AN ACRE IN ONIONS.

Few farmers seem to realize the fact that as much money may be obtained from an acre of land in onions as from a forty-acre farm devoted to the usual crops. At present prime onions are worth $4 per barrel by the car load, and two hundred and fifty barrels may be, and not unfrequently are, produced from an acre of land. Let no one, however, expect to realize a thousand dollars from an acre of onions who does not pay the best attention to the crop. To begin with, land naturally adapted to producing the crop should be selected. Experiments made in the Eastern States, where large quantities of onions are raised for the Southern market, show that there is no better soil for onions than that of a reclaimed bog. Of course the land must be well drained and the surface soil decomposed by exposure to the action of the atmosphere. Most of the black prairie soils are suitable to the production of onions if they are rightly treated. The turf must become entirely rotten and mixed with the earth below. Land that has been in pasture for several years is easily prepared for a crop of onions, as the turf is comparatively thin, while the soil is quite free from weeds. That portion of a pasture in which cattle and sheep lie at night may be converted into an onion patch to excellent advantage.

A field for onions should be very nearly level. If there are elevations in it the soil on them will be likely to wash away, carrying off the seed before it germinates, or leaving part of the onions exposed to the sun. A piece of land intended for onions should be entirely free from the seeds of weeds in the start and there should be a determination on the part of the grower to allow none to attain any considerable size. Absolutely clever culture is essential to producing a paying crop of onions. Neglect in this matter will cause a vast amount of work, which will not, after all, insure a good crop of onions. A field of onions can not be neglected on account of a demand for labor on other parts of the farm. Unless a farmer has help that can attend to his field of onions during the season of plowing corn, cutting grass and harvesting grains, it will be better not to attempt to raise the crop at all. The care of onions, however, calls for light work, which may be chiefly performed by old men, partial invalids, women and children. Persons who cannot perform heavy work on the farm may engage in onion raising to excellent advantage.

It is useless to undertake to raise a paying crop of onions on land that is not very highly manured. From thirty to fifty loads of manure should be applied to an acre of land designed for producing this crop. It should be well rotted and free from the seed of grass and weeds. Unleached ashes form a valuable addition to composted stable manure. After a piece of land has been prepared for onions it is best to continue the crop for a series of years. As onions are gross feeders it will, of course, be necessary to apply a coating of manure every season. The soil of an onion field should be well pulverized and the manure thoroughly incorporated with it. After it is plowed and harrowed a roller should be employed for crushing the lumps.

Many growers employ a hand rake for finishing the soil before the seed is sown. About four pounds of seed are required for an acre. It should be the product of the previous season. The seed may be tested by counting out a certain number and placing them on some moist cotton laid in a saucer. If good, it will germinate in three or four days. The seed should be sown as early in the spring as it is possible to prepare the land. Growers who aim to get the largest yield from a given amount of land allow only the space of a foot between the rows. There is a drill which plants two rows of onion seed at once. If sown by hand one seed should be dropped every inch. In order to mark the rows it is well to drop a radish seed every five or six inches. The radishes will grow very rapidly, and will be large enough to pull before the onions attain sufficient size to be injured by their presence. If there is no market for radishes in the vicinity, cabbage plants may be raised in their place. When of sufficient size they may be pulled and transplanted.

The cultivation of onions must be chiefly performed by means of hand tools. The shoulder hoe is the best implement for doing most of the work. It should be of the best quality, and great pains should be taken to keep it clean and sharp. After the plants are about four inches high they may be thinned so that each has a space of about three inches in which to grow. Some growers who seek to raise very large crops allow three onions to grow in the space of six inches. Of course they crowd each other after they have become of nearly full size, but this thick setting is necessary to secure the maximum yield. After they are thinned to the proper distance nothing is required by way of cultivation except to keep the soil light and free from weeds.—*Chicago Times.*

FACTS FOR FAT PEOPLE.—Some fat people are annoyed at being over fat, and appeal to medicines for relief. The best of all remedies against corpulence no doubt is hard labor. Who would expect to see a professional cricket player, a regular hunter, or a railroad "navvy" troubled with obesity? But there are hundreds of people in the world who must follow occupations on which they grow heavy, and who must do something to take the load of fat off them. For these it may be well to know that all starchy food favors fatness.

Of the food in general use the following are starchy in their characters: bread, biscuit, cakes of all kinds, crackers, wafers, doughnuts, puddings, gruels pastries of all kinds, pies, rice, etc.

Potatoes in any shape or variety, sweet potatoes, etc., sugars in all shapes, corn starch, maize and arrowroot, sago, tapioca, candy and all kinds of confectionery.

Food with little starch, and so useful against corpulency, may be beefsteak, sirloin, porter house, corned-beef, smoked and dried beef, beef's tongue, ox-tail soup without potatoes, veal, calves' feet and heads, pigs' feet and heads, mutton, lamb's tongue, venison, turkey, game, chicken, pigeons and squabs.

Vegetables without or with little starch—cabbage, tomatoes, celery, onions, spinach, lettuce, dandelion, parsley, cowslip, radish, horseradish, cranberry, turnips, rhubarb, squash, carrots, pickles, sour fruits, apples, pears, melons, nuts, fish, salt and fresh salmon, cod, haddocks, eels, soups, perch, etc., oysters, scallops, shrimps, etc., halibut, trout, clams, lobsters and sounds.

THE refuse of oats, it is found, may be advantageously utilized as material for paper manufacture, the object being effected by first immersing the oat husks in water in a tank, so as to float off all foreign seeds, etc., which would materially deteriorate the quality of the paper. The oat husks are then allowed to settle and the surface scum, and floating seeds are drawn off by an over-flow pipe at the top of the tank, or otherwise removed; after which the water is completely drained from the husks by a waste-water pipe at the bottom of the tank and beneath a perforated false bottom, or filled with a strainer which retains the oat husks. The latter may be left to steep in the water for from five to ten hours after or during the removal of the scum, as the steeping, by softening them and helping to loosen the silica from the fiber, facilitates the subsequent boiling process.

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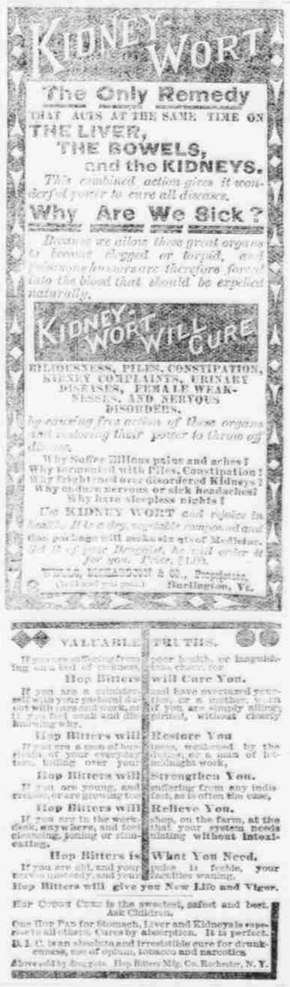

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