

## THE NAUVOO NEIGHBOR.

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### Agricultural.

From the Kentucky Farmer.

### AN ESSAY ON THE CULTIVATION OF HEMP.

The first thing to be done by a person who is about to engage in the culture of hemp, is to rear seed for his future crop. This is not only important, as regards economy, but still more so for other reasons. There is no seed so easily injured, and rendered unfit for sowing, as that upon which we depend for producing a hemp crop.

It is said by some farmers that you cannot easily sow too much seed on the ground, as it will thin itself sufficiently, and only so much will grow as it will support; that by sowing an over quantity of seed, the danger of the hemp growing too coarse will be obviated. This is certainly true; but where a double quantity of seed is sown, that portion of the hemp which will not come to perfection, will take from the more thrifty plants a part of the nourishment which they would otherwise have received; up to the period when the tender hemp perishes, and consequently will not attain as great a height, as would otherwise have done. However, that portion of the hemp which survives, will be an obstruction in cutting, spreading and breaking, without furnishing any net. It may, therefore, be laid down as a correct principle, in the culture of hemp, that only so much seed should be sown per acre as the soil will bring to perfection, or as near that quantity as practicable. But as it is impossible to distribute the seed so as to give to every foot of ground its due proportion, it is more safe to sow rather an over than an under quantity of seed.

The foregoing consideration, it is believed, will be sufficient to impress upon the cultivators of hemp, the importance of raising their own seed. They will thus have a perfect knowledge of its quality, and will therefore know how to regulate the quantity to be sown per acre. They will moreover be assured that it is free from other seeds, such as faxseed, &c.

The richest ground is the best adapted to raising of hemp seed; and that which has been highly manured is better than newly cleared land, even of the most fertile quality. Land which has been long in grass, and pastured by cattle or sheep, is more suitable for the purpose. To prepare ground for hemp seed, it should be ploughed the preceding fall, so that the ground may be not only more completely pulverized, but the danger of hemp being cut by worms may be avoided. Timothy mowdown upon which sheep have been long pastured, during the winter, is finely adapted for hemp seed; but it should be ploughed in the fall, and if not very rich, should have a dressing of manure.

The seed should be planted as we do corn, either in hills or drills. I prefer the former, as the plough can be used both ways. It is usual to plant five feet apart each way, and sower four or five stalks to stand in a hill until the blossom time is removed, and then reduce the number so as not to exceed two stalks in a hill. Thus there would be two seed plants for every twenty-five square feet. It would be a better practice to make the hills three feet apart each way, and thin the hemp to three stalks in a hill, till the blossom time appears, and at the proper time cut out the blossom or male hemp, and if necessary a part of the seed hemp, so as to reduce the latter to one stalk in a hill. If each hill should contain just one stalk, there would be two seed stalks for each twenty-five square feet and a half square feet. This would be a greater number of seed stalks per acre than planting five feet each way, and leaving two in a hill. According to the plan, each seed plant will stand by itself, and having its appropriate space of ground, can spread its branches without obstruction. According to the other plan, two seed plants, standing together, will obstruct each other in putting forth lateral branches, and can scarcely be expected to produce twice as much seed as the single stalk.

The ground for hemp seed, having been well prepared by at least two ploughings, and a number of harrowings, sufficient to pulverize the ground, it should be laid off as above directed, except that the seed need not be covered more than an inch or an inch and a half deep. Twelve or fifteen seed should be dropped in each hill, which should be somewhat scattered to prevent them from being too crowded in the hill. Though good hemp seed is certain to come up, yet it is prudent to plant about the number suggested to guard

against casualties. Soon after the hemp seed comes up, a small shovel plough should be run through both ways, once in a row. If the ground is not foul, the ploughing may be delayed till the hemp is a few inches high, which will enable the ploughman to avoid throwing the dirt on the tender plants. The hoes should follow the second ploughing, and clean away the weeds, if any, in or near the hill, and thin out the hemp to seven or eight stalks. These should be the most thrifty plants, and somewhat separated from each other. The ploughing should be repeated from time to time, so as to make the ground light and free from weeds. And when the plants are about a foot or a foot and a half high, the hoes should again go over the ground, and carefully cut down any weeds or grass which may have escaped the plough. The plants should be still further thinned out, at this time leaving but four in a hill, and some fine mould drawn around the plants, so as to cover any small weeds that may have come up around them. After seed hemp has attained the height of a foot and a half, it will soon be too large to plough, but it ought to have one ploughing after the last hoeing. The ground by this time will have become so much shaded by the hemp plants as to prevent the weeds from growing so as to do any injury, and nothing more need be done but for a boy to follow the plough, and (if the plants are a half foot from the distance of the hills apart,) reduce the number of plants invariably to three, taking care to remove those which the last ploughing may have broken or injured, by the dragging of the horse or otherwise.

The next operation will be to cut out the blossom or male hemp. This, according to the opinion of some farmers, should be done as soon as the blossom begins to show in order to make more room for the seed hemp to grow and spread its branches. This opinion must be taken with some allowance. The farina or pollen of the male hemp is necessary to fertilize the seed bearing plants. The seed of the latter would be wholly unproductive if the whole of the male hemp should be cut before the pollen has been thrown out. These farmers who cut their blossom hemp at the first moment it can be distinguished from the seed bearing plant, do not entirely destroy their seed, it is because many blossom plants escape, in consequence of their not having shown their sex at the time the blossom hemp is cut, or because adjacent hemp fields may have furnished a sufficient quantity of pollen to fertilize, at least in part, the seed bearing plants. It is important to cut the male hemp as soon as it has performed its office, because much room is thereby afforded to the seed bearing plants to spread their branches.

The following course might be pursued with advantage. When the seed hemp has so far advanced as to enable one readily to distinguish the male from the female plants, let all the blossom hemp be cut out, except one stalk in every other hill and every other row. This would leave one stalk of male hemp for every four hills. These, together with the stalks which should thereafter blossom, would be sufficient to fertilize all the seed bearing plants, and secure a crop of perfect seed. After the blossom plants, thus left, have been permitted to remain until they have pretty well discharged their pollen, (which can easily be ascertained by dust coming to flow from them when agitated) they should also be cut down. Some farmers cut the male plants when five or six feet high, to make them branch more freely; but this is not necessary when but one or two seed bearing plants are suffered to remain in each hill.

Hemp seed should be planted early in the month of April. Early planting suits conditions best. If the ground is in proper condition, it may be planted even as early as March. Hemp is a hardy plant, and will not, as is supposed by some, be injured by frost. If planted early, it will be fit to cut from the first to the fifteenth of September, and there is no necessity to wait for frost. On the contrary, it is better to cut before it receives any frost, because the seed drop out by handling much sooner after it has received a frost than before, and consequently will be greater in quantity. In cutting the hemp, care should be taken to agitate the stalks as little as possible, as the seeds drop out very easily when they are ripe. A sharp hook, of a circular form, is the instrument for cutting seed hemp. The operator should grasp the stock in one hand, and bend it gently towards him, and with the other should place the blade of the hemp hook against the stalk about a foot from the ground, and by a gentle pull the stalk will be cut transversely, with but little agitation. The stalks should be laid gently on the ground, so as not to trample out the seed. Four hills in a row, morning, while the dew is on the hemp, the seeds will then be less liable to shatter out. Thereafter, the seed should be managed seed after it is cut. One is to set the stalks up in open shocks, until they are sufficiently dry to thrash out the seed, and then haul them on a

plow to a dry floor, prepared for the purpose, and there thrash out the seed.

The other method is to prepare a large floor on the earth adjacent to the seed hemp, and by means of forks and poles arranged along the floor, to set up the seed plants in a kind of a rack, the butts on the ground, and the tops against the poles on each side.

The former plan is objectional, upon the ground that all the seed which shatters out before the time of threshing, will be lost; and also because of the impossibility of removing the seed hemp from the shocks to the side without a considerable loss of seed. The latter plan requires more labor in preparing the floor, but is much more economical in saving seed, and should be preferred. A sled should be employed to transfer the seed hemp to the floor. If the seed be spread on the sled, there will be scarcely any loss of seed in hauling as it can be dry so close to the floors that all the seed that may shatter off in hauling will either fall on the sheet or on the floor. The seed hemp should be suffered to stand in rack till thoroughly dry. If it should receive some rain it will be an advantage, as this will cause the seed to separate more readily from the chaff, and will facilitate the operation of threshing. If the season should be very hot, there may be danger of the seed sprouting in the rack. This must be guarded against, by opening the tops of the hemp (which will have been pressed together by the rain) so as to give it air and sun, as soon as the weather clears off. After much rain the seed may be threshed out, even when the tops are quite damp or even wet, and it should be got out without delay, to prevent the seed from sprouting. But, if got out when damp the chaff and hemp seed will become warm in a few hours after it is heaped up. To prevent its injuring, it should be run through a fan to break the damp dry it is threshed, and taken to the barn or some dry shelter, where it should be spread out, and frequently raked or stirred until it becomes thoroughly dry, and cured; when it should be again run through the fan, and put away in barrels with open heads, in a house which is dry, and to which rats can have no access, as they are very destructive to hemp seed. A house erected upon posts, four feet high, is the best security against these troublesome animals. If the seed hemp get a rain after it is set up in rack, it may be threshed out in a week or ten days, or sooner if it begins to sprout. If it gets no rain, it may stand in rack. The most convenient mode of threshing is each hand to have a plank about twelve or fifteen feet long, and fifteen or eighteen inches wide, set up against the pole, (at an angle of forty five degrees,) against which the seed hemp is ricked. The operator threshes out seed by taking one, two, or three plants at a time, (according to their size) in his hands, and beating them against the plank. As the seed comes out very easily, a few blows are sufficient to knock all the seed out, when the plant is thrown off the floor, in heaps, where they may be butted, or may be used for covering shelters for hogs, cattle, &c. They are said to be valuable also for making charcoal for powder factories. They are of no value for lint.

It is the safest course, even when the seed hemp is perfectly dry at the time of threshing, to haul the seed, after it has been once run through the fan, to the barn or some dry shelter, and there spread it out thin, and suffer it to become thoroughly cured before it is cleaned and put away. This will be a great security against its heating in the barrels, which would be certain to spoil the seed. If, however, the seed hemp has stood long enough in rack for the seed to become perfectly cured, so that it is safe to haul it to the barn may be dispensed with, and the hemp may be run a second time through the fan, at the place where it is threshed, but to avoid getting dirt with the seed, it should be run upon a sheet, (the second cleaning, and measure) there into bags.

Old seed will generally not answer for sowing. During the summer, succeeding the year in which it was raised, it goes through a heat, which destroys its vegetable powers. If, however, it were to be spread out thin, on a dry floor, before the commencement of warm weather, and kept thus spread out during the summer, there would be no doubt it would answer for sowing, (but ensuing year). But it is always safest not to trust to old seed without having first tested it by planting a certain number of seeds, and thus ascertaining how many will vegetate.

The floor for getting out seed should be prepared before the time for cutting arrives. It should be as convenient as practicable to have hauling. I usually leave a space along side of my seed hemp for the purpose. This may be planted in pumpkins, and cultivated with the plough. Shortly before the seed hemp is fit to cut, the pumpkins and vines are removed, the ground is well harrowed, and then and is sown with seed, until it becomes sufficiently solid, and then scraped with hoes, to make it smooth, sweet, &c.

The next step in the process of hemp raising is to prepare the ground for receiving the seed. This should be done by thoroughly pulverizing the soil. Hemp, more than most other crops, requires that this should be done as complete and perfect a manner as possible. The hemp grower may always expect his crop to be increased in proportion as his operations are well performed. This can be best accomplished by ploughing the ground intended for hemp the preceding fall, or early in the winter, so that it may have the benefit of the winter frosts. It should be ploughed deep, and left in a rough state, without harrowing. Not a hoof should be suffered to go upon it. Shortly after sowing, it should again be ploughed and harrowed. The latter is necessary to level the ground, in order to prevent the seed from rolling into the sinapieties, and thus render the hemp uneven. It should now be sowed and harrowed both ways, or harrowed one way and then rolled or brushed the other way. This is preferable, as it will lay the surface of the ground more level, and will facilitate the cutting operation, enabling the workmen to cut closer to the ground, and thus save lint. This is the most advisable course for early sowing, when there is always sufficient quantity of moisture in the ground to bring the seed up. But if there is any doubt about there being sufficient moisture in the ground to cause all the seed to vegetate, it is more safe to plough the seed with shovel ploughs. These will cover the seed to such a depth as will insure their coming up, unless the ground should be very dry. In that case there is no alternative but to wait for rain before you sow. Different opinions prevail as to the proper quantity of seed to be sown per acre. My experience, which has been considerable, convinces me that the quantity of good seed upon well prepared ground, and sown when there is moisture enough to bring all up, need not exceed one bushel and one eighth per acre; but as the most skillful sower cannot scatter the seed so as to give every proportion of ground its due proportion, it would be advisable to sow a bushel and a peck per acre.

Manured ground does not answer so well for hemp, the first year, as that which has been lying long in grass. It recently and highly manured, it is apt to make the hemp grow too coarse. Land which has been several years in clover, (if it had not been previously too much reduced by bad husbandry) is well adapted to hemp; but it is sometimes seriously affected by the cut worm and other insects. To guard against these, clover should always be ploughed in the previous fall or early in the winter. A still greater safeguard is to sow clover ground late in the month of May.

Hemp may be sowed upon the same ground many years in succession to great advantage; and as, after the first year, the cut worm is usually not very troublesome, there will be a necessity of taking the precaution of sowing late only one year.

Land which has long lain in blue grass, especially if pastured by sheep, is finely adapted to the growth of hemp. But to make it produce well the first year, it should always be ploughed in the previous fall or early in the winter. A still greater safeguard is to sow clover ground late in the month of May.

Newly cleared land is not so good for hemp as that which has been in cultivation a year or two in corn. But if sowed after corn, the stalks should be cut close to the ground the previous fall, and the roots of the corn turned under with a large plough, so that they may have time to rot. They will be somewhat in the way in cutting hemp the first year, but will be no trouble afterwards.

It is very important for the hemp grower to have his ground set apart in which nothing else grows. These may be kept for hemp a great length of time without any change, and consequently there will be no necessity for sowing any kind of stock to go upon the hemp ground. The soil will thus be kept light and mellow. As soon as the hemp, of the previous crop, is off the ground, it should be ploughed deep, turning all the hemp stubble and roots under. If this can be done in time to have the benefit of the winter frosts, it will be better. It should now be harrowed (if ploughed early enough) to have the benefit of the spring frosts till the time of sowing. With one harrowing before, and two after, the crop will be pitched. If, in consequence of heavy rains, the ground should have become baked, it would be advisable to plough the seed in with shovel ploughs, so as to render the ground light. And in all cases where there is a doubt whether there is a sufficient quantity of moisture in the ground to bring the seed up by harrowing, the shovel plough should be substituted, as it will cover the seed much deeper where it will find moisture in the soil. If the ground is very dry, when it is covered to some depth, it will sprout and come up, but that portion of the seed which lies near the surface will not vegetate till it rains. If there be

only one week between the coming up of the first and last portion of the seed, the latter will be so far behind the other as to be always what is called underling hemp, and will be of no value, whilst that which came up first will be too thin, and will consequently grow very coarse. This should be most carefully guarded against.

(Concluded next week.)

### LIST OF ACTS PASSED BY THE ILLINOIS LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE BILL.

An act not to reduce the number of officers upon the Illinois and Michigan canal.

An act in relation to the Cumberland road.

An act providing a voluntary mode of registering births and deaths; and an act supplementary thereto.

An act in relation to State bonds and other evidences of State indebtedness.

An act to provide for the allowance and payment of interest and money due the contractors on the Illinois and Michigan canal.

An act in relation to the Supreme court.

An act in relation to the Kaskaskia and Mississippi Railroad Company.

An act to amend an act regulating mills and millers, approved, Feb. 7, 1837.

An act making appropriations for the years, 1843 and 1844.

An act for the settlement of the accounts of James W. Barrett.

An act to amend the act to incorporate the Illinois Mutual Fire Insurance Company, approved Feb. 23, 1839.

An act relating to the State Treasury.

An act to exempt certain articles from execution.

An act to abolish the office of fund Commissioner, and for other purposes therein named.

An act to allow grand and petit jurors mileage.

An act concerning attorneys and counsellors at law.

An act to amend the act to regulate Foreign Insurance Company Agencies established in the State of Illinois, and for other purposes.

An act supplemental to an act concerning estrays, in force February 9, 1815.

An act to regulate weights and measures.

An act to amend the act to consolidate the acts relative to his Auditor and Treasurer, and the election of attorneys general.

An act to appoint the Governor ex-officio Fund Commissioner of the state of Illinois.

An act to provide for the sale of the public property, and the payment of the public debt.

An act supplemental to the several acts defining the duties of public printer.

An act to compile and publish in one volume the laws of Illinois.

An act making an appropriation to finish part of the State House.

An act in relation to delinquent collectors of the revenue.

An act to repeal the charter of the Bank of Cairo.

An act in relation to clerks of circuit courts.

An act to exempt the property of Colleges and common schools from taxation for a limited period.

An act to provide for the completion of the Northern Cross Railroad.

An act to incorporate Academies and Seminaries for learning.

An act for the formation of the county of Benton, and for other purposes.

An act to provide for the regulation of the penitentiary.

An act to authorize the Secretary of State to receive and preserve Geological specimens, and other purposes.

An act in relation to the specie in the Bank of Illinois at Shawneetown.

An act to amend the act concerning the public revenue approved Feb. 23, 1839; and an act supplemental to said act approved March 1, 1839.

SEPARATE BILLS.

An act concerning the State Library.

Supplemental to an act to diminish the State debt, and to put the State Bank into liquidation.

To punish the crime of incest.

To authorize justices to give a bounty on wolf scalps.

To fix the tenure of certain offices.

To amend an act providing for the binding of the laws and journals, approved Jan. 31, 1810.

To amend judgments a lien from the time of filing the capias.

In relation to judgements and executions.

For the regulating of county Treasurers and county funds.

Concerning the revenue.

In relation to the Penitentiary.

Concerning corporations.

To provide for taking up, registering, and cancelling of State bonds and other evidences of State indebtedness.

### THE EDITOR OF THE NEIGHBOR, ON THE NATURE OF HEALTHY BEER, AND ITS EFFECTS WHEN USED AS A BEVERAGE.

In offering a few remarks on this subject, I expect to come in contact with the opinion of those who have not noticed its nature or its effects, but who are, to its great extent, but who have been taught to believe it to be a wholesome and nutritious drink, and calculated to strengthen and invigorate the human system. I would, therefore, invite such to study the nature of the drinking system, and they will soon be able to discern that all alcoholic drinks are injurious to their nature, and calculated to impregnate the human system with a multiplicity of disorders. It matters not whether it be beer, rum, brandy, whiskey or malt beer; all possess the same intoxicating quality, (viz. alcohol), and are all calculated to produce the same insupportable effects. Malt beer, as is well known, is a fermented liquor, the principal ingredients in making of which are malt and hops. Malt is made from barley. Barley is used in the north of England and Scotland as food, and is a useful and nutritious grain, which may be seen from the following statement:

922 parts out of every 1,000, in barley, are real nutriment.

748 parts out of every 1,000, in oats are real nutriment.

930 parts out of every 1,000 in potatoes are real nutriment.

Thus barley is more valuable than oats as food, and nearly 3-4 as valuable as potatoes for the same purpose. The query, therefore, might arise in the minds of some, is not malt beer a cheap and nutritious beverage? In order to test this matter to rest, and satisfy the minds of those who have hitherto listened to such an opinion, I will extract the following from the Temperance Advocate. By pointing out the difference between having barley which is the only nutritious ingredient in malt beer, and having beer, it will be most manifest that malt beer, independent of its consequences, is exceedingly dear, and I will prove it by supplying two characters, a beer drinker and a water drinker. These two characters we will send to the same market, each of them shall have 50 cents to start with, and on the result of their errand I confidently depend for proof that beer is not a cheap beverage. The beer drinker and the water drinker both go to the same shop, and both procure the same article, viz. 30 lbs. of barley. The farthest the water drinker has to go is to the water drainer, who has 30 lbs. in its original state, and he therefore hurries home with it. But not so with the beer drinker. He must have his 30 lbs. converted into beer, and he therefore hurries to his friend, the maltster, and afterwards to his other friends, for the beer drinker has many misnamed friends, and having required their services, he is determined to be honest, and give each of them a share of his 30 lbs. of barley, he consequently distributes it as follows, viz:

To the maltster,	1 1/2
To the brewer,	1 1/2
To the retailer,	1 1/2
And this he leaves for himself 11 lbs. out of 30. If given in money, it would stand as follows:	
maltster,	3 1/2
brewer,	3 1/2
retailer,	3 1/2
30 1/2	

Thus you see that 30 1/2 cts. out of his 50 is gone to his different friends, in the shape of profits, and now he has only 10 1/2 cts., or nineteen and a half cents worth of barley left out of 30 lbs. or 50 cts. worth.

From the above statement you will perceive that, provided all the barley remaining was actually in the poor, there could not be more than 10 cts. worth, or 11 lbs. of barley in the beer drinkers 50 cts. worth, or one gallon of beer. Now I say instead of 10 cents worth, there is not more than 3 cents worth of the nutritious part of barley in the beer drinkers 50 cents worth. And now for the test. After our worthy beer drinker has given his friends their share of his 30 lbs. of barley, he has 11 lbs. left; this he must have converted into malt, and this into malt beer, and then for the water drinker, he has 30 lbs. of barley in its original state, and he therefore hurries to his friend, the maltster, and afterwards to his other friends, for the beer drinker has many misnamed friends, and having required their services, he is determined to be honest, and give each of them a share of his 30 lbs. of barley, he consequently distributes it as follows, viz:

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From the above statement you will perceive that, provided all the barley remaining was actually in the poor, there could not be more than 10 cts. worth, or 11 lbs. of barley in the beer drinkers 50 cts. worth, or one gallon of beer. Now I say instead of 10 cents worth, there is not more than 3 cents worth of the nutritious part of barley in the beer drinkers 50 cents worth. And now for the test. After our worthy beer drinker has given his friends their share of his 30 lbs. of barley, he has 11 lbs. left; this he must have converted into malt, and this into malt beer, and then for the water drinker, he has 30 lbs. of barley in its original state, and he therefore hurries to his friend, the maltster, and afterwards to his other friends, for the beer drinker has many misnamed friends, and having required their services, he is determined to be honest, and give each of them a share of his 30 lbs. of barley, he consequently distributes it as follows, viz:

To the maltster,	1 1/2
To the brewer,	1 1/2
To the retailer,	1 1/2
And this he leaves for himself 11 lbs. out of 30. If given in money, it would stand as follows:	
maltster,	3 1/2











