

AGRICULTURAL THE CROPS—OFFICIAL REPORTS

The National Intelligence gives the following summary of the forthcoming report of the Department of Agriculture on the condition of crops in June:—

Wheat.—The growing condition of the winter wheat is most excellent, except in Northern Wisconsin and Minnesota where drought has prevailed, and in one or two other localities, but it was severely injured by the cold of last February, where there was but little snow on the ground. The general injury from the frost is estimated at not less than thirty per cent. As the time approaches for harvesting, this crop in the Eastern and Middle States, however, bids fair to be a superior one.

Barley.—The fitness of the spring crop for planting, but the wet, warm weather has brought the crop forward very rapidly, and it promises well at this time. It is nearly an average crop in the number of acres planted, many injured wheat fields having been put in early.

Oats.—Oats is universally spoken of as the largest and most promising crop of the land now sown in our country. The prospects of the hay crop is unusually good.

Maple Sugar.—This year is largely increased in almost every State where it can be made; the quality is spoken of as excellent.

Sheep.—The condition of this important stock is very good, for it received the best of care. The increased per cent. is equivalent to that of last year. In the circular just issued, inquiries have been made of sorghum, cotton, tobacco, flax, beans, potatoes, hay, pastures butter and cheese, in addition to some of the crops just noticed.

The Chicago Journal says: "A gentleman writing us from Fulton, Ill., says I have traveled over the most of Illinois, and through central and eastern Iowa, during the past three weeks, and think there will be full crops of wheat and corn in these States this year. The crops are first rate, but apprehensions exist that the farmers will be very short of help when harvest time comes. I have also been in some parts of Wisconsin. The prospects are not so good for full crops. They need rain."

TURNIPS.—We have never paid the attention to different varieties of this root which it deserves and receives abroad. The reason may be that in the Northern States where their culture has been most extended, and where we find the most careful culture in all respects, we can not feed them off upon the ground, as is the custom in England, where most varieties are generally cultivated, and perhaps the best, all things considered, are the Purple top Strap-leaf, which is flat, and the Cow-horn, (Vertus) Long-white, which is a long root, standing a good deal out of the ground; both are favorite field varieties, the latter seldom seen in New York market. The Yellow seed and Golden ball are each excellent and handsome, and the Swedes (rutabaga) are all valuable, even if sowed rather late, though, of course, these ought to have a long season. For table use in winter and spring, yellow or white rutabagas sowed in July are preferable to those put in in June, if they grow quickly, for they are less tank, and more marrowy.

The last week in July is usually the time chosen for sowing turnips. (Sweetish turnips may be sown any time after the middle of June.) The best rule in regard to the seed is to sow as little as you can, a pound if rightly applied is a plenty for twenty acres. Drilled eighteen inches apart they do better than if sowed broadcast, though this is the usual method with common turnips. If the sowing be delayed until August, even late in the month, and severe weather holds off until the 25th of November,—Thanksgiving Time in New England—a good return may be expected. Turnips do their growing and filling out, in cool weather after frost, and are only injured by such freezing as entirely cuts down their leaves and freezes the ground hard. The best returns are gained from rutabagas sowed about the middle of June, the drills being put far enough apart to give the cultivator room to go between the rows. Sowed late there are fewer weeds, the roots do not grow so large nor require so much room, and so the drills may be much nearer.

To cook green corn, take two dozen ears of green corn, well cleaned from the silk, &c., then slightly cut off the edge of the kernels with a sharp knife, and scrape the remainder off. Place in a pot with two teaspoonful of water.

When cooked out, so there is danger of burning, stir with sweet milk. When well done, season with salt, and add butter to your taste.

MAN FORMERLY ACCOMPANIED BY THE REINDEER

Lartet and Christy have found in caves in Central France a floor-brocca containing bones of the reindeer and other animals, ashes, fragments of charcoal, flint, chippings, and weapons and utensils of stone-bones and horns, with slabs of reed having sometimes the forms of animals scratched upon them. Among the remains of the reindeer, several vertebra are sometimes found united, and also jointed bones with their parts still in connection, showing that the animals must have lived in the region; and the long bones are usually broken in the same uniform way, and evidently to get the marrow out. The remains of the common stag, wild boar and hare are very rare. A few teeth of the Irish elk are found, and an occasional dental plate of the old elephant is met with. There is no written record of the existence of the reindeer, or of a sub-arctic climate, in what is now temperate Europe.

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