

is suited to cross with the Ayrshire, it is, we opine, the Gaurusy, but, individually, we must say that, were we trying to improve the Ayrshire, a feat Mr. James Drummond would call an impossibility, it would be by using a true "Dairy Shorthorn" bull on an Ayrshire cow.

"THERE WAS A DINNER-PARTY ON THE TAPIS."—We should prefer a dinner-party on the table. A dangerous thing using foreign words, unless acquainted with their meaning. The quotation is from a story in a farm-paper.

PARSNIPS. Fatten pigs by all means on this root, if you have more than your cows can manage, but hand on them off on pease for the last three or four weeks, unless you want soft, pappy pork. Oh! this cry for lean bacon! How can a ham be tender unless it is from a ripe, fat pig?

SHEEP AND CATTLE. As the periodical, "Farming", very properly says, should not be pastured together." The cow wants long grass to lap her tongue round; the sheep bites close and eats up all the clovers before they attain any height at all. But the article ends, in the opposite sense, by a long quotation from "The Prairie Farmer": "I believe the pasture will be improved by sheep lying on it;" a statement from which a pretty extensive experience in sheep-farming on poor Kentish grass lands leads us entirely to dissent.

DANGERS OF RAPE.—The "Farmer's Advocate" thinks it is necessary to warn farmers against turning sheep into wet rape! Surely an unnecessary warning, except to amateurs. As for fat sheep getting cast and lying so unable to rise, in drilled rape, we never heard of such a case; but, as we always sow rape broadcast, we do not fear it happening. Probably, the "drilled rape" here mentioned means rape sown on raised drills, like swedes or mangels: that would be dangerous of course, unless the drills were, as they ought to be in every case, hoed down level with the spaces between the drills.

BELLS ON SHEEP.—Mr. B. H. Bull informs the same paper that, although he farms close to the town of Brampton, where plenty of dogs are kept, his sheep have never suffered from their attacks since he made a practice of hanging a nice, clear-sounding bell round the neck of every fifth sheep!

TRIFOLIUM INCARNATUM, commonly called crimson clover, seems to have answered very well in Western Ontario. Mr. Geo. S. Cornwall writes to the "Farmer's Advocate" that he sowed some in August, 1864, and found it in bloom on May 5th, standing two feet high. This is clearly a successful experiment, and what with Lucerne ready for cutting for green-meal on May 12th, and crimson clover ready-allowing for the difference of climate—to cut here on the 24th of May, we may be said to be living under very different auspices to those which ruled us ten years ago.

RAPID GROWTH OF POPULATION.—The late Captain Jenner, of Wenloe Castle, Glamorganshire, sold Barry Island, in the Bristol Channel, over which we have shot many a

brace of partridges, to Lord Windsor for the trifling sum of £5,000 \$25,000. It is evidently not partridge land now, as is shown by the following, which we extract from "Weekly Press Siftings." "Another remarkable instance is that of Barry, in Glamorganshire. As late as 1856 it was the habitation of a few fisher families, numbering some fifty souls. The construction of a railway and dock was then commenced for the purpose of the conveyance and shipment of coal from the Rhonda Valley. Barry is now a town of 25,000 inhabitants."

Lord Windsor, receives a rental of £30,000 \$150,000 a year for the 750 acres of every poor land which, when used as a farm, never was worth more than a rent of 7s. 6d., an acre.

SOBEL FARMING.

Draining—Foul land—Buckwheat—M. Guévremont's farm—Pease Turnips.—Green-fodder—Banner oats—Clover—Potatoes—Tomatoes.

Such a day, October the 1st, as the Editor of this periodical selected for first visit to his friends at Sobel for two years! It rained from morning till night, and the heavy land along the railroad, from St. Lambert to Varennes, was by no means likely to attract buyers of building lots. Cannot something be done in the way of draining them? The immense production of weeds show that there is force still in the soil, in spite of the too frequent recurrence of grain-crops. However, as long as drainers persist in opening the drains at such an absurd width, and when "bottoming out," standing in the drain, instead of using the 18 inch-tool and standing on the last draw of the common spade, so long will draining be too costly a job for any but the rich to undertake. A four-foot drain only requires to be opened 14 inches wide: we have done thousands of rods of it and ought to know. No man ought to set foot in the bottom of the drain, unless in the case of a stone that needs the pick-axe for its removal.

The land after Varennes is passed looks in better trim: the pastures are grazed more level, and the weeds are not so numerous. As for the cattle, it is difficult to judge of them from the line, but they seem to be good common dairy-stock, no one breed predominating.

One point struck us all the way along: the almost total absence of root-crops. There may be some growing close round the farm-building, but we only saw two trifling slips—one of swedes, the other of mangels—in the 45 miles. There were a few pieces of fodder-corn some of which were severely frost bitten, and the cows were trampling it about: hardly an economical way of consuming it, one would think. Are there no silos to be filled? Lots of buckwheat; most of it cut, and lying rotting on the ground.

As for the land that lies along the railroad for the last 8 or 10 miles, it is nothing but a bed of sand, and cannot possibly pay for farming.

Ah! but it was a refreshing thing to come upon our good friend M. Séraphin Guévremont's farm. To see real cultivation going on over the whole of it; root-crops in plenty; total absence of weeds; headlands ploughed, dunged, and sown with turnips, which had been singled, horse-hoed, and were bearing

as good a crop as the rest of the piece, and to find that the proprietor had been obliged to raise all his barns several feet in height, so great is the yield of his land in hay and grain compared with what it was eight years ago, when M. Guévremont bought the farm.

During these eight years, the entire farm has been gone over with root-crops two years running, dunged each time. For the first three years, some of the meadows were top-dressed after the hay was removed, but as the land only lies in grass for at most, 4 years, it is found more convenient to apply the whole of the dung to the potatoes, etc., in the spring, as the hoeing, etc., takes all the labour that can be spared, and there is no opportunity of carting dung and preparing mixtures in the busy season of from the end of May till the root-crop is harvested.

PEASE were sown last spring, on this farm for the first time: may we say by our advice? Fortunately for our credit, they turned out to be a first-rate crop, and will now enter regularly into the rotation. Next year, we hope M. Guévremont will try sowing them in rows two feet apart, and horse hoeing them, drilling in white-turnips between the rows of the pease, to be singled and horse-hoed after the removal of the crop. For the first time within our recollection, there has been a demand for white turnips, this year, in Montreal; we have had them for dinner on several occasions, and very good they were; far superior to any swede. They should be thinned out to not more than 7 inches apart, as the smaller they are, within reason, the better they are. At Sobel, close to Mr. Guévremont's farm, we grew them fit for the table 43 days from sowing. In cooking, when done, pass through a sieve, mashing them with a wooden spoon, sprinkle with a little black pepper, and by no means add butter.

Mr. Guévremont does not think that fodder-corn is to be compared with "our mixture", oats, pease, and tares, which he grew most successfully this season, winning the prize for "Fourrage vert" at the county exhibition with great ease. By the bye, a curious circumstance, or, as it would be called in slang terms, "dodge", is concealed in the list of prizes of the Richelieu county Competitions. In order to make sure that the green-fodder crop is really intended for consumption as "green-fodder", the ingredients stipulated are Pease, oats, tares, and maize. The idea is this, that though the pease, oats, and tares might be made into hay, that cannot well be done if a bulky stalk like that of maize is mixed with it.

The "Banner" oats we sent to Mr. S. Guévremont last spring, (1) he says produced a very fine crop; so fine, that many people came from a distance to see it; he will have no difficulty in selling all his surplus of this oat for seed at good prices.

No sugar beets grown this year, the Berthier factory having been given up altogether. A most disheartening account of the management of this establishment. Heaps of fine beets left in heaps till heated, etc., etc.

The hay-crop looked doubtful, owing to the dry spring, till the beginning of June, but made up ground before it was time to mow and gave a good average yield.

"No clover grown yet?" said we, as the meadows came in sight; "Yes, replied our friend, with a reserved air.

(1) As a present.

"What is the matter with it?" asked we "a bad crop?" By no means; a very good crop; only look at it." We did so, and found out the reason of the "reserved air". It had been cut once, and the second crop was starting up in the face, now far too late to be mown for hay, and half rotting on the ground as it stood! Before next season, Mr. Guévremont promises to build a silo, for the second and third crops of clover. This, the neglect to trim up the sides of one of the fences, and the having left the carrots a little too thick, were, honestly, the only faults we could find on the whole farm, though we came prepared to judge very severely, even hypercritically.

The only roots M. Guévremont sells off the farm now, are carrots; as he milks 26 cows in the winter half-year, he requires nearly all the farm-produce to feed them. He finds that milk, at 5 cents a quart, pays better than anything. What profits must the Montreal milkmen make with milk at 8 cents a quart?

A curious fact, connected with the swede-crop here, is worth noting: the sowing of the whole piece about seven arpents—was finished, all but three rows, on the 15th June; the three rows were sown on the 25th of that month; and, whereas, the first sown produced the usual yield of, say, 800 bushels an arpent, those sown on the 25th had no bulbs at all; nothing but tops. Now, as on this farm, we have often seen swedes sown in July produce a fair crop of 600 to 700 bushels an arpent, the ten days later sowing cannot possibly have been the cause of the absolute failure of the three rows. Our own impression is that some queer seed must have been used, as was the case with ourselves in 1874, when we had about half an acre more land prepared than we had seed for, and found it necessary, to save time, to get seed from a country shop: result, no bulbs, all tops.

The potato-crop, yielded fairly, and was all safe, with no disease, but it should have been got up earlier. One or two new sorts, "Maggie Murphy," and a sort of bastard "Early Rose", are not considered to be worth sowing again. The number of bushels to the arpent may be about 160, equal, in our English computation to 5.8 tons (2240 lbs) per imperial acre; a fair yield, though nothing wonderful, considering the manure and cultivation; but, then, though the reason we never could understand, Sobel sand never does turn out either a full crop of potatoes or a full crop of yellow globe mangels. Swedes, Belgian carrots, and long red mangels are the roots it affects.

The tomatoes grown here were the earliest in the market (12 July) a fortnight earlier, at least, than any brought from Montreal. These are Madame Guévremont's special pride, and are grown on the "one stem plan," so constantly advocated by us in this periodical.

M. Guévremont did not enter his farm in the "Competition of Agricultural Merit" this year, and, in our opinion he was right, as the buildings are not, at present in a pleasant condition, and this want of proper conveniences would lower the total number of marks awarded by the judges so much, that they would not be satisfactory to the farmer. Want of funds, owing to family affairs has, up to the present time, prevented the erection of compact stables, barns, silos, etc., but we trust another year will see things in a proper state from the St.