



[For the Deseret News.]

Directions How to Raise Hemp and Flax, and the Importance Thereof.

BY S. P. GUHL.

Hemp is an article of trade which, year by year, takes a large sum of money out of the country, and any one who will consider and think what a vast quantity of ropes, twine, canvas and different other articles are imported every year, will easily understand, that a far larger produce is needed, than what is at present raised in this country.

The largest portion of this very necessary article is now imported from the United States, and what is worse still, manufactured, and thus, strangers reap all the benefit and advantage which justly belongs to the inhabitants of these valleys, and the wise and industrious farmer would easily be able to raise a proper quantity, which would pay him well, if he would but lay hold of it, and do it in the right manner. To raise two hundred thousand pounds of hemp would only require a few hundred acres of land, and that certainly does not seem to be an unreasonable amount, especially if taken into consideration that in many places, it might properly be used instead of flax, which according to my experience does not pay the farmer for his labor as well as hemp does, and is more hard on the soil; and what is handsomer, stronger and whiter, than the beautiful linen manufactured from hemp. Would it not be good to use and wear that instead of importing such a quantity of cotton goods? Why then not lay hold and cultivate this useful and so easily raised plant?

It is true I have heard a good many pretend, that the hemp and flax raised here in Utah is not as strong as that which is imported, but it is a gross mistake, and quite contrary to common sense, and any one using ropes manufactured here, will be convinced, that they are as strong and even stronger than the imported article, in the spinning of which rancid, putrid oil is often used, which naturally will make them less strong. Ropes that are exposed much to the air and sun ought to be tarred a little, and that will make them last much longer. I will here remark that I have myself manufactured hemp raised by Mr. Anson Call and Mr. Dalton in this valley, equal in goodness to any I ever have seen from Russia or Poland, the best hemp countries in the world, and I know many others who have been raising first rate hemp. The raising of this plant requires only a few given rules, which are not at all difficult to observe, and which ought never to be avoided, because an inferior article absolutely will be the result. The same may be said about flax, which is not more difficult to raise to perfection than hemp is, if some little attention and care was taken with it, but as it is now, very little may be called good and fetch a price as such.

I will now try to give my own experience in raising hemp, as well as what I have seen and observed in other places, which I know will prove good in any climate, where hemp can be grown, in a few plain and simple rules, and point out the mistakes that are most frequently committed.

The ground required for hemp raising, must be a rich, mouldy or clay and sand mixed soil, situated rather low than high, damp but not wet; too sandy or dry will not grow it well. It will be well to have the hemp-field sheltered from strong winds; it being necessary that hemp should grow high, it is easy to understand the propriety of having the field sheltered if possible from the keenest winds, which otherwise will bend and break the plants at the roots. A small field, well prepared, manured and sheltered, will pay better than a large field without these requisites. If manured a little every year, hemp may be grown on the same ground as many as sixteen years in succession, and even more. The famous author, Arthur Young, speaks about a piece of land on which hemp had been raised for seventy years without intermission; but it would take some labor to accomplish that. The ground for hemp should be as loose and light as possible, therefore it will be advisable to dig it up in the fall. If very clayey, some sand, sweepings or mud will be good to mix with it. For half a bushel of seed a field containing about fifty-six square rods of ground is required. If not dug it should be plowed deeply in the fall, and next spring harrowed first if sand or mud has been put on it, otherwise plowed over twice, and each time well harrowed. Before plowing the last time, put on your manure; horse, chicken or hog manure are considered best; four loads for about 4,000 square feet is quite sufficient.

When thus prepared, and immediately after having been harrowed the last time, the seed must be sown, in the beginning of May, or a little later the ground should be very wet. It being often difficult to obtain good and sound seed, it is always best, previously to try it by sowing a little in a wooden box, or a flower-pot if filled with rich dirt, and keep it in a warm room, covered with a glass or something else and well watered. It will then soon come up, and by the number of plants, a calculation may be made about how much seed will be needed, if for instance only half of the seed, by testing it in the flower-pot, has come up, it will need a bushel where

otherwise a half a bushel would be enough. Seed should never be more than two years old, and that raised the previous year is always to be preferred. If sown too thinly, the stalk will be hard like wood, and the lint poor; if sown too thickly it will certainly run up to a considerable height, but the article will be inferior.

Paits must be taken to sow the seed even. For that purpose it may be divided into two equal parts, supposing you sow it like wheat and not plant it like corn, which is to be preferred, if the water can be made to run over the field. When divided, sow one part from north to south, the other part from east to west, and by this method, even an unskillful hand can accomplish the task. The sowing done, a light wooden harrow must be applied, and if the land is somewhat dry it is advisable to roll it immediately, but if wet, it is better to wait one or two days, but not more, lest the seed commence growing.

From the time the seed has been put in, till it is fairly up, a good look out must be kept that the birds do not eat it, especially the doves, which are very fond of it; nothing more is to be observed, till the hemp is ready for pulling, unless it needs watering. To weed it, is not only unnecessary, but will do more harm than good, the hemp will soon get the better of the weeds, but the tender hemp-plants that are once trodden down will never rise again.

The hemp that has been sown the first days of May, will generally be ready for pulling the latter part of July, or the first days of August, which is the most common time; a great difference in the plants will be seen. About one half of them, and often more, are considerably larger than the rest, and have quite a number of flowers, each of which contains five stamens. These larger plants are the male hemp, and are ready for pulling as soon as the flowers are perfectly unfolded. The leaves assume a yellow color and lose their stiffness, some drop down, the top of the plant will become yellow, and the stalk gray at the roots. When the large hemp plants have this appearance, they must be pulled immediately. It is better to pull them a little too soon than too late; if too late, the lint will not very easily loosen or part from the stalk, and the produced article will not be as fine and soft, as when pulled at the right time.

In pulling the male hemp, care must be taken, not to pull or break the smaller or female plants, and the males always being the largest number. This can be done easily enough, by commencing at a corner or at one side of the field, and gradually advancing, grasping the plant with the hand and pulling it up. The pulling finished the plants should be tied up in bundles, so arranged that care is taken to have those of equal length tied together as much as possible so that nothing shall be wasted, it being a great advantage to have the lint as long as possible. The bundles must be tied up at both ends and set on the root, one against the other; the short plants always containing more tow than the larger. I would very much recommend to have them properly arranged before tying them up, that nothing be wasted.

I have seen a good many farmers who pull all the plants at once, and as by this method the larger plants stand too long or the smaller, female plants, which contain the seed, are pulled too soon and before the seed is properly ripe, such proceedings ought to be avoided. About a fortnight or three weeks after the first pulling, the rest will be ready and the same signs will then appear, and when the seed is very near ripe no time should be lost in pulling it, and proceeded with as before mentioned. If preferred, some of the plants may be left still longer, so as to have the seed get perfectly ripe, but this will diminish the quantity of the lint. When pulled, the tops containing the seed should be cut and carefully spread out on a dry floor in an airy place, and raked every day that they may soon dry, and be ready for thrashing. The hemp pulled before the seed was perfectly ripe must, when tied in bundles, be exposed a few days to the sun and air, so as to produce the better ripening of the seed. The same field may be used for hemp next year, but it ought to be plowed in the fall.

Thus far advanced, comes the rotting, an operation which forms a very essential part of hemp preparing, inasmuch as the goodness of the lint depends very much on this process being carefully and properly performed. The object of the rotting is to loosen the lint from the rest of the stalks and make the shives break and come out easily.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

A Cure for the Scab.

SANTAQUIN, UTAH COUNTY, }
March 20, 1861.

MR. EDITOR:—Having had much experience in sheep husbandry, and knowing that what is commonly called the scab, prevails to a great extent among the sheep in these valleys which is a great injury to the wool, both in quality and in quantity, I will give a recipe for making an ointment which will effectually cure that disease.

Take of black pepper, saleratus, allspice, gunpowder, brimstone and salt, in the proportion of one spoonful of each to a pint of lard, mix well together when warm, then apply the ointment to the affected parts of both sheep and lambs; also give each sheep a small quantity of brimstone internally, and it will work an effectual cure.

A. BUTTERFIELD.

Seeds Wanted.

EDITOR DESERET NEWS:

DEAR SIR:—Considering the quantity and variety of seeds imported into this Territory for the last few years, we might have anticipated a more general distribution of really valuable grains, roots, fruits, shrubs, flowers, etc. I think this lack may be attributed in a great measure to the demands made by circumstances upon our population. Seeds have come in small quantities, requiring extra care and attention in cultivation, that the increase might be secured. The President and Directors of the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society have felt it to be their province to remedy this, if possible. After much consultation as to detail, they had resolved to secure a spot of ground as a commencement for experiment, etc., as well as to form a nucleus from which to bless the Territory, by a judicious cultivation and distribution of seeds and plants, such as would, without this attention, be unknown or lost to us.

The board felt encouraged in this, from the number of offers of land which they received. President H. C. Kimball, Col. A. P. Rockwood, Col. Little and others have, in a generous spirit and for the public good, submitted certain lands for this purpose. Overtures had also been made by the City Council to a special committee of the board, which appearing to be the most suitable, was unanimously accepted.

Our city fathers have manifested a truly liberal and praiseworthy spirit. A valuable piece of land, for a merely nominal consideration is, for a term of years, secured to the society, and operations will be commenced forthwith. The board have but few seeds on hand; hence they make an appeal to all who may have choice seeds (imported or native) which they wish to put to use, to transmit them to President Hunter for this purpose. Many seeds are brought from England to this place which fail to germinate. Particular attention will be paid to all such, if forwarded, whether grains, fruits, vegetables, shrubs or flowers; send them along, and as early as possible.—By order of President and Directors,

W. H. NAISBITT,

Corresponding Sec. D. A. & M. Society.
G. S. L. City, Mar. 22d, 1861.

Collodion for Grafting.

Grafting is a process of great value to the horticulturist, and should be understood by every tiller of the soil. Most of our best fruits are obtained by grafting, a term which may be considered as including budding also. The theory of grafting is to cut off a piece of one limb and fasten it upon another so that it will live. The inner bark of the scion or bud must fit against the inner bark of the stock, which last communicates its life to the former and makes it grow.

It is expected that all sprouts will be cut off save those shooting from the scion or bud, which in time are to grow to form the body of the tree and produce all the fruit. After the scion or bud has been fitted to its place, it needs some protection from the sun and wind. This it has been usual to give by covering the graft with a rag or with grafting wax, or with both; but a new device, said to be highly successful, has of late been resorted to in the Eastern States and Europe. Collodion, a solution of gun cotton in ether mixed with a little alcohol, is a clear liquid, with a syrupy consistence, which dries very rapidly on exposure to the air, and leaves a hard film that adheres very tenaciously to any substance on which it dries, and makes a strong coat impervious to water.

Instead of going to the trouble of wrapping his bud in a rag, or moulding wax about his graft, the horticulturist now has a vial of collodion at his side, from which he applies a touch of the liquid with a camel's hair brush. It dries in a few minutes and the wound is protected against air and water. The process is very brief and cleanly.

After the work is done, the brush is washed out in alcohol, the bottle corked up, and the material is put away ready for use on another occasion. Collodion costs two bits an ounce, and a brush two bits more; so the experiment is not very expensive. The liquid is one very valuable for animal as well as vegetable wounds. For a clean fresh cut there is no better remedy than to put a little collodion on its edges, and hold them together till it dries; but if the wound is old, or has any foreign matter in it suppurating may result, and the closing of the wound externally with collodion will do more harm than good.—[Alta California.]

A Profitable Dairy-Farm.

Hon. Zadock Pratt has furnished statistics from his dairy farm of 203 acres of Prattville for the last year. He kept 50 cows. The aggregate quantity of milk was 26,276 gallons, or 525 1-2 per each cow, being an average of about 2 1-8 gallons per day for each. The butter amounted to 9,143 pounds, or about 182 pounds for each cow, being an average of about 12 oz. per day for each; the average quantity of milk to each pound of butter was about 11 1-4 quarts. The whole amount of pork was 6,516 pounds, or about 139 1-4 pounds for each cow. The receipts were, for butter \$2,148 89; for pork \$456 12; for calves \$80; total \$2,685. Expenses for working the farm, including \$700 interest on investment, \$1,125 75.

What's in a Word?

A great deal my friend. A word has often decided the fate of a lifetime; the death of a soul; the character of an individual; the destiny of a nation. Words are the representatives of ideas, and convey those ideas to the minds of others. Thoughts precede words, and words, generally, precede actions. The thoughts of the soul are the mainspring to the actions of the body. If words are nothing, powerless, ineffective, why come together Sabbath after Sabbath to hear the words of truth—why send others abroad to proclaim those truths to the world? But who does not know something of the irresistible power of the orator's persuasive eloquence? It is felt alike in the peasant's humble cot, and the palace of the king. It causes the heart of the former to rejoice while that of the latter trembles as he feels his throne beneath him shaken by the vibrations of, perhaps, that single voice. Are thoughts nothing? They leave their indelible stamp upon the soul. They mould the character, form the spirit and shape the outward man. Who shall say they are nothing?

"But," says one—as the vulgar jest, the coarse allusion, the low innuendo or word of double meaning is uttered in his or her presence with a sort of self satisfied chuckle and twinkle of the eye—"don't be so puritanical. Oh you're dreadfully modest and pious, aren't you. What harm is there in a word?" Again I say, a great deal. Temptation enters as often through the ear as the eye. See how quick your children are to notice and remember everything they hear. Do you wish their pure minds thus young, tainted with evil? They will learn it fast enough.

There are some men who can appreciate nothing but the sensual and vulgar. If they mingle in female society or enter the family circle, they must tell some smutty story or utter some indelicacy that will make every really pure soul blush with indignation and shame. Oh you're dreadfully modest and pious, aren't you. What harm is there in a word?" Again I say, a great deal. Temptation enters as often through the ear as the eye. See how quick your children are to notice and remember everything they hear. Do you wish their pure minds thus young, tainted with evil? They will learn it fast enough.

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SIRIUS.

Seventy's Conference at Cedar City.

The Seventies in Iron county held their quarterly Conference at Cedar City, Iron county, commencing on Saturday the 2d of March inst., Elder George Coray presiding, and J. V. Adams acting as clerk.

The Conference was opened by singing

"Sweet is the work, my God, my King,"

and by prayer by Elder Thomas W. Spiking. The authorities of the Church were sustained by a unanimous vote. R. R. Birkbeck and John V. Adams were appointed teachers of the Seventies in Cedar City for the ensuing quarter.

The Conference was then addressed by Elders George Coray, Joseph Hunter, Gabriel Dana, James Simpkins, R. R. Birkbeck, T. W. Spiking, and J. V. Adams on various subjects, also by Christopher Jacobs, of Toquerville, John Morris and Bishop Henry Lunt.—Adjourned till Sunday the 3d, at 11 a.m.

Prayer by Elder J. V. Adams.

SUNDAY, 3d, 11 a.m. Conference was opened by singing

"Once more my soul, the rising day,"

and by prayer by Elder Adams.

The stand was occupied by Elders Coray, Birkbeck, Simpkins, Dana, Joseph Hunter, Peter M. Fife, and C. Jacobs, who each in turn briefly addressed the meeting.

Bishop Lunt spoke of the improvement observable, of late, in the quorum meetings at that place, and made some appropriate remarks in relation to the duties of the Elders and of all Saints.

The Conference was adjourned to meet at Parowan on the first Saturday and Sunday in June next.

Benediction by Elder Birkbeck.

J. V. Adams, Clerk.

—Comfort Bennet, the millionaire of Che-nung county, is a remarkable man; he went there without means, and worked for the farmers for eight years, before he had means to buy land; in the meridian of life, he lost his right hand. He is now eighty years old, has been blind four years, and has accumulated by earnings and savings, not speculations, \$1,000,000.