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[By James S. Segee.

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AGRICULTURE.

TOP DRESSING IN SPRING.

Many crops may be materially increased by judicious and cheap top dressing in spring.— Meadows are often deficient of chlorine and soda, and are therefore materially benefited by dressings of six bushels of common salt per acre. This small quantity does not check growth, and by the influence of dews and rains is soon disseminated through the soil, killing grubs, and giving new vigor to the grasses. Common salt is composed entirely of chlorine and soda, and from the chemical changes which take place rapidly between this and the constituents of the soil, is soon resolved into its ultimates and is efficient food for plants; it also assists materially to protect young plants from the influence of drought. Many soils are deficient of chlorine and soda, and thus all meadows are very apt to have yielded up more of these constituents to the growing grasses than could be spared without a deterioration of quality. Animals at pasture will always select such parts of the meadow as have been previously dressed with salt, even a year or two after its application. This of course is not due to the salt, as it so soon loses its identical character, but is due to the resultant chlorine and soda of the salt are still held by the soil. The phosphate of lime of the soil is also lessening very rapidly when used as a meadow or pasture, and this may be renewed by dressings of the improved super-phosphate of lime. Indeed, meadows fairly charged with phosphate of lime, still pay a profit on application of top dressings of super-phosphate, in April or May. Green crops are always materially benefited by such top dressings for they require large quantities of phosphates to perfect their organisms. Stimulating manures may always be used, if in a proper state not to be lost by evaporation. When guano is applied as a top dressing in its raw state, the ammonia it contains is soon distributed in the atmosphere, and the portions of the plants are injured by its presence; but if the guano be properly treated with sulphuric acid, as in the making of the improved super-phosphate of lime, so as to convert the ammonia into sulphate ammonia, and the proportion of phosphate of lime be increased as well as the ammonia, it may be added without chance of loss by evaporation, and without injury to the tender plants; for, although entirely soluble, it cannot be volatile with sulphuric acid as one of its components. The alkalis also, are often deficient, and this deficiency prevents the healthy formation of the early growth. Ashes may be used for this purpose, and if unleached, they should be suffered to act for a while upon a portion of black loamy soil containing organic matter, with which they should be mixed, and then applied as a top dressing to such crops as need their assistance. Fluid applications may be made, sufficiently diluted, with great profit.— Soils which habitually refuse to give strength to straw, suffering oats to lodge, &c., are materially benefited by diluted solutions of an alkaline character. Potash, soda, chlorine, sulphuric acid, phosphoric acid and ammonia, are the leading requirements of most of the grasses, of all the cereals, and indeed of a majority of our valuable crops; and where these are supposed to be deficient, they may be added as top dressings, if properly prepared. We consider that, for these purposes, the improved super-phosphate of lime, which is now offered for sale at a price which renders it cheaper than stable manure given to the farmer, at two miles from his farm, is desideratum for top dressings, and

will add materially to the crops of the current season. We have used it for the last four years and always with profit and economy. The general advantage of top dressing of all kinds, when properly prepared, are their practicability and economy of application. It is sometimes impossible for the farmer to use a sufficient amount of manure at the time of putting down his land to staple crops, to manure it as fully as desirable, and therefore it becomes necessary to add to its energies by top dressing, and these can only be applied when in the proper state to be retained by the soil, and not to be lost by evaporation. Plaster of Paris may often be so applied with profit, and indeed, charcoal dust previously saturated with liquid manures, soot when readily attainable, and a variety of other substances which are peculiarly applicable for such uses. We are far from advocating the substitution of top dressing for original manuring, but when the original manuring is insufficient to produce a maximum profit, it had better be so added than not to be applied at all.—Working Farmer.

THOROUGH FARMING.—The great secret of European success in agriculture has been described as "much labor on comparatively little land." But the whole tenor of American husbandry from the first settlement of the country, has been directly the contrary, or, "little labor on much land." And this is the cause of the deterioration of our farms and crops,—of the exhaustion of the elements of fertility in one, necessary to the production of the other. It requires no great amount of labor or store of knowledge, to grow a crop at cost equal exceeding its value, and leaving the land poorer than before; but it requires both work and wisdom to produce one which shall bring profit to the farmer and prepare the land for greater productiveness in future. Any one who can follow the plough and scatter the seed can do the former, but, capital, experience and energy are required to accomplish the latter.

Science is giving its aid to agriculture, and no one can be a thorough farmer unless he keeps pace with the improvements which the newly aroused spirit of inquiry is daily bringing out for practical and profitable application.— But the severe drought of 1838, put our science to the test, and the result was, that about one hundred plants of our most choice kinds which are regularly watered three times a week for nine weeks, during which period we had not a drop of rain, the plants grew luxuriantly, but many of them never produced a perfect bloom, and those that had no attention whatever paid to them except a little manure or litter laid over the surface of the roots, flowered almost as well as in our most moist seasons. Hence we infer that an occasional watering may be of service but continued and repeated artificial waterings are injurious.

WEEDS.—Don't give the weeds a chance to grow among your crops, if you can possibly prevent it. They will draw the nourishment from your crops and diminish their yield—besides, if you suffer them to go to seed, they will make trouble for you in future years. Keep the hoe moving briskly frequently stirring the surface promotes the growth of most plants. Let the war against the weeds be prosecuted with vigor, till the enemy surrenders, or your forces will soon be called off for haying, and the opportunity will be lost.

TO RESTORE PORK.—In warm weather, the brine on pork frequently becomes sour and the pork tainted. Boil the brine, skim it well, and pour it back on the meat boiling hot. This will restore it, even where it is considerably injured.

Hon. F. Hincks to Sir. J. Pakington, Bart.

MORLEY'S HOTEL,
London, 1st May, 1852.

At the interview with which the Hon. Mr. Chandler of New Brunswick and myself were yesterday honored by the Earl of Derby, we were given to understand by his Lordship that he would examine the various papers on the subject of the British American Railway, and that he would see us again after the arrival of Mr. Howe, of Nova Scotia. I left his Lordship in the confident hope that I should receive an early communication the intentions of Her Majesty's Government, and, although at great inconvenience, I determined to postpone my departure from England until the 22nd instant.— I must, however, be permitted to say, that Mr. Howe's arrival can have no effect whatever on the question of route—the only one yet raised by Her Majesty's Government. If a final arrangement were agreed to, Mr. Howe's presence to adjust some details as to the mode of constructing the work would be important; but as the Legislature of Nova Scotia has passed an Act settling the route by the city of St. John, Mr. Howe would not be in a position to enter into any new arrangements; and if he were, as Mr. Chandler and I could be no party to them, the negotiation unless based on the Valley of the St. John route, would fall to the ground.— I may here observe, that it is not only the anxious wish, but the confident hope of the three Provinces that a practicable line may be obtained on the left bank of the River St. John, or rather in the country watered by the tributaries of that river, a point that I think the Earl of Derby seemed to attach much importance to. I trust, Sir, that you will perceive that Mr. Howe's presence in England at the present stage of the negotiation, is of no importance whatever; whereas, if any satisfactory result be arrived at, my presence during the arrangement of details will be almost indispensably necessary.

Observing by the report in the *Times* of this morning of a conversation which took place last evening in the House of Commons that it is not the intention of Her Majesty's Government to come to any decision without communicating information to the House, and apprehending that much delay may yet be contemplated, I feel that it is my duty on the part of the Province, whose interests are entrusted to my care, to explain frankly, but most respectfully, to Her Majesty's Government, that it will be quite impossible for Canada to continue any longer a negotiation which has already involved her in much expense and trouble, and which has materially retarded other arrangements which can be made for securing the construction of the most important sections of a great Canada Trunk Line of Railway.

I am anxious that Her Majesty's Government should understand most distinctly that I have not been sent to England as an humble suitor on the part of Canada for Imperial aid. Canada was invited by the Imperial Government to aid in the great national work under consideration, and I must be permitted to say that she generously and patriotically responded to the invitation. Much time has unfortunately been lost, although not from any fault on the part of the Legislature or Government of Canada, and I therefore trust that my recent final appeal to Her Majesty's Government will not be attributed to impatience, but to an anxious desire to promote the interest of my Country. It seems to me far from improbable that, on some ground or other this negotiation will prove a failure.— If so, it is of the very highest importance to Canada that the fact should be known as soon as

possible. I have reason to believe that I can effect arrangements on the spot with eminent capitalists to construct all the Railroads necessary for Canada with our own unaided credit. I have likewise, reason to know that the European line from Halifax to the frontier of Maine can be constructed by the unaided credit of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

We cannot afford to lose the opportunity of effecting such an important object to us which will afford communication between Halifax and the Western frontier of Canada, I am convinced that Her Majesty's Government, if unable to meet our wishes by granting us the aid spontaneously offered by the late Government, would regret extremely that we should lose the opportunity of effecting other desirable arrangements, and that they will not deem me importunate or unreasonable in begging for an answer, after being delayed nearly seven weeks in England. I must leave this country by the steamer of the 22nd instant and I cannot possibly effect the arrangements which must be carried out, whether the negotiation with Her Majesty's Government succeeds or fails, in less than a week. I therefore most respectfully request of you Sir, that you may give me a final answer by the 15th instant; and I must add, that if Her Majesty's Government are unable either from want of time or from the necessity of consulting Parliament, to come to a decision by that period, I must beg it to be understood that Canada withdraws from the present negotiation, and that I shall deem it my duty to enter into arrangements which if confirmed, as I believe they will be by the Government and Legislature, will put it out of the power of the Province to negotiate on the present basis. I must also observe that my conviction is, that there is but one mode of securing the construction of the favorite Military Road, and which is by the Imperial Government undertaking it at their own expense.

I cannot conclude this letter without expressing my deep regret, that so little confidence has been manifested by Her Majesty's Government in Mr. Chandler and myself, being as we are sworn confidential advisers of the Crown. I have reason to believe that at this time foreign influence is at work to prevent the accomplishment of the great national object which we have in view. I have reason to believe that Mr. Cobden, M. P. the avowed opponent of the Colonies, is in communication with parties actuated by motives of the most anti-British character. Communications have been made to the Colonial Office, on the subject of this Railway, hostile to the views of the Governments, and Legislature of three Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, supported as those views are by the Queen's able representatives in those Provinces. No communication of these papers, the existence of which I only know by current rumour, has been made to us. Our position has been in no way recognized by Her Majesty's Government, and I cannot but express my conviction that such withholding of confidence has not conduced to the interest of the Queen's service.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient Servt.,
FRANCIS HINCKS.

The Rt. Hon. Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, Bart., M. P.
P. H. M. Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, &c. &c. &c.

OHIO WINES.—The production and sales of Catawba wines in the vicinity of Cincinnati is getting to be an extensive business. The Cincinnati Gazette is informed that the material, land and labor at present involved in the culture within a few miles of that city is full half a million of dollars.