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INTRODUCTORY.

It is not without a certain degree of anxiety that we now enter, as it were, through our journal, into thousands of the best managed country homes in this Province. Often, whilst travelling through the various English settlements of this country, we have had occasion to admire farms as well laid out, farm roads as well kept, homesteads fully as comfortable, and even mansions as attractive, although, generally, a great deal more modest looking, as those on which it has been our good fortune to rest our eyes in Great Britain and in the richest agricultural districts on the continent of Europe. We say it advisedly, we could name, in the Province of Quebec, as good breeders of short horned cattle, of Ayrshires and of Jerseys, as can be found anywhere. Stock, as valuable and as productive as in the most renowned European countries, can be seen here on many farms. Our Province possesses hundreds of farmers who have had a thorough practical training in the best managed farms in England, Ireland or Scotland. Many of our own Canadian farmers may also be reckoned amongst the most successful and thorough agriculturists.

To all these it has become our duty to pay a monthly visit. We may have now and then to tender them advice; we shall, however, come to them oftener for counsel and for aid than with advice.

We have been intrusted with the picturing, as it were, of the distinguishing features in each department of our best managed farms, by which we mean the most productive, and especially, the most profitable in every sense.

In our official position, as Director of Agriculture, it is our duty to work earnestly in order to aid every willing farmer and to secure for him the best experience from practical farmers who have succeeded in this country. Whether our readers be rich or poor makes no difference, for what makes the poor man rich will make the rich man still richer; what will double the returns on one farm will generally secure the same results on all farms similarly situated.

It is therefore for the interest of the poorest as well as of the richest Canadian farmer to read with attention this paper, which is essentially his own agricultural journal.

The Department of Agriculture for this Province has received from our Provincial Legislature a special mission, which is to encourage, through the Journal of Agriculture, every intelligent farmer in this Province to leave nothing undone which may make his farming more profitable, his home more attractive, his profession of agriculturist more honored. This journal has been more particularly intrusted to our care. We feel greatly honored, but we also feel how arduous the task, and how unprepared we still are always to give useful advice, even after 22 years of constant farming, with the most earnest study. We therefore beg of every one of our readers, at any time, to remember that this is the journal of every farmer in this Province, that it is written for the benefit of all, and that any good advice, any successful practice made known through these columns, must prove of some benefit to many amongst us.

We hope, therefore, to receive now and then short notes, from every good farmer or gardener who reads this paper, giving us every one's experience, and even correcting us whenever it is necessary to do so.

We have been most fortunate in securing the generous and entirely disinterested assistance of many eminent agriculturists amongst us, who for years have been known as the true friends of the Canadian farmer. Dr. McEachran, to whose unremitting exertions the success of our really excellent Provincial Veterinary Schools, both French and English, is unquestionably due, takes the entire charge of our Veterinary column. He offers his advice, free of charge, to every one of our readers and will answer any question respecting diseases or any other subject, pertaining to his profession, which might prove of interest to the general reader, provided it be not detrimental to other members of the same profession. The Horticultural Society of Montreal and Pomological Society for the Province of Quebec has promised us its best support. The Fruit as well as the Report committees of this excellent Society will superintend the special columns devoted to horticulture and arboriculture, and many other valuable correspondents have been secured. We now earnestly invite every practical farmer and gardener of this Province, who may possess information of value to others, to assist us in making this paper what it should be, viz: an agricultural journal which will prove truly useful to every one who takes an interest in the agriculture of Canada.

Dairying in the Province of Quebec.

The Province of Quebec possesses, in common with the Maritime Provinces of the Dominion, in the pursuit of dairy farming, advantages which are certainly unsurpassed, and perhaps unequalled, in any other parts of North America. The temperature, all through the summer months, is cooler than in the west of this continent; the rainfall is also more; the proximity to the sea and to such large bodies of water as the St. Lawrence, the Saguenay, the St. Maurice and to the innumerable lakes and streams which cover a large portion of the Province makes the climate moister, and greatly assists in securing excellent meadows and the best of pastures. Then also the rich bottom lands, so general along the St. Lawrence, produce in abundance the best of cattle food. Cool springs of pure water are to be found nearly everywhere; a supply of ice may be secured with the greatest facility,—as a provision against hot weather,—by any one who so wishes. Horned cattle are here remarkably healthy, contagious diseases amongst our herds being entirely unheard of. In fact, everyone of the elements which go to make dairying profitable seem to unite here in the greatest degree, and they are the more apparent in our furthestmost northern and north-eastern settlements.

Another material advantage which this Province possesses, over the rest of the Dominion, lies in the fact that butter and