

Sulphate of iron is not only received from springs and streams, but is frequently produced in the muck by the oxidation and decomposition of its alkaline sulphates.

The upper portion, to the depth of three to five feet, usually consists, for the most part, of fibrous stems, leaves and roots of various aquatic plants, all of which, except the growing plants at the surface, are more or less decayed. After penetrating a few feet below the surface, the decay is so far advanced that the vegetable structure is scarcely discernable by the naked eye.

When not largely mixed with earthy matters it may (after being taken out and well dried) be readily ignited and be consumed, leaving a residuum which is largely used as a manure in Holland, under the name of Dutch ashes.—Although they are valuable for that purpose, yet owing to the cost of labor in this country, I would not advise that the burning process be practiced in Maryland. We can more fully avail ourselves of the valuable constituents of the marsh muck by other means, which I purpose to describe as follows:

1. It should be remembered that when first taken out the weight of absorbed water is more than equal to that of the solid matter. It is therefore proper to throw it out upon adjacent dry land in narrow but high piles or ricks, in which it will lose half its weight by the evaporation and running off of the water.

2. If the farmer should possess a properly arranged barn-yard, (as every farmer should have,) let him in the autumn or in summer, after estimating the number of loads of manure his stock will produce during what is termed the feeding period, haul into the barn-yard *not less* than an equal number of loads of swamp muck or peat. This will, of course, be done after the manure has been entirely removed. There is an advantage also in spreading half a bushel of lime, or at least one or two bushels of shell marl on the muck or peat as soon as the latter shall have been hauled in, and be evenly distributed over the yard.

3. The manure as it accumulates during the winter and spring should be evenly spread over the muck in successive layers, which requires little labor, provided the proper kind of *dung wheelbarrows* be used, with the aid of what is termed *gang-planks*.

Experience in some of the Northern States, as well as in Europe has demonstrated that one load of such a mixture is *fully equal* to a load of the best stable manure.

Some farmers find an equally good result when the quantity of muck placed in the barn-yard is twice as much as the manure from the stock of the farm. This must in a great measure depend upon the time of the year at which the ma-