

Agricultural Journal.

From the New York, Agriculturist. POTATOES AND SALINE MANURES.

We have repeatedly called the attention of our Farmers to the necessity of using saline manures to a much greater extent than is now generally practised. By saline manures, we mean all those substances which enter into cultivated crops, which are called earthy or inorganic, and most of which are left in the form of ashes when these substances are burnt. Thus we find that after drying and burning potatoes, we have left of ash the following fixed or inorganic matters in the proportions specified:

| | Potato roots. | Do. tops. |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------|
| Potash | 40.28 | 81.9 |
| Soda | 23.34 | 0.9 |
| Lime | 3.31 | 129.7 |
| Magnesia | 3.24 | 17.0 |
| Alumina | .50 | .4 |
| Oxide of iron | .32 | .2 |
| Silica | .84 | 49.4 |
| Sulphuric acid | 5.40 | 4.2 |
| Phosphoric acid | 4.01 | 19.7 |
| Chlorine | 1.60 | 5.0 |

These substances are just as essential to the formation and successful growth of potatoes, as the water, atmospheric air, carbonic acid, and ammonia, which enter into their composition, and are called the organic matters,—carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen—which make up the balance of the materials necessary to the perfection of the plant. Now, if we apply putrescent or barnyard manures in sufficient quantity to the land, we shall furnish to the plant all that it requires for its growth, and these manures being formed from vegetables, usually contain all the required materials for the reproduction of vegetation. But there is frequently a deficiency of such manures, and farmers are obliged to resort to muck, peat, sea-weed, fish, and other animal manures, as fertilizers; and these do not afford all the requisite materials. To remedy this deficiency, saline manures should be used to the utmost extent that they can be found profitable.

Ashes, leached or unleached, the latter much the most profitable, should be used freely. We know of no greater waste or worse management than that for our farmers to sell their ashes, as they now too generally do. No price ever paid for them is any compensation for their loss. Every bushel of good ashes will yield about 20 cents worth of potash, which, in all cases, is an essential ingredient in the farm crops, and worth to them for this purpose, as much as to the manufacturers of potash. Yet we find the farmers trucking them off by loads, for a few bars of soap, or some other equivalent, varying from 3 to 8 cents per bushel. It would be some compensation to their owners, if it were made a condition of the sale, that the ashes should be returned them after leaching, as they are then worth about half the price of the unleached for agricultural purposes. Yet in the face of these facts, perfectly well known to every intelligent farmer, there are millions of bushels, annually thrown aside in the asheries scattered through the country, especially at the west, which are used to fill up pond holes or streets, or are suffered to be carried off by streams beyond the reach of any profitable application.

Lime is an important ingredient in soils, yielding a portion of its substance directly to plants, and especially useful in effecting changes in the constituents of the soil and preparing them in most beneficial form, and under the most advantageous circumstances, to be taken up by the growing plants.

Plaster of Paris is highly useful as a manure for plants when adapted to the soil and climate, serving both as food for plants in large degree, and as producing changes in the available portions of soils for the benefit of the crops.

Bone-dust is a necessary food for plants and is peculiarly adapted as a manure for potatoes and turnips, containing as it does, great proportions of phosphate of lime and gelatine, the former of which, especially, enters largely into the composition of those roots. This manure, indispensable in some shape, is now thrown away throughout most of the country, yet with the simple expense of gringing it could be made an immense value to the farmer.

Salt is an invaluable addition to most soils, both of its materials, chlorine and soda, entering largely into plants, besides combining to a great extent with the moisture of the atmosphere, as do each of the preceding, thus securing an unusual supply of this vital material for growing plants during a drought. It is also, in common with others, an important agent in the extirpation of worms

and insects, so frequently destructive of vegetation.

Saltpetre, though too expensive to be used profusely, is a valuable and economical manure when applied as a soak for seeds, which protects them from the ravages, of grubs, &c., or when placed immediately around the roots of plants; giving them an early, vigorous growth, which thereby frequently secures a large crop, that might otherwise be lost by drought, or cut off by an early frost.

Nitrate and sulphate of soda, ammoniacal liquor, and some other ingredients have a similar effect, and may be used with the same advantage as the preceding.

The above applications may be extended to nearly all crops, grass, shubbery, and fruits trees, with the same benefit as to potatoes.

In cultivating potatoes, those varieties should be selected which give the greatest value; some of these will produce 20, 50, and in some instances even 100 per cent. more than others; but it must be remembered that quantity is not always the test of value, a rule that holds to a very great extent with roots, hay, and some of the coarsest products. To such a degree does this difference reach, that Professor Johnstone asserts, that one kind of potatoes will lose 80 per cent., while another may not lose over 10 per cent., of water a difference owing to the different soils on which they are planted, and the variety used for seed. He says, that of the three varieties used in England, known as the cups, red-dons, and white-dons, the first gave three tons of starch (which is the principal test of the value of potatoes,) per acre; the white-dons gave 2½ tons; and the red-dons gave only 1½ tons. Thus the cups, although the lightest in quantity of the three varieties by three tons per acre, gave double the quantity of nutriment that the red-dons yielded. To this difference in the relative amount of starch afforded by each, is to be added the other nutritious ingredients of potatoes, gluten and oil, which vary according to the soil, manuring, and variety, to an extent even much greater than that of starch.

Now these are considerations that every intelligent farmer will not fail to consider of great weight, in determining the mode of cultivation. Potatoes, and every crop, may be made of as much most intrinsic value for any given quantity, as stall fed beef and mutton is that light grass fed; or corn fattened pork is superior to the rambling, shack or slop fed swine. These are important hints for farmers, which men of sound judgement and intelligence will not fail to appreciate and apply.

R. L. ALLEN.

Buffalo, March 26, 1844.

To preserve potatoes for several years, nothing more is necessary than to heat them; that is to say, to immerse them for a few minutes in hot water, provided that they be removed before the skin is injured—they will in this way be preserved for a long time, without becoming sour or losing flavour; it will be necessary however, to be very careful to wipe them dry on taking them out of water. The heat of an oven will, answer as well, if not better, than hot water, provided the potatoes are not too dry when put into the oven, so as to break the skin.

—Journal de Con Usuel.

Colonial News.

Nova Scotia.

Halifax Times, June 25.

ECCLESIASTICAL.—His Lordship the Bishop of Newfoundland preached in St. Paul's Church on Sunday morning, Bishop Inglis reading the Communion Service, and in St. George's in the afternoon. The service was chaunted in the former Church by the Band of the Royals. The singing was effective.

New-Brunswick.

St. John Courier, June 29.

The weather for some days past has been wet and foggy, and has prevented the arrival of vessels in our port, which, however, still presents considerable activity among the shipping trade. Large supplies of Timber and Deals are daily being brought to market, and as money may now be readily obtained for good paper at the Banks, no obstacle, on that account, exists to making sales. In addition to the present easy state of the money market, it will be seen by the subjoined notice that a large amount of Treasury Warrants will be paid off next week, owing to completion of the arrangements for the loan to the Province

of £70,000, by the Bank of British North America; and those desirous of engaging in Ship building, or other branches of industry requiring capital, in a safe way will find no difficulty in obtaining the means of doing so, by the payment of simple interest. This is a state of things which has not been the case here for some time past, and is an evidence, we hope, of returning confidence and prosperity. We regret to state, however that the Coasting Trade of Saint John has fallen off greatly this season, many of the vessels which formerly visited our port from the Nova Scotia side of the Bay of Fundy, being now engaged in carrying on a direct trade with Boston and other ports in Massachusetts and Maine, where they find ready markets for their surplus agricultural produce, wood, and woolen manufactures, which were formerly brought to this City. The grocers and traders about our wharves feel this change of trade very sensibly, and generally attribute it to odious discriminating duties levied by our Provincial Legislature on some of the products of the sister Province, for the last year or two.

West Indies.

From the Bermuda Royal Gazette.

BERMUDA, June 11.—We have before stated it to be our opinion that one steamer would be sufficient for the mail service between these Islands and Halifax, and that a steamer in every way calculated for the service could be produced at a comparatively small sum, in addition to what is now paid for the four sailing vessels. The recent Contract entered into for the conveyance of the Mail by a steam vessel from Halifax to St. John's, N. F., confirms, in a measure, we think, our opinion.

United States News.

From the New York Sun.

Seduction and Murder.—A Father's Revenge.—Mr E. Ford, in a paroxysm of distress shot N. W. Low, (a young auctioneer) of St. Louis, on the 8th, in the head, for seducing his only daughter, and then gave himself up. There was much excitement among the people of that city in consequence of the melancholy occurrence. The father had been searching several days for his daughter, the latter having been persuaded by Low to accompany him to New Orleans under a promise of marriage, but on the fatal day Low returned alone, having left Ford at St. Genevieve, a few miles below St. Louis. Having ascertained all the facts from the officers of the steamboat that conveyed the guilty pair from New Orleans, Mr Ford called at Low's office, in company with a friend, and enquired where his daughter was.—Low answered "that if he came on that business, he had better clear out," Ford then remarked, that he (Low) had promised to marry his daughter, by that promise had succeeded in ruining her, and he wished to know if he intended to fulfil his promise? A witness states that Low told the father to "go to h—l." He, the witness, on hearing angry words between them, stepped towards the door; and when he turned round, observed Ford standing up with a pistol in his hand. Ford repeated the question, "will you marry my daughter?" Low again told him to "go to h—l," and the exasperated father fired the pistol. Low was seated at the time he received the wound. The ball entered nearly in the centre of his forehead, a little above his right eyebrow, making a ghastly, and, it is believed, fatal wound. Mr Ford made no effort to escape, but on the contrary, yielded himself up to the person who accompanied him, and desired to be conducted to the Recorder's office. He spoke in a cool and collected manner about the affair, and on his examination, exhibited the same calm determination to abide the consequences. When the examining Justice stated that he would hold Mr Ford to bail in five thousand dollars, several gentlemen immediately stepped forward, and desired to become his security, but of course they could not all be gratified. The distracted parent having given the necessary bail, was permitted to retire to his desolate home.

Boston Atlas, June 20.

Lieut. Roberts, Mail officer of the steamship Acadia, died shortly after that vessel reached this port yesterday afternoon, from the effects of a fit of apoplexy which attacked him previous to the arrival of the Acadia at Halifax. Captain Judkins was sworn in at Halifax, as mail officer, in anticipation of his death.

HAYTI.

St John New Brunswick, June 25.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT FROM THE SOUTH! —ARRIVAL OF A SPECIAL EXPRESS FROM THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT! —We learn from the New York Sun of Thursday, that the Mexican steamer Petrita, Capt. Hinchley, arrived at New Orleans on the 10th inst., seven days from Vera Cruz, having on board Senor J. Ganzaes de la Vega, bearer of despatches from the Mexican Government to Signor Almonte.

The papers, all over Mexico, speak in terms of great indignation against the proposed annexation of Texas. One of the editors says that the republic has the will and the means to resist a movement of the kind—has a great army already disciplined, and Santa Anna to take the command.—The following letter contains important intelligence:

Vera Cruz, June 3d, 1844.

Eds. Picayune.—Dear Sirs;—At the

being made by the various religious denominations in the United States for sending Missionaries to China. In the bark Valparaiso, Captain Engel, which sailed from New York on the 19th instant, the Baptist Board of Missions sent out Dr. Thomas D. Devan, a physician of good practice in that city, (who has just been ordained as a Missionary,) and his wife, a daughter of Mr Hale, of the Journal of Commerce. Their departure has excited an unusual interest in the denomination to which they belong. The religion of spiritual life will be pressed upon the consideration of the Chinese, with great earnestness.

The Coal Pit Explosion.—The Richmond Enquirer of June 18, says—"All the bodies of the dead killed by the explosion at the Black Heath Pits, save those of two of the colored men, were recovered on Saturday. The six colored men were buried on Saturday, and the three Englishmen were consigned to the grave on Sunday morning. Since the terrible explosion in 1840, when fifty-four lives were lost, every precaution has been adopted to guard against danger—such as the use of Sir Humphry Davy's safety lamps, &c.—but, from the neglect of orders, this tremendous loss of life has occurred.

Overflow of the Mississippi.—We learn from the passengers of the Sam Dale that great damage has been done to the Mississippi. About fifteen miles above Princeton, near Shirttail Bend, the levee has given way, and cotton has been destroyed to the amount of at least three thousand bales. Another breach about five miles below Princeton, has caused a loss of cotton amounting to twelve or fifteen hundred bales. From a breach a little below Lake Providence, the amount of loss cannot be less than a thousand bales.

Massacre.—We learn from the New Bedford Mercury, that an arrival at that port brings intelligence that the British frigate Cleopatra having got ashore on a reef on the coast of Madagascar, one of her boats with an officer and thirteen men, sent to carry out a stream anchor, was attacked by the natives, and eight of them were killed, including the Lieutenant. The attack took place only about 300 yards distant from the frigate, but in the confusion on board the frigate, it was unperceived till the approach of the boat to the frigate with only the three survivors. Doubtless the whole of the boat's crew would have shared the same fate, but for the apprehension among the natives of the near vicinity of the frigate. The only assignable cause for the attack from the natives is said to be that they were not permitted to plunder the boat of whatever they wished.

It will be recollected that we published a story a few days since from a Barbadoes paper of May 2d. of a contest between the English and French at Tahiti, resulting in the sinking of an English frigate, purported to have been received by way of Panama. We publish to day news from the Pacific, brought by Lieut. Eagle, late commander of the U. S. schr Shark, who left that vessel on the twelfth of May, and he makes no mention of any such event. It is hardly probable, therefore, that there is any truth in the report.

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