

the practice cannot pay one expects it to be discontinued ; but it still goes on, and the loss is apparently the price of experience. The least excusable practice is to mix good and bad together.

The time to grade a product is at the time of harvesting, so as to reduce handling and cartage to a minimum. By a careful consideration of the crop then it can be seen whether the main bulk is superior or good average. If the former, it can be graded and sold as such ; but if there is more than 50 per cent. of the lower grade it is generally graded and sold under that class name. In any case all undersized, broken, and diseased samples must be graded out ; to mix such stuff in the market grade is to lower the sample and depreciate the value much beyond any little advantage in weight. Produce in perishable condition compels a forced sale, which is a decided disadvantage to the owner. Graded produce, when given suitable storage, may be held with some confidence. It is important that the store should be clean and ample ventilation available, so that heating may be avoided, especially during the first few weeks of storage.

LAND-TREATMENT AND CROP-ROTATION.

At the other seasons of the year, as soon as one crop is harvested another is planted after a brief preparation. At the present time, with the near approach of winter months, advantage is taken to give a more thorough preparation to the land, and by dealing with different areas each winter the whole is kept in a state of fertility. The first part of the operation is to burn up the remains of the previous crop. Although if ploughed in this vegetation would form an excellent manure, too often it is affected with disease that may be readily transmitted. So frequently is this the case that the precaution of burning can rarely be omitted.

Where heavy dressings of organic manures are required and available they may be ploughed in now to advantage, or the slower-acting manures such as basic slag or blood-and-bone may be applied. Lime also may be applied now, so that its action in correcting acidity and improving the mechanical condition of the soil may be accomplished before cropping recommences. More especially does the present time afford the best opportunity for sowing a hardy green crop for ploughing under in the spring. This, as far as possible, should be of a different type from the crop immediately preceding or following it.

What treatment is given to the respective areas depends on the crops it is purposed should be planted later, and this brings one to the consideration of rotation cropping, than which nothing is more important to the grower. In the older countries centuries of experience have established in each district, according to the class of land and the crops in demand, a suitable rotation that economizes the costs of manuring, minimizes the danger of disease, and maintains the fertility of the soil. Under pressure of modern conditions, and with a virgin soil, one frequently takes the advantage to grow only the best-paying crops, which allows of little or even no rotation. But there is an end to this prodigal style of farming sooner or later, and it is a very difficult position to meet. A consistent prosperity demands that this question be studied closely in each locality and a good system of rotation arrived at.