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The FARMER has a large and growing circulation among the best class of farmers and planters of the South, especially in the two Carolinas.

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while it is believed the average yield per acre will be less than that of any season for several years. Hence, with a material diminution of both acreage and yield, we can safely assume a short crop, and that the prices of breadstuffs will be correspondingly advanced, especially if, as now seems probable, there is to be an increased foreign demand in consequence of poor harvests in the wheat growing regions of the old world.

The wheat crop of France is undoubtedly short, and it is understood that, in consequence, goods are already in our market purchasing for that country. This is but one straw, but it tells. Russia and Prussia are the greatest competitors of the United States for the sale of breadstuffs in England, (see table showing imports into Great Britain during the first four months of this year, as given in *Rural* of June 25,) and of course prices will be affected by the yield of the wheat crop in those countries. Another fact worthy of note is, that in consequence of low prices during the past year, considerable wheat has been fed to stock somewhat extensively in the West—thus materially reducing the surplus.

If it be true, as we assume, and believe, that our crop of the great cereal upon which the civilized world depends for bread is many millions less than was anticipated, prices must advance materially over last year's rates, though we cannot expect them to rise as high as formerly—as during and for a while after the war, for example—and it therefore behooves every wheat grower to give the matter of marketing special attention. Of course many are so situated that they cannot well hold their grain, but those who can should keep themselves thoroughly advised as to prices, prospects, &c. (noting the result of both home and foreign harvests,) and then act upon their best judgment. Our own opinion, as already intimated, is that prices will materially advance during the season, and hence, unless there should be an unexpected change in the markets, and prospects, it will not only be safe but eminently wise for producers to "make haste slowly" in disposing of the present crop. As a matter of course, middle-men, speculators, and the commercial paper in the interest of operators, will attempt to bear the market, as usual, but the intelligent, reading, thinking farmer should be governed in his action (holding or selling) by the best information obtainable—and the most reliable sources of such information, allow us to add, are the journals published in the interests of producers.

Our latest foreign papers, received since the above was written, show a material advance in the prices of breadstuffs in most of the local European markets.—*Moore's Rural New Yorker*.

Grape Vines on the Stump.

Dr. Channing gives, in the *Providence Journal*, an interesting resume of William J. Flagg's book, "Three Seasons in European Vineyards," recently published by the Harpers. The object of Mr. Flagg is to awaken an interest among our grape-growers in the new method of training vines, which is practiced in Europe. We do not know how far this system may be adopted with advantage in this country. It is important that the method should be understood, and the system thoroughly tried by competent vine cultivators.

The *souche* culture of the vine converts it into a shrub in Summer, and into a stump smaller than a cabbage in Winter. No stake or trellis is ever required. Two or three shovelfuls of earth, in the Autumn, cover out of sight a vine twenty years old. Three fourths of the labor and expense of the present method of cultivation are saved.

Souche training is no mystery. At the end of the first year the young vine is cut back to a stump about nine inches high, leaving at its top, if possible, two canes reduced each to two eyes in length, which are to become permanent arms of the future *souche*. At the end of the second year the pruning is so performed as to give to this stump of nine inches, from

three to six short arms. At the end of the third year the *souche* is so trimmed as to increase the number of short arms to six, if that number has not been previously obtained. The pruning is subsequently uniform, year by year, leaving one or possibly two canes of the preceding year's growth (cut back to one or two eyes, each) at the end of each arm. Care is taken to balance the *souche* on all sides by symmetrical arrangements of the arms. When too much old wood accumulates upon them they are carefully cut back so as to restore the original compact form.

The greatest product is obtained from vines *en souche* when they are set out five feet apart in each direction (1,600 plants to the acre.) This allows the plow and cultivator to be used in field culture. One precaution needs to be observed. This is seasonably to remove the suckers which spring up around the stump. The ground should be kept clean of weeds. The Winter trimming is rapidly done by shears. The European practice of progressively stripping the vine of leaves to aid the ripening of the grape is not adapted to our climate. Even the pinching in of the growing canes and laterals has been probably carried to excess in New England.

The grape vine on the stump can be cultivated in the garden, wherever a raspberry or blackberry can be set, Mr. Flagg especially recommends for the *souche* our short jointed varieties, carrying stiff canes. The trimming and perhaps height of the stump will probably vary within certain limits with different varieties.

In New England and the north of the United States, *souche* culture promises the means of easy Winter protection for our best varieties, which we have long needed. A mature vine, reduced to such dimensions in Winter that a stove pipe hat can cover it, can be buried out of harm's way by plow and spade with the greatest ease.—The compactness of the grape, *en souche* in Summer makes it easy, also, to apply the sulphur cure (fully illustrated in Mr. Flagg's book), at the first approach of mildew or *oidium*. The protection from extreme cold and from disease thus afforded makes it at once practicable to cultivate *en souche* in our fields many of the early ripening European varieties. Undoubtedly our Allyn's hybrid is better than the European Sweet Water or Chasselas, and the Delaware is not excelled in its class. The Creveling and Adirondack rank high among black grapes. But all of these, and even the hardest of our native grapes, are much benefited in this latitude by Winter covering such as the *souche* invites.

The vineyards of the South of France, now occupying a million and a half of acres, have been kept from time immemorial *en souche basse*. This is true also of much of Burgundy, of Cognac, Medoc and Sauterne.

The soils of many of the celebrated French wine districts are sandy or gravelly, and contain an unusually large proportion of lime and iron. Stones in the soil are considered no disadvantage, though natural or artificial drainage is always indispensable. Valuable grapes are cultivated sometimes on soils so poor that they will bear hardly a crop of mullets.—The finest French wines come from the poorest soils, the quality being in inverse ratio to the quantity. Thus an acre hardly yields more than 150 gallons of the choicest grape juice. The yield of Medoc and the Cote d'Or of Burgundy is only 250 gallons to the acre, while in rapidly descending scale of quality are products of grape juice of 1,000, 2,000 or even 3,000 gallons to the acre. This is illustrated by the story of the vineyard of Clos Vougeot, the seat of an old monastery. From 80 acres the monks obtained only 1,200 gallons of very choice wine, the product of vines 400 or 500 years old. The French revolution dispossessed the monks, and their secular successors obtained from new vines on the same ground no less than 18,000 gallons of the poorest and sourest wine. Young and recently manured vines are considered in France on a par, and unfit to produce

good wine. In Sauterne they mature once in three years; in Medoc once in 7 to 10 or even 20 years. To diminish the yield and perfect the fruit, the vines are sometimes crowded to the extent of from 10,000 to 25,000 on a single acre. A common number is 4,444, that is three feet apart in each direction.

In this country we want to obtain the largest possible product of ripe grapes, but we have much to learn from European experience. Our grapes frequently remain sour and never ripen from the excessive use of stimulating manures, which induce overgrowth and overbearing. We think that young vines in New England are frequently ruined by the rich artificial soil in which they are set, or by a subsequent surfeit of animal manures. Mineral manures, such as lime, plaster, ground bone, and oxides of iron, need less caution. Not the least advantage of the *souche* is the severe compulsory Winter pruning to which it will subject many of our varieties. A few varieties, like the Rogers hybrids, are perhaps too rampant for this severe treatment, but they are varieties which thrive with the least amount of care. With many varieties it will be desirable even on the *souche* to reduce the number of bunches one half to secure good ripening.—*Boston Journal of Chemistry*.

Provide Against a Dearth of Provisions.

The declaration of war by France against Prussia, must inevitably lead to a general war in Europe, in which event breadstuffs and provisions of all kinds will probably reach enormous prices, while cotton, the great and only production of the Southern planter, will fall to a very low figure.—The policy—ruinous and destructive in the best times—of the Southern planters since the war, has been to raise cotton exclusively and depend upon the North and West for corn, bacon, flour and hay. We have again and again entreated, and protested against such a paradoxical and unwise system, but to no purpose. With cotton at thirty-five cents a pound, such a course could be hardly excused, but with our great staple selling at and below twenty cents, it became criminal folly.—Yet such is the condition of affairs now. Cotton is planted almost exclusively the present year, and in all probability will sell very low. While corn and provisions, owing to the increased European demand on account of the war, will be scarce and very high.

There is time yet for something to be done to retrieve our past error, and make us less dependent for food upon the North and West. Nature has blessed us with a generous climate and fruitful soil, well adapted to the growth of grasses, small grain and root crops. These grow and flourish here during the entire Winter. A few acres of land well prepared and properly enriched, will secure a full and abundant crop of turnips, beets or carrots for the supply of animals during the entire Winter and Spring. A small plot of land highly fertilized and sown in rye or barley early in September, will furnish large supplies of forage after the root crops shall have been exhausted. The long stem blue collard is a hardy Winter plant, and will yield more per acre on good land, well prepared, than any plant with which we are acquainted. The collard is highly nutritious for man and beast, and for butter making qualities, is a superior food for milk cows. Let all these be tried.

We would suggest, as a suitable provision for our present situation, something like the following: For a farm of ten mule force, one acre each in turnips, beets, carrots and collards, and two acres in rye. The turnips (rutabagas) should be sown in drills two and a half feet apart from the 20th to the last of this month, the beets, carrots and collards, also in drills the same distance, about the middle of August, and the rye, broadcast, by the first of September. This will furnish a full supply for the work stock, cattle, sheep and hogs on an ordinary plantation of the size indicated. Mules, with a very little corn, can be kept fat and in good

working condition up to the first of April. This is too important a matter to be neglected. Great distress, if not actual starvation, must ensue in some localities next year unless we take time by the forelock and amply provide against such lamentable contingency. But it must be remembered that full crops can only be made on land well prepared and highly fertilized. Peruvian guano or any of the standard superphosphates, in the absence of rich stable manure or cotton seed, at the rate of two hundred pounds of the Peruvian or three hundred and fifty of the superphosphates, on land thoroughly plowed and harrowed, will be sufficient to secure a good crop. Let every one try and relieve himself from the clutches of grain and bacon speculators.—*Augusta Chronicle*.

Mulching Bearing Fruit Trees.

There is no doubt now by our most intelligent horticulturists about the practical advantages to be gained by mulching the surface of the orchard and fruit garden. This should be more generally practiced in fruit-producing districts, for it is the least expensive and most effective method of protecting the fruit trees against the bad results often following the frequent and sudden changes of temperature during the Summer and Fall months, when the surface of ground is left exposed to the direct rays of the sun. Again, when the mulch is put two or three inches in thickness, the surface soil is constantly moist and loose, even when no rain falls for a term of several weeks, and the trees or fruit receive no check for want of moisture and food under such circumstances.

My method is to cultivate the spaces between the rows of trees in the orchard, using a small one horse plow and cultivator, running not more than two inches deep, during the early part of the season. From the 1st of July I have put on a heavy coating of salt hay, covering the surface as far as the branches extend. After this there is no more trouble with weeds and grass. There may be a few scattered ones start up, but they are easily destroyed.

Every fruit-grower knows that two or three weeks before the time of gathering the main crop of fruit, fine specimens are constantly falling off or blown off by strong winds. When the ground is mulched the majority of species are not bruised or injured for sale. This saving alone I consider, pays me for the trouble of mulching the orchard.

There is only one serious drawback to the application of mulch, that is the danger of the hay or straw getting on fire when rendered dry by continual warm weather.—P. T. QUINN, in *N. Y. Tribune*.

Keep Plowing Under.

A Georgia farmer, in 1865, fenced in a field of ten acres—land worn out, and plowed it in June and sowed it to wheat in September, and at harvest time got four bushels to the acre. The next season there was a fair crop of weeds. These were plowed under and wheat tried again. The yield, per acre, was nine bushels. The same process the succeeding year produced seventeen bushels per acre, and the last year twenty-seven bushels. As no mention is made about the use of clover, these successive croppings and constantly increasing yields are somewhat remarkable. It is assured that had the ground been subsoiled twenty inches deep, the last yield would have been doubled.—*Rochester American Farmer*.

Sale of Texas Sea Island Cotton.

The *Houston Times* of the 18th, mentions having seen a letter to Judge Davis, of Harris county, from his merchant in Galveston, Mr. Alfred Mackie, which stated: "I have received to-day account of sales from Liverpool at the following prices for Sea Island cotton, for 14 bags 48d, 53d and 55d."—*Etz*.

Though men boast of holding the reins, the women generally tell them which way they must drive.

Agricultural.

A Short Wheat Crop—Probable Advance in Prices of Breadstuffs.

As the wheat crop of 1870 will soon be ready for market, and as many thousands of our readers are producers of the great staple and directly interested in the yield and prices, such information or suggestions on the subject as we may be able to give will be seasonable. From the best information we now have—derived mainly from such reliable sources as our own correspondents, the opinion of the Commissioner of Agriculture based upon estimates from the various wheat growing sections, and the statements of exchanges—it is apparent that the crop of wheat now harvesting must prove far short of the average of former years, certainly seven millions of bushels less, in the aggregate, than that of 1869. True, the reports we give from correspondents this week, are generally favorable, but the testimony of the best authorities, for weeks past, indicate a short crop—a great decrease, in both acreage and yield, from the large crop of last year. The last report of the Commissioner of Agriculture, given elsewhere, (under heading of "The Season,") contains figures of interest on this point. The estimates of acreage this year, as compared with 1869, show a reduction of about 5 per cent.,