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Agricultural.

ROOT CROPS.—Mangels and beets are not hardy, and should be put away safely before severe frosts. In pitting these roots, it is well to remember that to prevent heating, they should be put into the pits when dry; the pits should not be too high or wide, but may be as long as desired, and a ventilator will be necessary at every 6 feet. It is safest to finish the pit at first, although the full coating of earth may not be put on until the cold weather arrives.

IN GATHERING LATE POTATOES all that are dug should be put away safely before night. At this season it will not be safe to leave this tender tuber exposed over night, as a slight frost may spoil many.

TAKE CARE OF THE POTATO TOPS.—It is usual to let the pigs glean the potato fields. But now that Paris Green is generally used the tops should be gathered and burned before the pigs are turned in. Long acquaintance with this deadly poison should not lead to carelessness with it. Neither is it safe to throw the tops into the yards where the pigs are kept.

HORSES.—The season is too far advanced for turning horses out at night. A cold rain coming on suddenly, may do much harm. If horses are caught in the rain and thoroughly drenched, it will be well to rub them dry, and then blanket them as soon as they reach home. But the blankets should never be put on until the horses are thoroughly dry.

HARNESS that has been soaked with water, will dry hard, unless it is dressed while damp with some kind of non-drying oil. First dry off the harness with a sponge, and then with a cloth kept for this purpose, you can apply the oil or dressing thoroughly. A coating of waterproof dressing now will be useful, but the harness should be thoroughly washed and made perfectly clean.

ECONOMY.—The value of every thing a farmer buys, will probably increase considerably before long, if the increase has not already begun. Whether agricultural products advance in value in proportion or not, a rigid economy in expenditures will be prudent. The experience of the past few years ought not to be soon forgotten. Every tool, implement, machine, or appliance about the premises should be used and preserved with care; and before anything is purchased it may well be considered if it cannot be produced or made at home. Then the money may be doubly saved, for the needed article may be had without much cost, and the money it would have required will be still in the pocket.

COWS.—If any inducement was ever needed for skillful management of cows, the present low price of milk and dairy products would offer one. To increase the product in every possible way, is a vital necessity for dairymen. The best of feed, good water, frequent carding of the animals, to preserve health, are all means towards this end. There are some feeding stuffs that are worth more than others at the same price. This is a point worth special study to all who have live stock.

SHEEP.—Long-wool sheep are easily chilled by a cold rain that would not trouble a South-down or Merino. Long-wools, therefore require protection from rain-storms, although the weather may not be very cold. An open shed in the field may be sufficient. If brought into the yards at night, sheep should not be shut up; they require abundant ventilation, and can not be crowded with impunity in close quarters. Where ticks abound, or scab exists, use the Cresylic or other effective dip.

DRAINS.—Fields will need to be relieved of excess of surface water, but waterfurrows should be so arranged, that as much of the rain-fall as possible may be retained on the land. If water channels are made down a slope, soluble fertilizers and manure will be washed away. Make furrows diagonally across the slope, with very little fall, and make them broad and shallow, instead of deep and narrow.

WHEN TO APPLY MANURE.—The common practice among farmers is to make a general clearing of the yards and barn cellars once a year, either in the spring and fall. Either practice makes a heavy draft upon the teams, and has its disadvantages. If this work is done in the spring, it is when the ground is soft, and other work is exceedingly pressing. If the manure is drawn out in the fall, and dropped in heaps upon the field to be cultivated next season, there is more or less waste by leaching and evaporation. There is a growing disposition among our intelligent farmers to apply manure directly to growing crops, or as near the time of planting and sowing as possible. It is felt that the sooner the manure is put within reach of the roots of plants, the better for the crops and for their owner. Manure is so much capital invested, and bears interest only as it is consumed in the soil.

The barn-cellar may be so managed as to manufacture and turn out fertilizers every month in the year, so that the farmer may suit his convenience in applying them to the soil. When manure is not wanted for cultivated crops it is always safe to apply it to the grass crops, either in pastures or upon meadows after mowing. Top-dressing is growing in favor with our intelligent farmers. Grass pays better than almost any farm crop in the older soil, and the spreading of compost, saves the necessity of frequent plowing and seeding. By top-dressing at any convenient season of the year, fields may be kept profitably in grass for an indefinite time.

THE POTATO ROT.—Mr. "J. F. W." Flushing, Long Island, brings us a number of potatoes with the inquiry: "What is the matter?" The trouble is a serious one, the true and destructive Potato Rot, caused by the parasite fungus *Peronospora infestans*. The fungus first attacks the foliage of the potato, which is soon destroyed, when the fungus descends through the stem and finally reaches the potatoes. The first indication of the trouble is the wet soft

rot with its accompanying disagreeable odor. The vines should be watched, and as soon as "struck" by the fungus—which is known by a frosty covering and rapid wilting and decay—the potatoes should be dug. In this way a crop may be saved which might be entirely lost if the digging was put off for a week, or even less time.

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