

heavier than the rye-grass, they do not fall through it to the bottom of the heap, on account of their smallness, which enables them to lie between the two valves of the *palœ*, or chaff, of the rye-grass seed.

STEAMED FOOD FOR CATTLE.—Mr. Crozier, one of the best known American *agronomes*, writes to the Country Gentleman as follows :

I beg to say that I have not steamed any food for cattle for the past three years. My experience in steaming is that it produced more milk—in fact it strained the cows too much, and the calves when dropped were not so strong as they are on the feeding now given. I know that we get more butter than I did when steaming. Last season, from January 1882, to January 1883, I sold 9,100 lbs. of butter from 32 cows, and would have done better but for the very dry summer we had here. During the season of 1881, I made 9,540 lbs. of butter from about the same number of cows. Were I selling or making milk for the market, I certainly would steam all the food for the cows, as it increases the milk record, I think, from 15 % to 20 %. It is to get the most butter with the least expense that I now feed cows.

The Scotch are supposed to understand the economy of cattle-feeding as well as most people. Hear what they say :

"To me," observes Mr. Howden, Lawhead, East Lothian, "it has been most decidedly shown that preparing food by steaming is anything but profitable."

Mr. Boswell, Kingcausie, Kincardineshire, comes to the same conclusion as to the unprofitableness of feeding cattle on cooked food : "It is not worth the trouble and expense of preparation to feed cattle on boiled or steamed food ; as, although there is a saving in food, it is counterbalanced by the cost of fuel and labour, and could only be gone into profitably where food is very high in price and labour and fuel very low ;" the very reverse of what obtains here, where labour is high and food low.

Mr. Walker, Ferrygate, East Lothian, went largely into the question—see his experiments in the tenth volume of the Highland and Agricultural Society's prize essays—the conclusion he comes to is : "We have no hesitation in saying that in every respect, the advantage is in feeding with raw food." Mr. Walker also mentions that he put two steers to grass on the 20th May, one of which had been fed on raw food and the other on cooked food. In their external condition, no one could have said how they have been fed. The steer on raw food gained condition until the 20th July, up to which time the one on steamed food had lost 42 pounds live-weight. However, we can't generalise from one instance.

Lectures—Cicero somewhere says, that the power of the orator lies in the ears of his audience ; or words to that effect. I have had the pleasure lately of lecturing on agriculture to two audiences composed entirely of French-Canadian farmers, and anything more delightful than the fixed attention with which my addresses were listened to I never experienced. At Sainte-Ursule there were about 250 persons present, and at Saint-Justin about 160. Many of the questions asked after the lectures were finished, showed plainly that want of power to weigh an argument is not among the mental defects of the farmers of the North bank of the Saint-Lawrence. I am told that there are one hundred of these clubs—*cercles agricoles*—in the French country ! There is not one, as far as I know, among the Eastern Township people ! The Agricultural societies are not at all the same thing : at their rare meetings there are none of those discussions which so usefully rub mind against mind, to the dispersion of prejudice and the combination of experience.

I must be allowed to take this opportunity of thanking

Messieurs les Curés of the two parishes for their extreme care for my comforts. Had I been a most intimate friend, these two gentlemen could not have taken more pains to make me feel myself at home.

At Saint-Justin, M. Gérin, the curé, propounded rather a startling question : Why is it that the average yield of wheat last year was, in England, 32 bushels to the acre, and in the Province of Quebec 8½ bushels ? The query seemed to have rather a stunning effect, and, evidently, set the farmers a-thinking ! An answer might be given without much trouble, but it would be rather a long one. One thing is certain : no country where all the wheat is spring-sown can compete with another where it is all fall-sown. Again : a country where no root-crops are grown and where no fallows are made, cannot compete with a country where one or the other of these methods of cleaning the land is universally practised. Lastly : the rotation of crops is a thing apparently never thought of here, and that alone would go a long way to account for the almost incredibly small yield of wheat in this province.

I saw enormous heaps of straw lying about in the fields, where it had been, clearly, ever since it was threshed. The calves, tied by the neck I regret to say, were lying on the bare boards ! All the liquid manure lost ! And in-calf cows with nothing but straw to eat ; how on earth can the coming calf be anything but an abortion ?

La Major's two *in futuro* calves are sold in advance for \$30 and \$50 respectively ! M. Gérin has two of her productions, a yearling and a two-years old—very promising both—heifers, fortunately. The name of this celebrated cow puzzled me a good deal until I found out that her former owner's family designation was "Major !" M. Gérin only gave \$20.00 for her, and a cheap purchase she was, as she has already won \$200 dollars in prizes, besides giving an inordinate supply of milk, cream and butter for the supply of the *presbytère*. M. Major could have had but little idea of what a cow ought to be when he sold La Major for such a price : she shows her point so plainly that a child of twelve years old could have told her value.

SHEEP LOSING THEIR WOOL.—If sheep are kept too closely confined in winter their wool frequently peels off. I saw a case of this last month, and a sad sight it was. A good roomy shed is, as I have often said in this periodical, all that sheep require. Cold does not hurt sheep, but sleeping in wet wool does.

THE WEATHER.—Crows made their appearance about the 15th of March. To-day, March 31st, it is raining merrily, and this undrained town of Sorel presents a succession of ponds in the streets which keep the female population at home. Never mind ! Everything promises an early spring, and an early seed time here means a good harvest ; so who cares for a few puddles ? (1)

ARTHUR R. JENNER FUST

The Dairymen's Association of the Province of Quebec.
RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, MONTREAL, FEBRUARY 9th, 1886.

M. J. de L. Taché, secretary of the Dairymen's association, sends us the following :

In compliance with the decision arrived at by the society, at its meeting of the 13th of January last, to send dairy-products of this province to the Colonial Exhibition to be held this year in London, the executive committee of this society recommends :

(1) There is every prospect of seed-time beginning on the 23rd of April. (I sowed wheat, pease, and potatoes 22nd) A. R. J. F.