

Agricultural.

The One Crop System.

Scarce a day passes that we do not get testimony as to the embarrassment resulting to farmers who depend upon a single crop for revenue. A Wisconsin correspondent and agent writes: "It is very difficult obtaining subscribers or account of the times. When farmers are selling wheat at 75 cents a bushel, which they say cost \$1 a bushel last year, they generally say, 'I would like the paper, but I cannot take it this year.'"

A farmer in Iowa writes: "I started my success the past season upon a single crop, and I am as fat as a flounder. I am in debt for my land, and had prices for the last crop of wheat been as good as last year I would have cleared of my indebtedness and more too. Now I can't meet my payments, and unless my creditors have the milk of human kindness in their hearts, and long suffering patience, I shall lose all I own. I assure you it looks blue to me."

We quote from these two among scores of similar letters, to follow when the editor of the single crop system, the editor, or critic of it, fails. On the other hand, another Iowa correspondent writes one of the editors of the Rural, a private letter, which contains the following: "You remember you said in one of your letters a year ago, 'Now my dear boy, don't go into wheat all over. Don't you see that your Iowa farmers are wheat crazy?' Buy your flour the coming year, plant more corn and potatoes, sow oats and barley, buy the hogs you can keep and feed them well, and you will win, and your wheat neighbors will lose. Do you know what I mean?" You did not for a moment. I followed your advice, and to-day I am at least a thousand dollars richer for it. I am as easy, financially, as a flowing river. There are hundreds of poor wheat fellows who are not, though I owe one for my serenity."

The editor who wrote the private letter (had forgotten it) based his advice upon a rule he had early learned was a wise one—that is to abandon the extended cultivation of a crop which every body is going to cultivate. Every extra day's labor, dollar, and acre of land employed in the production of wheat, or any other crop, than in the production of the value in market of other crops from which this labor, land, and money is taken; so that if ten men in the neighborhood soan an extra area, he will be wise to double the area he plants in other crops instead of doing as his neighbors do.—Rural New Yorker.

We do, as we often have done, fully indorse the foregoing views of our contemporary. Our readers know that we have often shown up the fallacy so diligently propagated in the Commonwealth, and, finally, so of the "one crop" system. In some special cases, as on land suited to growing the finest quality of tobacco leaf, strawberries, etc., this one crop system may do, but they are exceptions to the rule to be practised. The adage, "Send not all your eggs to market in one basket," indicates sound doctrine respecting the one crop system.—*Boston Cultivator.*

Culinary—Making Bread.

It is not every one that knows how to make good bread, but almost every housekeeper can wet up flour and bake it, but by no means does it follow, that she knows how to make bread; she can no doubt, make something in the shape of bread. This however, may not be the right sort of management, because to me it depends in every family, in regard to health and economy, upon the proper management of the most important article of food. We may safely assert, that two-thirds of the bread baked in this country cannot be termed good. This should not be the case, inasmuch as bread-making is a plain, simple process, and can well be performed by any lady housekeeper, with care and proper attention. But we must premise that she must have good yeast and flour, otherwise good bread cannot be made. The first great requisite is yeast, to make which one gallon of water and it put six large potatoes, and two hands full of hops enclosed in a bag; boil till the potatoe is done, then rub and press the whole through a colander into a vessel containing one pound full of molasses, one of sugar, and one of salt; stir all together and boil five or ten minutes, then let it cool till mill-warm, after which put in a pint of yeast made in this same way and pour in a jug and shake it well, and stand in a warm place a day or till it ferments, then cork the jug tight and keep it in a cool place for use. This yeast will keep good two months if well made, and is necessary to make good bread. Now for the sake of the health, we do not know how to make good bread, we give the following recipe, which is a plain and simple process, and requires but one vessel, and consequently little trouble. Take an earthen vessel, larger at the top than at the bottom, in which put one pint of milk-warm water, one and a half pounds of flour, and half a pint yeast, mix them well together, and set in a warm place, until it rises and falls again, which will be in from three to five hours. Then put two large spoonfuls of salt into a pint of water, and mix it well with the above, then pour it into the dough well, and set it by, till it becomes light, then make into loaves, and bake from an hour to an hour and a half, or until no longer adheres to the broom corn probe. Bread must not be put into the oven when it is too hot, or a crust will be formed, and prevent its rising. The health of every family depends much on the bread used, and the greatest care should be taken to have it sweet and of good quality, so it should never be sent to the table before twenty-four hours after it is baked, if health and economy are consulted.—Practical Farmer.

Dr. Hurl's mode of applying soap to exclude the borer (as stated in the *Prairie Farmer*) is "to bring soft soap to the boiling point to render it liquid, and while the soap is hot, to apply it with a white wash-brush to the surface of the wood, and from the ground up to the height of the attack of the borer, it is to be repeated, and the application to be made about the first of June. We have for years tried a similar remedy, which much lessened the attacks of the borers but did not wholly exclude them. We have found it necessary to go over subsequently and dig out any young borers, with the point of the knife."

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Miscellaneous.

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