

HOUSE AND FARM.
Wheat Enough.

The Western farmers, under the lead of men whom the *Western Ruralist*, of Chicago, terms demagogues, and persons aspiring to make political capital out of a popular cry, have worked themselves into a perfect fever of excitement in regard to railroad freights. They are so overstocked with grain and corn, that prices rule low; and forgetting this, they make war on the railroads for not reducing freights to a figure corresponding to the low prices. They take the fact that several bushels are required to get one to market, as a sufficient argument that the railroad companies are to blame; and they refuse to consider the quantity produced as having any bearing on the subject at all.

Whether the railroads can or cannot take grain at less rates of freight than now, it is not for us to decide. It may be that they are extortionate in their charges, and that some agitation will correct this; but it ought to be clear that, however this may be, the matter of production is one of the heaviest on low prices. We have enough East, and there seems to be a tolerable quantity all over the world; and if the whole mass of grain in the West could be rushed to market by the aid of low freights, the result would be to still crowd further down prices already low.

How this works is already telling a practical story. Some of the Western roads, in obedience to the popular demand, are lowering freight rates. The Union Pacific and Denver Pacific Railroads have done so. The result is that a very large supply is coming from Utah; and, as we see by Colorado papers, the farmers of that section are protesting that if this continues they will be ruined. They want the rates raised again.

The fact is, this railroad excitement in regard to getting good prices for grain is about on a par with the old story of the bull that was gored. So long as it is your bull which gored mine, it is all right and proper that you pay me damages; but when it appears that it was our bull which gored yours, it is altogether another matter, and the question of damages requires careful consideration. If the railroad will lower the freight for us, so that we can get our grain to market at high prices, it is a first-rate thing; but if they lower it for other people also, it is a bad thing, and this will not do at all.

It comes to this, after all, that demand and production regulate prices. The Western farmer must either raise less, or else induce more people to consume it near home. In this way the railroad question will settle itself.

Planting Grape Vines.

Our very ably conducted contemporary the *Germantown Telegraph*, gives the following seasonable and undoubtedly correct ideas on this point, which are worthy of attention from all, about setting vines, whether few or many:

One would suppose that so simple a thing as planting a grape vine would not need writing about; and yet the number of people inquiring "How shall we plant?" is so great that a few words to those inquirers may well be pardoned by those who think they already know enough about the matter.

Now, it is a curious fact that the grape-planting on the hills along the Rhine the effect is to plant deep and also to keep the roots deep after they are planted. If the grape-vine cutting has been made three eyes, as they often are, and roots are protruding from the two lower ones, the upper set of roots are cut away, and every year afterwards, in going over with the annual pruning, any roots which may appear from the stem just below the surface are kept cut away. Yet we know that in our soils generally the vine never, or at least very rarely, does well when the roots get deep; and so much is deep-rooting dreaded by English gardeners, that we find by English periodicals that in hot-house culture they even lay a bed of lime concrete under the grape borders to keep the roots from going deep, and to force them to remain near the surface. It has been known to a certainty that

the grape vine does best in our country on hills that are the driest, and it may be that on these German dry hills referred to there is no injury as there would be on our damp subsoils, and there may be under some particular system of surface culture, some advantage in keeping the roots away from the cultivators, when there is no harm resulting from their deep growth.

Here, however, the rule is to plant the roots shallow. If they are long when we have to transplant them, instead of getting them deep, we lay them along about four or five inches beneath the surface.

It is of course very necessary to press the soil very hard and firm over the roots; that is if the earth is in this good condition.

It is very useful in planting a grapevine to cut it closely in. Unless the last year's growth be very vigorous it may be almost all cut away. This is the way to get a good strong cane for bearing next year, which is the most that one ought to expect a vine to do. "Immediate bearing" is a delusion and a snare. Many a person spends a dollar or a half dollar extra on a vine which he is told by the seller will "bear this year," when for that amount of money he could buy treble of quantity of grapes it will bear for him, even if it bears at all. Still we like to plant good strong, healthy grapes. The little crawquills which come out as rare grapes at high prices seldom give much satisfaction. Indeed it is more than likely that the immense failures which generally follow all these introductions are as much owing to the way their propagation is forced, as to any inherent inability in the varieties to become adapted to soils and climates.

Separate Seeding.

The Elmira Farmers' Club, at a recent meeting considered the subject of separate seeding for clover and the grasses, and most of the speakers were in favor of it. It is the general experience that where wheat dies out, there the grass is best, hence, if there were no wheat at all, the whole field around would be equally good. One farmer said that he had sown grass seed separately for ten years, and he had not had one failure. Early last fall he plowed up oat stubble, and sowed timothy with good results. He came to consider the subject first in clearing new land, where log heaps were burned, after the wheat was sown, and bare spots left, which were seeded, though late, and there the grass was by far the best. No hay should ever be cut the first year, but if there is a good stand the field may be pastured, for it is certain that grass grows thicker after long feed. The practice of sowing grass, and especially clover seed, originated in the idea, now generally prevailing, that the young plants require shade, and it is supposed that unless this protection is afforded the sun will destroy the crop. This is probably true, in a warm climate, and true also where the seed is sown late; but our judgement decidedly is that, if separate sowing is done early, both North and South, the stand will be much better than if sown with small grain. But it is to be understood that the soil must be rich enough, and plowed deep enough, to give the young plants a rapid start, and permit their roots readily to descend. There is no doubt but a good stand of grass is more profitable than the grain, for aside from its value as feed, it keeps up the fertility, hence it is worthy of having the best possible chance for itself.

To STOP THE RAVAGES OF MOTHS.—Camphor will not stop the ravages of moths in carpets, after they have commenced eating. Then they pay no regard to the presence of camphor, cedar or tobacco. A good way to conquer them is to take a coarse crash towel and wring it out of clean water. Spread it smoothly on the carpet, then iron it dry with a good hot iron, repeating the operation on all suspected places, and those least used. It does not injure the pile or the color of the carpet in the least, as it is not necessary to press hard, heat and steam being the agents; and they do the work effectually on worms and eggs, and prevent further damage by millers.

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Philadelphia, April 17, 1868.
I have had the beautiful Piano so long that now to ask me how I like it is like asking me how I like one of my children. In fact if you were to ask the children I'm afraid they would say they liked it almost as well as they like me. It speaks every day the year round and never loses its voice. I wish its owner could do half so well.
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