

present. A resolution of regret was passed. Mr. Foster, president of the agricultural society of the district of Bedford, addressed the meeting, and paid a compliment to his French fellow citizens for the progress they have made in dairying. He concluded by asking the aid of the Government. Hon. Mr. Laurier also delivered an address. Mr. McCallum, of Richmond, followed in the same strain. Colonel Rhodes, Commissioner of Agriculture, said that he was in sympathy with the meeting on this point. Mr. Bernard urged English fellow citizens to join them. Mr. Bourque, of Assoot, lectured on the effect of the shade on the soil's fertility, and Mr. Dalaire on farmers' clubs.

#### CONCLUDING SESSION.

At the concluding session, the report of Mr. M. Archambault, of St. Hyacinthe, on a model dairy factory was presented. The Convention ratified the decision of the board of directors choosing Sorel as the next place of meeting. The reports of M. J. Painchaud and S. Côté, factories inspector, were presented. Mr. D. M. McPherson, President of the Federal Dairy Association, being present, answered questions put to him and invited those present to the Convention of the Federal Association at Ottawa in February. The President moved a vote of thanks to the citizens of Arthabaska for the cordial reception offered to the members of the Convention, seconded by Mr. J. C. Chabais, which was carried and the meeting closed after a short reply by Mr. J. Lavergne, M. P. for Drummond and Arthabaska.

The Convention is considered by all to have been a success, and the officers of the association say it was the most intelligent meeting they ever met.

**Turnips.**—The subjoined article on turnips is by one of our best known practical farmers in Gloucestershire. There are in it three points worthy of attention. 1st, the allusion to purely scientific authorities and their neglect to estimate the variation of qualities. As I have often mentioned in this periodical, our *plastic-clay* turnips in Kent hardly keep sheep going, whereas in the *green-sand* formation at Sittingbourne, in the same county, turnips and chaff will fatten them. On the Downs near Brighton, in the adjoining county of Sussex, the turnips grown on my farm-tutors' land—poor William Ridden!—were just able to keep a ewe-flock in decent order, while below the hill, on the flat near Shoreham, sheep ripened rapidly on them. Again, Mr. Pawlett, as I related in the former number of the Journal, found that during the month of October, November, and the early part of December, *white*-turnips pushed forward his Leicester lambs much quicker than swedes, out or uncult. Philip Pusey—both of these men are, or rather were, large flock masters—held the same opinion.

From the fact that the amount of turnips eaten by a sheep will diminish in the proportion of 12 lbs. for each pound of cake supplied, we deduce that a ton of turnips is worth, at present prices, in England, as they stand in the field, \$3.33; cake being worth £8 a ton.

Ewes will do well on straw and turnips if a moderate amount of nitrogenous food is added: say, half a pound of cake, a pint of pease, a couple of pounds of clover-hay in chaff, or plenty of pease-straw *with the leaf on*. Unless some one or other of these is given, the ewes will fill themselves with turnips and the lambing will be a disappointment. (1)

"Turnips are usually stated to be insufficient for fattening

purposes. It has, in fact, been declared that sheep cannot be fattened on turnips alone. It must be allowed that the experiment is never strictly made in practice, because some sort of dry food is always given. We have, however, seen sheep do remarkably well upon turnips, and Mr. Clement Cudde, of Gloucester, whom we regard as an eminently practical authority on farming, told me that he had seen them fatted on turnips and little else. Turnips and straw are capable of keeping sheep in good condition, and so far as nutritive properties are concerned, they are sufficient. Too little regard is paid by *purely scientific authorities* to the great variation of quality in turnips according to the ground upon which they are grown. To them a turnip is a root containing 92 per cent. of water, and this is enough to condemn it. Turnips grown on land of good quality are superior to those grown on weak poor soils, as is evidenced by the quicker progress made by sheep placed on good land. *White turnips*, although actually inferior to *swedes* as a food, according to analysis, are superior to them up to January 1st or even later. They are less trying to the digestion, and their consumption forms an excellent introduction to the harder winter feeding which begins with the new year. Store sheep will thrive well upon turnips if they have access to oat straw or a little long hay or hay chaff. Ewes should be allowed a more liberal allowance of dry food, so as to induce them to eat more sparingly of the succulent turnip. Fattening sheep must have hay and cake or corn, and it will be found that the diminution in the amount of turnips eaten will be at the rate of 12 lb. of turnips for each 1 lb. of cake supplied."

**Mangels.**—If any one is preparing rams or wether lambs for show or for the butcher this spring, I warn him not to use mangels for them too exclusively. My farm-tutor lost several of his best exhibition rams, in 1852, from a species of crystals forming in the bladder on the urethra, and he and his shepherd attributed the formation of these calculi to the mangels. I was reminded of this by a paragraph I saw in the English Agricultural Gazette.

**Dogs and sheep.**—Dr. Hoskins, of the *Vermont Watchman*, complains of the impossibility of keeping sheep in his neighbourhood, owing to the ravages committed in the flocks by dogs. He is fully aware of the benefit to be desired from sheep-feeding, but the losses seem to be too great to admit of its being practised. The cure for this complaint is keeping a shepherd. Now a shepherd's wages are high, and with less than 100 breeding ewes I do not think the profit to be derived from sheep would pay them. Wherefore, as it seems there are plenty of deserted farms in Vermont to be bought for \$5.00 an acre, what is to hinder a man with capital from buying, say, five of them, throwing down all the fences, if there are any, and stocking the 500 acres with that number of breeding ewes? From what I have seen of the country, sheep would do well all the summer on the hill, and if a liberal use of artificial manure was made, and rapes, tares, &c., grown for fodder on the lower slopes, the whole face of the land would be quickly changed. A capital of \$5000.00 would be ample to start with on this system, but I have no hope of its being put into practice. I am sure there is no other way in which the worn-out lands of Vermont and Quebec can ever be brought into a state of fertility. The shepherd would have to be with his flock continually at first; but with a nice pea rifle or a good gun loaded with buck-shot, the dogs could be soon be got rid of and the sheep might pasture in peace. If I were 20 years younger, I should be sorely tempted to have a trial in Vermont.

**Silage.**—I was told that one-third of the silage in the No. 1

(1) I see that already ewes in Hampshire, Eng., are aborting in consequence of having had to large a share of the enormous swede-crop of that county.