

AGRICULTURAL.

POTATOES.—We have all observed the great deterioration of the potato crops during the past ten or twenty years; and what is the cause of this alarming decrease of tubers? Can science, can chemistry point out the reason or aid in remedying the difficulty? We think it can, and in order to place the matter in a clear light we will point out the kind and amount of food which the potato demands.

We had a field of potatoes upon the farm which yielded 300 bushels to the acre; this may be regarded as an old fashioned crop. This crop removed from the soil in tubers and tops at least 400 pounds of food. Now these amounts are very large and serve to show that the potato plant is a great consumer of the two substances, and also it shows that in order to restore our potato crops to their former productive condition, we must supply phosphoric compounds and substances holding potash in large quantities.

For six or eight generations in New England our fathers have been exhausting the soil by removing these agencies in their potato and other crops, and we have reached a time when the vegetable is starving in the soil for want of its proper food. Our farmers have found that new land gives the best crops, and this is due to the fact that such fields afford the most potash. But so long as we crop our pastures so unreasonably, we cannot expect to have new land; as land is not new that has potash and phosphoric elements removed by grazing animals. Remember that a potato field which gives one hundred bushels to the acre requires at least one hundred and sixty pounds of potash; but by allowing the tops to decay upon the field, sixty pounds of this amount is restored to the soil again, so that amount is contained in them. —Boston Journal of Chemistry.

APPLYING CORN CULTURE TO WHEAT.—It is a benefit to cultivate corn between the rows, why is it not an advantage to give wheat the same treatment, and for that matter, all or most of the grains? Winter wheat has the fall and spring, as well as the summer in part, to favor the growth of weeds and grasses, and we find these abundantly intermingled among the wheat. To sow a crop of corn broadcast for feed is found to be an advantage; to sow in drills and cultivate is found to be still better. It pays more than the extra labor. Wheat is to be sown broadcast, and do well; it is now found that it will do better in drills. Thus it follows corn. Why will it not further be benefited like corn if worked between the drills, using the cultivator and even the hoe if necessary? The truth is, we have not yet arrived at that point of advantage. England has, so far as the decision in favor of this method. Much and others have tried this matter, and experiments in a small way practiced here have pointed the same way. Now, since drilling is getting to be established, let us introduce and prosecute, or at least test, cultivating between the rows. Grass and weeds by this means are kept out; ground is the moist and becomes the more fertile by it; the crop is strengthened and kept clean (the last quite a consideration), and the land will have no occasion to be self-sown with foul seed, as is usual in grain and grass crops and neglected cornfields.

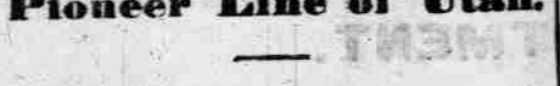
Have we too much to do, too much land to cultivate, and too little help to do it with, to be able to engage in this? But if it is a benefit, why neglect this and attend to other things no more beneficial and perhaps not so much as this? Why cultivate our corn and neglect our wheat, when the latter requires it equally, and it may be more? I am sorry to have it to say, and I have heard of no more than in a general way in the garden, and then not so carefully as I might. But the thing seems as if there were more to be learned in this way than corn. Who will give it a fair test? Who will lead off and confirm what the English experimenters have introduced so successfully, getting the benefit at the expense of the corn? If harrowing the field with smoothing harrow or the grain is too large, and where there are weeds and grass starting up, is a benefit, why not working the ground between the rows and leaving the grain unharmed?

There is a great advantage in cultivation. We find it so among trees, shrubs, vines, food crops, and why should it not also apply to grain, especially that careful, kindly cereal, wheat? And needs it, as the wheat crop is degenerating among us. It is an important crop in relation, and should be made the most of. If it is worth following the soil for it, and giving it the precedence of good land, why not further improve by what is such an advantage to it, cultivation? Especially such crops as are poor or much winter killed need this aid, or weeds and grass will overpower them. Let us come to the relief of this fine cereal, and make it as good as it is made in England. —Country Gentleman.

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4.10 " 7.50 " 10.30 " 1.10 " 4.10 " 7.50 " 10.30 " 1.10 "

3.35 " 8.35 " 11.05 " 1.45 " 3.35 " 8.35 " 11.05 " 1.45 "

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4.10 " 7.50 " 10.30 " 1.10 " 4.10 " 7.50 " 10.30 " 1.10 "

Arrive from West 6.50 a.m. Sacramento 12.30 p.m. Leave going West

2.00 p.m. Sacramento 12.30 p.m. Leave going West

1.00 a.m. Sacramento 12.30 p.m. Leave going West

12.00 m. Sacramento 12.30 p.m. Leave going West

4.40 p.m. Sacramento 12.30 p.m. Leave going West

6.50 p.m. Sacramento 12.30 p.m. Leave going West

Arrive from West 6.50 a.m. Sacramento 12.30 p.m. Leave going West

2.00 p.m. Sacramento 12.30 p.m. Leave going West

1.00 a.m. Sacramento 12.30 p.m. Leave going West

12.00 m. Sacramento 12.30 p.m. Leave going West

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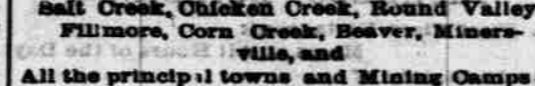
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