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Agricultural.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE ORIGIN OF SEEDS ON THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF CROPS.

By Dr. Bronn, Professor of Rural and Sylvan Economy in the University of Liege.

[Translated for the Farmers' Register, from the Journal d'Agriculture, etc. des Pays Bas.]

Even to the present day, the cultivators of forest trees have not thought of taking advantage of a phenomenon which is presented to us in the cultivation of agricultural plants, and which, although it has never yet been sufficiently explained, is nevertheless well established. This phenomenon is the influence which seed exerts on the quantity and quality of the crop which is produced from it, according to the different nature of the soil and climate from which this seed has been procured. The good results of this influence have appeared after using seed from a cold climate and a tenacious and cold soil, in a warm climate and a dry and light soil; but they are also equally apparent under circumstances quite the reverse, provided the soil be not too dry and barren, and the seed has had the opportunity of being developed and coming to perfect maturity. It appears then that the two opposite kinds of soils and climates profit equally from a change of seed. Let us consider and examine at first a few observations which may serve to explain this phenomenon, and thence endeavor to deduce the physiological law, and apply it to the cultivation of trees.

The advantages resulting from a change of seed are generally recognized in the cultivation of the cereal plants. In some mountainous countries, in Scotland for example, they bring the seed from the low country and from the plains, where the climate is more mild, and consequently the seed more forward, a quality which it always preserves for several generations. We are convinced that the cultivator of this mountainous district, if he always used seed from his own crops would reap later and later harvests, so that at last perhaps they would not come to perfect maturity; a circumstance easily explained by the short duration of the summers in the mountains. If, on the other hand, the cultivator of a flat country the climate of which is mild and the soil dry and light, continually made use of his own seed, it would head every year sooner, the stalks would become shorter, and the heads and grains smaller and smaller, and in time there would result but a poor produce. In this last case the cultivator brings his seed with advantage from a country more cold, the soil of which is good and substantial. Probably these are the circumstances on which rests entirely the difference between the cereal plants of summer and those of winter, a difference too variable to be easily determined.

The flax without doubt, presents us with the most striking example of this phenomenon. We, with great advantage to our crops, bring our seed from Riga, i. e. from a colder climate—the sowing of which causes the grain to be slowly formed, and thus leaves more time for the developement of the stalk, which is the principal object of its cultivation. To judge by analogy, we would be led to believe that the result would be the same were we to obtain from a colder country and a colder soil the grain of the clover and other plants used for forage, in the cultivation of which our object is large stalks and a well developed foliage. Even at the present day we are without experience on this head.

Generally, all plants which are principally cultivated for their grain or fruit, need little or no manure; white manure is necessary for those plants from which we wish to obtain large stalks and leaves.*

*The author's meaning must be taken with reference to the usual rotations of his country according to which, crops raised for their seeds, are preceded or followed by grass crops, or others in which the bulk of the whole plant is of far more importance than the quantity or the perfection of the seeds—and according to his theory, crops of the latter kind would receive so much more benefit from manure than the former, that economy requires the farmer's limited stock of manure should be given to the one kind, and not to the other.

[Ed. Farm. Reg.

Fruit trees which shoot vigorously, generally bear little or no fruit; and every circumstance, which on the other hand prevents the too great growth of wood, favors the formation of fruit. On this observation rests the cultivation of dwarf fruit trees, and espaliers; also that of the vine, &c. &c.

Field plants and plants of the kitchen garden (under equal circumstances in other respects,) blossom sooner in dry warm and clear summers, and the stalks as well as leaves are smaller, that in rainy and cloudy summers.

From these and many other analagous observations, we can deduce a physiological law of the greatest importance in the cultivation of plants, to wit: Every thing which favors the disproportionate growth of vegetables, opposes or retards their propagation or formation of fruit; and *vice versa*, the formation of fruit is hastened and forwarded at all times when exterior circumstances prevent the full developement & disproportioned growth of the stalk.

Now to apply this law to the rearing of trees, I ought first to remark that many of the phenomena which I have mentioned, are equally apparent in the vegetation of forest trees, although they have not been so much noticed. In fact we see the greater part of our forest trees bear seeds sooner, more often, and in greater quantities, with a south exposure and in a dry and light soil, than with a north exposure, and on a cold and stiff soil; while under the latter circumstances they acquire greater dimensions

Many trees, the birch for example, vary with regard to the time of budding and formation of seed, some being forward, and others late. It is well ascertained that those which bud late, have the hardest, heaviest, and in every respect the best timber; and increase more in volume within a certain time, than the more forward kind. It is not yet proved that the same phenomena may take place relative to age, i. e. that there may be varieties which blossom and bear seeds and the growth of which consequently diminishes at different ages. This appears very probable, since we frequently see larches, firs, birches, &c. trees which had their origin in the cold and elevated country, bear seeds in a low, dry and warm country, after having scarcely reached the age of ten or fifteen years, and ten or fifteen feet in height; and the growth of which afterwards becomes sensibly slower.

From this observation we may conclude that the trees of cold climates produced from seeds gathered in dry and level countries will degenerate after many years to dwarf trees, shrubs, bushes, &c. which will scarcely ever be of any value as forest trees. Every attentive cultivator of forest trees will have already noticed similar examples, which will justify this conclusion.

From all that preceeds, I deduce for the rearing of timber trees this general law: It is necessary to procure, as far as possible, the seeds from a colder climate and a colder and stiffer soil than the climate and soil of the country on which you wish to rear these trees.

One of the best things for cultivation in the sandy lands of the provinces of Limburg, of Anvers, and of Northern Brabant, is undoubtedly the sylvan pine, [*pin sylvestre.*] According to the rule just above, the seed gathered in this dry and barren country should not be used, but ought rather be brought from a colder country, or from some place, the soil of which is colder and stiffer. Since sometime back, in France and elsewhere the preference is generally given to the seeds of the pine from Riga, Norway, Scotland, Hagenan, &c. and the rule which it is my wish to establish, has thus been followed by us, but without our having been able to justify this preference by reasonable motives. We have been content to regard the pines of this country as a particular species of variety.

The fir *epicea* (a northern fir) and larch, are suitable to be reared in the mountainous lands of Ardennes. If we used the seed which grows in the dry & sandy parts of Limburg, Anvers, and Northern Brabant, we would raise nothing but dwarf trees, which at the age of twenty or thirty years, perhaps, would be covered with mosses, and the growth of which would after that become more slow and would soon afterwards decay. It is our interest then to bring these seeds from still colder climates and better soils, and from countries in which these two trees grow larger, viz: from the Alps, Switzerland, the Tyrol, the mountains of Hartz, the Black Forest, and Norway.

The rule which I wish to establish will perhaps become very useful in introducing into this country foreign forest trees, for it is very probable that the little success with which we have met in this important part of the cultivation of forest trees is occasioned principally by choosing unsuitable countries from which to bring the seed.

[The foregoing communication well deserves the attention of all thinking farmers. If Professor Bronn's opinion is correct, we may make it operate beneficially on the practice of every farm, either for the correction of common errors, or the introduction of positive improvements, or for both. Very many cases of the proper application of this theory will readily occur, of which I will mention a few only as examples.

We frequently change our seed wheat either from choice or necessity, and obtain new supplies from other, and perhaps very different soils—and we decide on the comparative productiveness of any two kinds, most generally, by their growth as they stand in the field. Yet, according to the foregoing theory, the greater length and bulk of straw may be expected from seed that will yield a deficient crop of grain. By attending to the rule offered, we may make profitable selections of seeds from every single field, by taking from the warm and light soil, if we want the best product of grain, or the cold and backward, if the crop is of a kind to be most profitable in proportion to its whole bulk. Another necessary deduction is, that the farmers of Lower Virginia ought often to procure new seeds of clover and other grasses from the mountains, or the nothern states to renew the original bulk and value of those crops, and to prevent their becoming more productive in seed than in hay. And the reverse operation will be equally beneficial as to wheat and other grains of which the mountain and nothern farmers ought frequently to obtain a new stock of seed from the plains and from the south. But even if such considerable changes are not attempted, a less degree of benefit may be obtained by attending to these rules within the limits of almost every farm.

A striking proof of the truth of Professor Bronn's opinion of the influence of climate on seeds is presented in the different times in maturing of the timothy grass of America and the cattail grass of England. These grasses are in appearance, and in every respect precisely the same, except that the English grass is about two weeks later in maturing than the American, when both have been sown together on the same soil. Mr. Strickland made the trial, and states the result in his observations on the agriculture of the United States, reported to the British Board of Agriculture. This difference, which was so fixed, and appeared so remakable to the observers, is completely explained by Professor Bronn's theory applied to the temperate and moist summers of England, and the more heated air and drier soils of the United States.

Ed. Farm. Reg.]

From the Baltimore Chronicle.

ILLINOIS.

Extract of a letter from a highly respectable gentleman, dated Jacksonville, (Ill.) Sept. 11th, 1833. to a gentleman in this city.

DEAR SIR.—Yesterday I received your letter of the 21st ult. The very flattering manner in which my friend, Mr ——— has represented me to you for information about the state of Illinois, deserves my thanks, but I am fearful he has placed me in an attitude that will disappoint your expectations. I am just beginning to acquaint myself with this new portion of our country that is so vast in its extent, rich in its fertility, abounding in all the resources that must ultimately make it one of the most powerful of the states in our great confederacy. I will endeavour to give you such information as I have obtained from my own personal observation.

In answer to your first inquiry, I will state that there is yet a considerable quantity of government land both in Sangamon and Morgan counties; yet to enter, and as good land as there is in the *world*, within 10, 15 or 20 miles of either of the places you mention, (Springfield and Jacksonville) and on leading roads that are much travelled and not more than from 20 to 30 miles from navigation, in healthy parts of the country. There is also good land yet to enter on the Illinois river, of the finest quality both of timber and prairie, but all river situations are more or less sickly. The first mentioned lands are all prairie, but not less valuable on that account, for there is timber enough in the two counties to supply all the wants of a very dense population for a century to come; and besides the country abounds with stone coal of the best quality which can be had at any point in these two counties at 10 cts. a bushel, and fencing can be done with the native white thorn with as little expense here as in Maryland. I have located near Jacksonville, and preferred all prairie, in consequence of its superior fertility and beauty, and have refused repeated offers of timbered land in short distances of me. If the grazing of stock would be your object I should suppose you w[illegible] the distance from navigation, but if the growing of grain be your object, either a manufacturing mill or a navigable stream would be desirable in the vicinity of your location, and here again the happiest combination of circumstances present themselves, there are in the county of *Morgan* alone fifteen flouring mills, propelled by steam and water. Morgan county* contains between twenty and twenty-five thousand inhabitants, and Sangamon nearly as many. Morgan has decidedly the advantage of the other counties around, in society, morals intelligence and wealth; I also think it more healthy & beautiful, never entirely level, but gradually undulating. There is a well endowed college in Jacksonville, with four professorships ably filled with men of equal talents to any of the eastern schools. The towns of Jacksonville and Springfield are nearly equal in size, containing upwards of 1500 inhabitants, but as yet badly improved; that is the houses are small and incommodious more from necessity than design. Land around Jacksonville is selling from 10 to 15 dollars per acre, unimproved *lots* from 10 to 100 dollars per acre.

I would now in general terms remark that Illinois, comprising that portion which lies north of a line drawn from Vincennes to St. Louis, presents to the eye of the traveller one of the most beautiful portions of country that is to be met with, I was going to say, in the world, but perhaps that would be too extravagant for one who has seen only a small portion of the globe; but I will say it is not equalled by any portion of the United States. The soil is from one to five feet in depth, and as rich as vegetable matter can make it, yielding all the usual productions of the middle States in the greatest profusion, and with less labor than is required in any other country that I have ever seen. Corn, wheat, rye, oats, barley, hemp, tobacco, cotton, and all the vegetables usually cultivated in gardens, are grown here with astonishing success—the roads are the finest imaginable [illegible] ding easy transportation to the agriculturist, and the navigable streams bounding and intersecting the entire state, all present a prospect of future increase in the value of lands, that strikes the mind of the most common observer. If I possessed but one dollar I would prefer vesting it in Illinois, or if possessed of fifty thousand, with a desire of its increase, I would invest it here, with the moral certainty of doubling its value in a few years. This country is now attracting the attention of capitalists, and investments are daily made to an astonishing extent—entries are made and making, almost as fast as the papers can be prepared for the applicants.

I know it is difficult for one to arrange all his business to suit a change so important as you speak of, but were I determined to move and had brought my mind to the point, I would see this country before the Spring, were it in my power; but, Sir, do not move until you come and see this country. *I* used to receive letters from my friends here, giving me very glowing descriptions of the country, but until I saw it myself, their pictures were taken for illusions, either optical or fanciful; but ever since my first visit to this State, I feel as if I were on enchanted ground, whenever I am here. You will now think of me as I have of my correspondents, * * * * *

*In 1821, the tract of country embraced within the limits of this county contained only twenty families.—*Peck's Guide for Emigrants*

HENRY CLAY.—We publish, in this week's paper, several extracts from the Eastern papers, giving an account of Mr. Clay's reception in the atlantic cities.—It will be seen, that though this gentleman has, for years, endured a series of persecutions, without a parallel in the history of civilized society, he has triumphed over all and his very *revilers* now praise him. Ever since the last few years of Mr. Monroe's term of office the public press, enlisted in the cause of some political aspirant, has singled out Mr. Clay as an individual whose destruction was necessary. Each candidate for the presidency had his own mode of assault, and the attacks were made with a view to destroy Mr. Clay in those sections of country where his popularity stood in the way of the pretensions of his rival.

Each section of the Union was honored by having a candidate of its own, and as Mr. Clay was every where popular, it became necessary every where to assail him. Hence it is, that he has been made to respond to accusations, which are so directly contrary in character, that the refutation of one would be the admission of another, and what would give him merit in the North, must destroy him in the South. His strength of intellect and the soundness of the political opinions which he had avowed, discomfitted to those who were leagued against him, and his enemies, finding that he was impregnable as [illegible] crush him as a *man*. With this view, all the levities of his youth, and the indiscretions of his immature age, were dragged from the oblivion in which all mankind are disposed to bury the thoughtless actions of that period of existence, and these fancied discoveries were cruelly trumpetted forth to the world in forms of shameful exaggeration. Through this trial also, Mr. Clay passed, acquiring new lustre from the proud evidence which he gave, that there was really so little deserving censure at a time when the mad passions of youth might in some form or other have given his enemies the power to revive a long forgotten error. Failing, completely and utterly, in this *onslaught* upon his private life, his enemies became maddened by disappointment and leagued at last with the *father of lies*, determined to annihilate the object of their enmity, cost what it might. In the prosecution of this last scheme, men who stood high in the nation lent themselves as instruments, and in their zeal to degrade a rival have set examples which may yet prove a death blow to the moral character of the country.

For a time this nefarious conspiracy succeeded; Mr. Clay's most bitter antagonist found his way to the Presidency—his most unrelenting enemies were promoted to the posts of honor and profit—his friends were proscribed and plundered, and like the imbecile Bourbons who strove to annihilate the glory of Napoleon, by tearing down the monuments which his genius had erected, and destroying the trophies which his valour had won, so have the irresponsible advisers of Jackson endeavoured to ruin Mr. Clay by subverting all the rich evidences of his extended, and wise, and patriotic policy. One by one, the features of a system which had advanced the American name among the nations of the earth, have fallen beneath the strokes of factious men, and as the storm sweeps over each, although desolation follows, the parasites of power think that they hear in it only the death shriek of a hated rival. But it will not all do—with the subsiding of popular excitement there is a returning reason and a returning sense of justice. Wherever Mr. Clay appears, the enlightened, the generous, the virtuous of the land gather around him—they press forward in crowds to assure him of *their* admiration for his talents, of *their* gratitude for his services; and in *these* demonstrations of esteem, there is no fulsome adulation, no crawling beneath the *horses' feet*, no hireling troops to parade as an escort, no pensioned chroniclers of the kissing of bibles, and the pert speeches of straggling widows; but the homage is such as freemen can give to a faithful public servant, and such as a public servant should alone receive. "Truth is omnipotent, and public justice certain." The French *people* are rearing again the column which sustained the statue of Napoleon—and not many years will pass before the bones of the Corsican will repose in the capital of France. The great *Kentuckian* will, we hope, *live* to see the monuments of *his* fame reared again on a permanent basis, and the glory of America perpetuated by a return to those principles which have made her "the brightness of the earth."

Frankfort (Ky.) Commonwealth.

THE PUBLIC LANDS.

The question is often asked, what shall be done with the Public Lands? It becomes more important from day to day, that this question should be definitely settled. Mr. Clay brought a bill into Congress during the last session, which provided for the distribution of the proceeds for 5 years of the sale of this species of Government property, among the different States of the Union, to be expended in internal improvements, or in advancing the cause of education. The bill passed—but the President wishing to secure to his intended successor, Mr VAN BUREN, the favor of the western States, exclaimed with all the energy of a Despot, *I* FORBID IT. *It* is time that this great electioneering machine should be taken out of the hands of the Executive—and there can be no doubt that a large majority of *the people*, were they consulted, would be in favour of disposing of these Lands, and distributing the proceeds among the different States, to be applied to the furtherance of some measures which would redound to the interest of the people.—The advantages which might accrue from a judicious disposition of this question *are immense*. These lands are the property of all the States, and all the States ought to share in the benefits to be derived from them. But, in a few years, the West, rapidly increasing in population and power, will have a potential voice in the Congress of the United States—and it will then depend altogether on the magnanimity of our western brethren whether the Atlantic states shall derive any benefit from the disposal of this producive prop[illegible] We repeat it, this question should be settled, and that immediately too.

We have received a circular from the office of the Albany Advertiser, addressed to the Citizens and Legislators of the United States, and submitting the following propositions, as the substance of a necessary act of Congress. *In* the words of the *Circular*, "*It* earnestly invites inquiry, and fearlessly challenges scrutiny: and if it is intrinsically and essentially good and just both in its immediate and remote tendency, the more extensively and thoroughly it shall be examined and studied, the more certain and speedy will be its adoption."

Lowell Journal.

PROPOSITION.

§1st. All the lands now belonging to the United States; and all lands which may hereafter be acquired by the United States, shall be and remain a perpetual fund for the support of Education.—The proceeds of the sales of all such lands, after defraying the incidental expenses, shall be annually distributed among the several states and territories, according to the ratio of their representation, and shall by them respectively be invested, either in works of internal improvement, each state guranteeing the legal interest, or in such other manner as the state may deem most secure and productive. The interest arising from said investments shall be invariably appropriated and applied to the support of the Common Schools, or a system of General Education throughout each state.

§2d. Of said interest or income, not more than one half shall be expended in the purchase of lots, the erecting and repairing of buildings, furniture, fuel and other incidental or subsidiary objects; and the other half at least, shall be positively applied to the payment of teachers, purchase of books and apparatus, and to other direct and essential purposes of General Education.

§3d. Lots not exceeding one hundred acres may be sold to actual settlers on credit for an *indefinite time*, at six per centum yearly interest; which interest and the principal, when paid, shall be paid to the treasuries of the states in which said lots are located, and the amount deducted from the dividend due such states (or account of land) from the general treasury, but when the amount shall exceed such dividend, the surplus shall be paid over.

APPALLING PICTURE.—The following letter from New Orleans, published in the Northern papers, furnishes a gloomy account of the way in which things are managed in that city.

"To be taken sick in New Orleans is, *I* may say, *to die*. Your chance of escape is one to five; and in that situation, I place myself. The difficulty of getting a good nurse, renders the sick man's situation truly horrible; confined, as is frequently the case, in a small close room, a *calomel* Doctor calling every hour or so and ordering you at each visit thirty or forty grains,—fever raging—reason itself gone;—there you lie, with fifty leeches on your temples, at *one dollar a piece!* a black *assassinating* looking nurse grinning at your bedside and wishing you out of the world, (though getting *Ten Dollars a day!*) so that she may steal what little money you have and clear out. In the room next to that in which I lay, a young man who had been bled, in the morning, during a paroxysm of fever tore off the bandage, and with the blood spouting from his arm, alarmed the nurse, who ran down stairs for help.—Ere she returned he fainted; on the next day he died. A short time previous to his death, I heard him praying, nay *begging* for a glass of water; but as he was swelled up with calomel, and water was prohibited, he died—*wit'out it!*

Of the Physicans of New Orleans, take them generally, each one has a different mode of practice; we have the Tearan Doctors, the Steam Doctors, the Calomel and the Anti-calomel Doctors; among them, somehow or other, nearly all die. This is a lamentable fact, too well known here to create any surprise by its announcement. I have had some little opportunities of seeing something of their mode of administering medicine and added to a callous sense of humanity, they seem more like demons than administering angels. Battling thus with Death and the Doctors, the poor suffering patient at last yields up his spirit without a sigh.—Then comes the Court of Probates to settle up his affairs. I can better illustrate this nefarious institution, founded upon corrupt principles, by a circumstance which fell under my own notice. A gentleman died—and was buried—all the money ($300) was in Bank—the bills of expense came pouring in on his widow—she went to the Bank—the Cashier sent her to the Court of Probates; to this part of the business I at[illegible] [illegible] employ a lawyer

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