

Esparsette or German Clover.—A leguminous plant with many stems 2 ft. to 3 ft. long; leaves in pairs of oblong leaflets, hairy on under-side; flower-stalks higher than leaves, with spikes of crimson or variegated leaves followed by hard flat pods toothed and prickly. Perennial. Roots hard and woody. Same family as alfalfa. Adapted to light chalky soils; stands gravel and barren regions deficient in rainfall and without irrigation privileges. Shorter-lived plant than alfalfa, but will last from eight to ten years according to soil by judicious top-dressing of manure. It is excellent for cows, increasing flow and quality of milk. Would advise early and heavy seeding, followed with roller. Sow seed 2 in. deep and from 30 lb. to 40 lb. per acre.

BELFAST EXPERIMENTAL AREA.

SILVER-BEET VARIETY TEST, 1912-13.

A. MACPHERSON.

I HAVE to report that preparatory to being fed off by sheep the foliage from an area of the four varieties grown was cut and weighed on the 19th March, 1913, the following being the results:—

Plot.	Variety.	Date sown.	First Stripping: Yield.
	Montgomery and Co.'s—		Tons per Acre.
1	Perpetual spinach	16/11/12	34.30
2	Swiss chard or Silver Lucullus (curled) ..	16/11/12	42.80
3	Swiss chard or silver (plain), dark-green leaf ..	16/11/12	36.19
4	Swiss chard or silver (plain), pale-green leaf ..	12/11/12	25.52

The land on which the first three varieties were sown was in mangels last year, and that on which the fourth variety was sown was in Buda kale. Prior to sowing the seed each plot received a dressing of Belfast rape and mangel manure at the rate of 2 cwt. per acre.

VANCOUVER EGG-MARKET.

SPECIAL PROVISION FOR SHIPPING-SPACE BEING MADE.

THE Director of the Live-stock and Meat Division has received the following communication from the General Manager of the Union Steamship Company. It will be seen that the company has made special provision for the carriage of eggs under the most favourable conditions during next season.

We understand that there is every likelihood of shipments of eggs being offered for Vancouver next season, and that we shall be asked to provide space in cold storage. The difficulty hitherto has been that shipments have been offered in such small quantities that we had no chambers small enough to set aside for the purpose, and on account of the different temperature required the eggs could not be stowed in the same chamber with butter or meat. The cold-storage capacities of the Vancouver steamers will, however, be very much larger than was the case during the season just passed, and we are now endeavouring to make such arrangements as will afford convenience for shipments of eggs on at least some of the trips, if not every trip. We cannot say definitely what can be done until we gather some idea of the butter and meat space likely to be required in the coming season, but we are not likely to be able to gauge this with any reliability until the first week in September, but perhaps that will be soon enough to decide what can be done with regard to eggs.