this. When we hear such talk we can't help thinking of the proverb, "Like master like man." There is blame somewhere for all the antagonism in the world, but it lies with the master as often as with the man, and possibly they share it between them, for selfishness can be predicated of all men. The employer, however, is the master spirit. With him is the power, and he can fashion his subordinates to almost any mould he pleases. Men are bad enough, but, (to paraphrase an old proverb),

"Hired men are not so bad as some would like to make them, and whether good or bad depends on how we take them."

When we hear, as we have heard, a farmer say: "I'll never hire another man by the month; farm labourers are all a fraud," we must conclude, to put it mildly, that he does not know how to get along with farm help. The truth is, there is a know how in self-government. He that cannot govern himself must not expect to be able to govern others. More skill is required in controlling the help of a large farm than in breaking the colts and steers. Both are spoiled by harsh and unkind treatment, but men have far keener sensibilities and stronger wills than the beasts, and must always be treated as men.

#### Ducklings More Profitable Than Chickens.

The saying often applies to young ducks "that they eat more than they are worth," may be a very unjust one. Several years ago we were speaking with a woman who raised yearly large numbers of ducks and chickens, regarding the comparative amount of food consumed to bring them to their full growth. She stated that "ducks eat less in proportion to their growth than chickens." Our readers may be surprised at this, but upon giving the matter a little thought they will understand the reason. It is because the ducklings reach maturity sooner than the chickens, and of course, the longer it takes to bring a creature to maturity, the greater the expense, not only of food, but of time and trouble. Experiment has demonstrated the fact that, with the same quantity of food and care, the ducklings, in ninety days from the shell, may be made to weigh nine or ten pounds per pair, or over, while chickens, in the same length of time come to weigh only six or seven pounds a pair. Hence the remark quoted at the commencement, does not apply when ducklings are properly and intelligently managed.—*Poultry World.*

#### What to Raise on Muck.

A correspondent of the *Practical Farmer* from Wayne County, Michigan, after giving in detail the best methods of draining and preparing muck land for crops best adapted to the mucky soils, valuable hints: First of all stands buckwheat, whether you desire to use it for grain—of which immense crops may be grown—for green feed or for plowing under. This stands ahead from the mechanical effects produced by the spreading roots and shading tops. Sow about one bushel per acre about two weeks before it should be sown on upland. And this rule of sowing early should be followed with all crops, as low lands are apt to be colder than high lands, hence extra time must be given.

After buckwheat, of the grain crops, sow rye early in the fall, and if your land is pretty well subdued, seed down with timothy, red top, or Alsike clover, or a mixture of all. No land is better adapted to Alsike than muck, after it becomes pulverized sufficiently.

After keeping in grass as long as seems profitable, you may plow in the fall and follow with corn. The next spring cultivate in oats, and follow with rye, or even wheat, if you have a clay subsoil next to the muck; then seed down very early in the spring, not in the fall, as grass is almost sure to overrun wheat when started at the same time. This, I think, will be found the surest course to follow, especially on very mucky ground with a poor bottom. As clay approaches more nearly to the surface, you may the sooner put in corn and oats, of which last I have seen eighty bushels per acre grown without manure. Should you desire to raise vegetables, to which no land is better adapted, you will do best in the following orders

After the buckwheat crop, or better still, after the first grass crop, pulverize finely and sow long orange carrots just before a shower, if possible; one of the worst troubles with muck being to get the ground solid and damp enough to germinate small seeds. After carrots, the best subsoil parts may be manured with barn yard manure, plowed under and planted with onions, early kinds, sown early and well tilled. The balance will produce good crops of potatoes (which last will grow well at any stage of the muck,) or of Mangel Wurtzels, (yellow globe is the best.) Parsnips (hollow crown) and any of the early kinds of flat or globe turnips do well; but do not plant Swedes or common beets, unless on ground recommended above for wheat, as too many roots and tops will grow on very mucky land.

#### A Parson's Method of Colting.

A minister writes his practice of breaking and harnessing colts as follows, to the *Golden Rule*:—"When the foal is fifteen months old we begin to educate him to harness. Most colts, remember, are timid; they are born so. The first day, we simply put saddle without the back-strap on, buckling up the belly-band loosely. This is done many times, increasing the pressure. Then we take the neck collar, and put it over his head, first permitting him to smell of it, and touch it with his nose, when he is entirely convinced that it is not calculated to hurt him. In like manner we add part to part until the colt is fully harnessed. He is then allowed to stand with the harness on until he has time to reflect upon the whole matter, and become accustomed to the pressure of the harness against his sensitive skin, for we must remember that all this performance seems very queer to him, and startling. When he has fully composed his mind, and settled down into conviction that everything is all right and as it should be with him, he is then walked about, the harness still on, and brought back every few minutes to the spot where he was to be unharnessed, and taught to stand as long as it would naturally take to remove the harness. Straps are loosened, buckle-tongues started, saddle and collar eased; in short, everything done that would be done in unharnessing, save removing the harness. After several times, this standing still while being unharnessed has come to be, in his mind, a part of the programme, and he understands it and assents to it as such. Once learned, in the case of an intelligent horse always learned. The same process should be gone through with the case of a high-spirited valuable colt, once or twice each day, for a week at least. And remember that he is learning many lessons in one, including that the greatest of all a colt can learn, viz.: to have confidence in and yield his will to man. Have great patience at this point of his education, and proceed, step by step, advancing no farther than your pupil's success justifies. During the harness exercises, accustom the colt to pressure against breast and shoulder by tying long cords into the buckle either side of the collar, and pulling gently, causing him to brace himself, as he would naturally do, against it. This gives him the idea of drawing weight somewhere behind him, and, by permitting him to pull you along, he will grow to feel that he can pull anything."

#### A Scent Grain Crop.

A prominent grain merchant was asked yesterday whether the peace between Turkey and Servia and the promised demobilization of the Russian army would be likely to bring down the price of grain. He said: "It has been the idea of the trade that bread-stuffs would be high this summer whether there was war in Europe or not. Indeed, grain was a short crop last year in all countries except California, and is light here and all over. It has been our opinion all winter that high prices will prevail this Summer. Of course there is no denying that war would enhance the price of wheat. The scarcity will be more felt in June and July. The Black Sea and Danube regions have no large surplus this year, so that a war would not affect shipments from there much. California is the great balance-wheel in this trade. It has 26,000,000 bushels of grain to export from the last crop. Twenty four million bushels of this have already gone, mostly to Great Britain and the continent of Europe. There has not been so little shipment of grain from New York and the Northwest in any three months in the past ten years as in December, January and February of this Winter. The price is certainly moderate, and the United Kingdom must buy a great deal of wheat before the

next harvest is ready for market. Breadstuffs may be said to be in a peculiar shape in this country. The people of the west have made up their minds that they have not enough to supply the demands, and are keeping what they have. It is still debatable whether they have much for export.

There have been enormous operations in grain in Chicago and Milwaukee the past year. These are put-up prices for wheat, because they have lost the most of their own crop. They expect to depend on other regions for say one-third of their supply. Trade is in a healthy condition here, and the grain business is as safe as any other in this country. During last spring and Summer our grain merchants here were carrying unusually large stocks, and important losses were suffered at that time; but since the new crop began to come in business has been healthy. The losses mentioned fall mostly on western correspondents. The wholesale business here is largely on commission now. The Western people are fast getting to a point where they prefer to control their own products, both of grain and provisions, up to the last possible point, in order that they may reap all possible profit. The farmers are even getting to be speculators in these products.

#### Advantages in the Use of the Roller.

An old English authority, away back as far as 1818, gives four principal operations in the processes of agriculture, viz.: draining, manuring, cultivating and rolling. It may be truly said that fifty years of experience since that time have not lessened the value of the field roller in the estimation of careful and thorough agriculturists, either in England or America. The advantages derived from the use of the roller are many and important. As a clod crusher it is indispensable; with it the roughest and most lumpy soils are rendered fit for reception of seeds, and easy of cultivation by the ordinary implements of the farm. After spring rains have been sown, the roller does perhaps its best and most important work. The earth, pulverized by its previous use, and by the plow and harrow, is now firmly pressed down about the seeds, giving encouragement to the growth of the plants, and keeping their tender rootlets firm in position, also preventing evaporation, so that even light soils are not much the worse for any except a very severe drought. In spring, winter wheat is greatly benefited by a good rolling, and no field should be laid down to grass, especially for a meadow, without having its surface made smooth and fit for the passage of the mower and rake by the implement under consideration. Another good work that the farmer finds the roller to do for him is to exterminate large numbers of slugs, wire worms, chinch bugs, and other vermin so destructive to his crops. In brief, it may be said that there is no one other implement of the farm whose use gives such varied and permanent advantages as the field roller.

**GATES.**—Time is money with the farmer as well as business men, and it is economy to have all openings in to fields fitted with gates, as they can be opened and closed with the least possible loss of time. In many sections we see the only means of passing from one field to another is by letting down a fence. No thrifty and thorough farmer will manage his farm in that manner. A good, substantial gate will cost but little more than bars and is infinitely more convenient. If your premises are not provided with these conveniences, it would be well, before the activities of seeding and gathering came, to put these things into shape and have them as convenient as these simple suggestions will make them.

**How to Choose a Cow.**—At recent meetings of a Dairyman's Association in the Eastern States, experienced dairymen said they attached much importance to the color of the inside of the ear of a cow as a test of her butter producing ability. A rich yellow on the inside of the ear, one speaker said he had never known to fail as a sign of a good butter cow, one that would give rich milk. Dr. Sturtevant regards the color of the ear as a good guide, but calls attention to the necessity, when observing, for clearing away the secretions that may have accumulated on the skin and which may be darker than the skin itself.

A bashful young man, while out driving with his darling girl, had to get out to buckle the erupper, and hesitatingly explained that "the animal's bustle had come loose."

The rinderpest has broken out at Hull, England.