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Nec araneorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se filagignunt, ec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

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Agricultural Journal.

From the Br. American Cultivator.
SPRING SOWING AND PLANTING.

The month of May should afford the farmers ample opportunity to finish the spring sowing and planting. Early sowing and planting, provided the soil is in suitable state to receive the seed, will generally be found the most profitable. In Eastern Canada, farmers have been in the habit, for the last few years, to put off sowing wheat to the latter end of May, in order that it should not come into ear before the middle or latter end of July, when the danger of the wheat fly would be nearly over, as they seldom continue in the fields after the 15th or 21st of July. The risk, however, of sowing wheat so late is considerable, as it will be the subject to rust and mildew, that are nearly as fatal to the crop, if attacked by these diseases when in a green state, as it would by the ravages of the wheat fly. In favourable years, such as last year, late sown wheat may succeed, but it is a practice we cannot take upon us to recommend, as the uncertainty attending it is too great to be incurred, unless upon a small scale, by way of experiment.

Peas, oats, barley, and potatoes should all be in the ground this month as well as carrots, parsnips and any other green crop, except turnips. Indeed carrots and parsnips should have been sown in April, where the land is suitable.—We have always recommended farmers not to sell their wood ashes, as it will be found one of the best manure upon the farm, particularly for turnips, when sown; or as top-dressing on meadows, or mixed in a compost heap. We would suggest the propriety of mixing some fresh lime with potatoes, immediately after they are cut for seed, and allow it to dry upon the cut part previous to planting. We would also recommend planting and covering in the morning, or when the day is not too hot. It is a bad plan to leave the cut seed for any length of time exposed uncovered in the drills, to a hot sun. The seed should be covered the moment they are planted.

Manures.—At a late meeting of the Ashmolean Society, Professor Daubeny exhibited a specimen of Mr. Daniell's New Patent Manure, which is stated by the Inventor to consist of carbonate of ammonia, saw dust, and bituminous matter. As the materials from which this new kind of fertilizer is drawn appear to consist of inorganic matter exclusively, Dr. Daubeny pointed out its discovery as an instance amongst many others, of the means which nature has pleased within our reach for increasing the amount of vegetable produce proportionately to the increase of mankind, and so maintaining the necessary ratio between subsistence and an increasing population. In a purely pastoral or agricultural community, it might be unnecessary to have recourse to any other fertilizing substance than those which the manure of animals affords;

but in a highly advanced condition of society, in consequence of the large amount of produce consumed by the inhabitants of the great towns, it becomes necessary to seek for new materials to support the loss which the soil of the country sustains. Thus bone dust is procured from South America in such quantities, that it is computed, on the calculation that each head of cattle supplies bony matter equal to 84 lbs. in weight, that not less than one million two hundred thousand oxen are slaughtered annually in that country for the supply of bone manure to England alone. Guano, or the dung of sea birds, is likewise an expensive article of importation for the same purpose; but as both these sources will fail in proportion as the several countries become more peopled, it is fortunate that we may find substitutes for them in inorganic substances. Such is the nitrate of soda, so much used of late; such is the new manure invented by Mr. Daniell; and it may be confidently predicted, that by the discovery of such agents agriculture will be enabled to keep pace with the increase of population, if the latter be not stimulated by unwise regulations; and that as animal life increases in a direct ratio to the amount of subsistence, so the nutritious effects of animal manure, by giving greater energy and vigour to the organs of plants, will cause them to draw more abundantly from the atmosphere, and thereby force a proportionately larger quantity of them into existence. Dr. Buckland thought that an important principle, respecting stimulating manures, had been brought forward, viz., that a plant, under their action, draws more freely from the atmosphere. In addition to the increase of human manure with population, the quantity of carbon given out by animals, and left to be absorbed by plants, is proportionately increased. He further adverted to the discrimination necessary to be exercised in restoring artificially land that has been exhausted, and instanced a case furnished by Professor Johnston, of Durham, of certain pastures in Cheshire, which had become exhausted of their phosphate of lime, by its being absorbed into the cheese made with the milk of the cattle fed there, and which were restored by a top dressing of bone manure.

PRINCIPLE OF ROTATION OF CROPPING.

The first principle, or fundamental point, is that every plant exhausts the soil. The 2nd; That all plants do not exhaust the soil equally. The 3rd; That plants of different kinds do not exhaust the soil in the same manner. The 4th, That all plants do not restore to the soil the same quantity, nor the same quality of manure. The 5th, That all plants are not equally favourable to the growth of weeds. From these leading principles, writers on agricultural science deduce the following inference:—1st. However well a soil may be prepared it cannot long nourish crops of the same kind in succession, without becoming exhausted. 2nd. Every crop impoverishes a soil more or less, as more or less is restored to the

soil by the cultivated. 3rd. Perpendicular rooted plants, and such root horizontally, ought to succeed each other. 4th, Plants of the same kind should not return too frequently in rotation. 5th, The plants favourable to the growth of weeds ought not to succeed each other. 6th, Such plants as eminently exhaust the soil, as the grains, and the oil plants should only be sown where the land is in good heart. 7th; In proportion as a soil is found to exhaust itself by successive crops, plants which is least exhausting ought to be cultivated. By observing the rules of rotation, a vast improvement would necessarily be introduced into Canadian agriculture. At present, nine tenths of the farmers pay no attention whatever to rotation of cropping. Weedy crops of grain succeed each other, without summer fallow or manuring.

THE BEST ANIMALS TO FATTEN.

A second question of importance is, whether it is better to stall-feed animals of a small or medium size, than those of large frames. In general, the farmers incline to the medium sized-animals. Animals do not consume always according to their size, though in general, animals are fed at an expence, in some measure, proportionate to their size. The matter resolves itself into this simple question; whether the same amount of feed will produce more amount of flesh in an animal of moderate, than in one of large stature. I do not know any certain rule can be laid down in this case. Small boned, snug, and neatly built animals will be found generally to have a much stronger tendency to fatness than animals of large and coarse frames. But after all, the main point is the thriftiness of the animal. There is always a much stronger tendency in some animals to grow fat and to keep fat, than in others, and were this disposition predominates, the gain is likely to be in proportion to the size.

The thriftiness of an animal may be in some measure, determined by the eye; but experienced men, in their judgement on this point, depend more upon the hand, or what is technically called the feel of a beast.—“It is,” says one competent to speak in these matters, “the nice touch or mellow feel of the hand, which in a great measure constitutes the judge of cattle:” and what you wish to find in an ox, is a thick loose skin, floating, as it were on layer of soft fat, yielding to the least pressure, and springing back towards the fingers, like a piece of chamois leather, and covered with thick glossy soft hair.”

The description given in an English treatise, of an animal best suited to the stall, is so skilfully drawn up, that I will not forgo the pleasure of transcribing it. It follows: Attention should be paid to compactness and symmetry of form, deep sere-quarters, wide carcass, fine small bones, moderately thin hide, a protuberance of fat under the root of the tongue, and large full eyes. A well shaped ox should then have a small head with a placed countenance, as

indicating docility, and a consequent disposition to get fat: a fine muzzle and open nostrils; the throat should be clean: long and thin in the neck, but wide and deep in the shoulders the back should be broad and straight near to the setting of the tail, with the rump points fat and coming well up to it; the barrel should be round, wide across the loins, and girth deep behind the shoulders, with the hip-bone and the first rib very small, the fore-legs should be short and wide apart, so as to present a broad appearance to the chest and the thighs of the hind legs should be shut well in the twist the seam in the middle of which should be well filled, and the flanks should be full and heavy. A form such as this, is not only the best for affording the greatest weight, but will be also generally found to lay the flesh upon the prime parts, to produce the least quantity of offal with such a large quantity of tallow, as, emphatically speaking, in the butchers phrase, will cause the animal to die well. These marks, however, are not the only indications of a propensity to fatten quickly. On the contrary, it has been found by experiment, that many coarse beasts with large bones and gummy legs, have often proved superior in that particular, to other animals of undoubted superiority in point of shape; but those coarse thick hides handled soft and silky, with a sleeky degree of mellowness, which is the characteristics of healthy habit, while the skin of the others was wiry and their flesh hard. The state of the hide and flesh, therefore, is of the first importance as the essential property of *handling well.*—*Colman's Fourth Report.*

UNIFORMITY IN THE TREATMENT OF STOCK.

I know of no greater mistake that farmers commit in respect to their animals, than in their variable and capricious treatment of them, sometimes filling them to repletion, and other times subjecting them to the most severe usage; taking them, for example, from pastures in the autumn in a high condition, and by hard usage in winter, reducing them to mere skeletons before the spring. The animal constitution always suffers essentially by such reverses. It is said that a sheep is never fat but once. There is a great deal of truth in this assertion. Perhaps it is to be received with some qualifications; but I know how very difficult it is to raise an animal from a low condition. The farmers prejudice very greatly their own interest in suffering their milch cows to come out in the spring in low condition. During the time they are dry, they think it enough to give them the coarsest fodder, and that in limited quantities, this too, at a time of pregnancy, when they require the kindest treatment and the most nourishing food. The calf itself under this treatment of the cow is small and feeble. He finds comparatively insufficient support from his exhausted dam: and the return which the cow makes in milk during the summer, is much less than it would