

not; seven live near Montreal, six near Quebec, a solitary one (1) Mr. Gauvreau, of l'Île Verte, represents the country below Quebec, both on the north and the south side of the river.

The members, except as to their travelling expenses, are unpaid. They meet, for a few hours, three or four times a year, and, to an attentive reader of their reports, it will be dubious if they remember, at one meeting, the decisions they arrived at during the previous one. (2)

It must out: the Council of Agriculture gives me the idea of a body composed of twenty-three members having no intimate connexion with each other; a body which has, indeed, the power of motion, but neither informing soul, nor guiding head; a body, lastly, which is utterly incapable of dragging out the torpid carcass of our agriculture from the deep burrow of routine in which it has, for so long, reposed.

### TREATMENT OF MEADOWS.

Most good farmers are now convinced that hay should be cut as soon as possible after the blossoming of the plants. It is the only way to secure the largest percentage of nutriment in the hay. Early cutting will also save the roots from drying up, and thus force an earlier growth of the aftermath. Should meadows thus treated be allowed to grow unmolested and safe from the trampling and gnawing of farm stock of all kinds, they would necessarily improve from year to year, provided they be rolled every spring, if possible, as soon as they will bear the horses' tread. Thus will the injury done by the uprooting from the winters' frosts be repaired, and vitality added to the plant, by the pressing of its roots into the frost-loosened soil.

As soon as possible after haying, the roots of the plants should receive a good mulching. There is generally speaking no operation in farming which gives a better and more direct return for the labour expended. The roots will thus be saved from drying up in the hot sun, and the slight covering they receive is so much plant food which goes to strengthen them immediately, causing the grass to shoot up with renewed vigour. The best mulching consists either of leached ashes or well rotted manure. However, a thoroughly digested compost made of any vegetable material mixed with rich earth, from the cleanings of ditches, ponds, &c., and yard manure, in equal parts, will do remarkably well. Even old straw, left over from the previous winter and partly decomposed, applied as early as possible after mowing, will repay the trouble taken to spread it.

There is however an additional operation which is indeed very seldom practiced but which would have an immediate and excellent effect on the following crop; it is re-seeding. In nature the grass matures, sheds its seed and reappears in the following spring in ever increasing richness. Without re-seed-

(1) I reckon Mr. Price, who, moreover seldom attends, among the residents of Quebec. The late Honorable J. Beaubien, and Mr. Landry, both of Montmagny, used to represent the south shore, but they have not been replaced in the Council. (Since the above was written Messrs Beaubien and Landry has been replaced by Dr. Tetu of Rivière-Ouelle, who has just died, and by Mr. Blais of St. Thomas, Montmagny.)

(2) It were an easy task to show that profound discouragement reigns among a large number of the members of the Council; they make no secret of their dissatisfaction. Some of the most active and best known rarely attend, and it must be acknowledged that others are not, as regards their own farming, models for imitation, even to the most humble *habitants* of their respective parishes. In passing over their farms, we see bad roads, bad even in summer, pastures bare, or covered with couch-grass and other weeds. Their meadows and grain fields are thick with rubbish which sheds its seed on every side to the great injury of their neighbours. No doubt there are many good farmers among the members of the Council, but it is precisely among these men that the greatest discouragement at the present state of things exists.

ing, there is nothing to make up for the plants destroyed by the winter's frosts, by insects, &c.

Re-seeding meadows every year, with about one sixth part of the seed required for full seeding, has, where tried increased the hay crop from year to year in a surprising manner. It may be done in early spring as soon as the ground has settled down after the frosts, when a bushel of plaster to the acre may be given with great advantage. However, we should prefer partial re-seeding immediately after haying is over. It is the time selected by nature for the re-seeding of natural meadows, and, in all her lessons, nature may be followed as an unerring guide.

We should be happy to hear from any of our readers, who have had experience with the re-seeding of meadows, as to the results obtained.

### Assisting Conception in Horses, Cows, &c.

Dr. A. D. Newell, in the *Country Gentleman*, gives his experience with a costly, high-bred cow which he purchased at a low price on account of its having been repeatedly served without success. He says: "I had her regularly served for ten months by three of my bulls in turn, yet she did not prove in calf. Thus she had been served by four different bulls. Knowing the time she would be in season again, I kept food and water from her for twenty four hours, and put her in a large stall by herself; I then made a large loop in one end of a strong half inch cord, threw it over her back in front of her hips, brought it up in front of her bag to the middle of her side, put the loose end through the loop, and made a loose half-hitch. As soon as she was served, the cord was drawn and tied so tight that she could not strain or step. I left it on for five hours. She proved with calf that time. After she calved she took the bull regularly for nine months, as before. I then put the cord on her when served, and was again successful. I have succeeded with other cows in the same way."

Veterinary surgeons assert that the same process has been entirely successful with mares. We had already heard of this process as a sure one for the required object. It would most likely succeed with other farm stock in similar circumstances.

When animals do not come into heat at regular intervals dilatation of the vagina is recommended, after which the male may be given in a few days and conception secured.

### FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ONTARIO SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE.

As a general rule men have been inclined to look upon Agricultural schools and colleges with an eye of suspicion. In too many instances they have been made subservient to the perpetration of "jobs"; and, to tell the truth, as far as the work done in them, up to the present time, is concerned, they have hardly answered the purposes of their institution.

We remember the opening of the Cirencester College and its horrible failure. Every farthing of the original stock was lost, an entirely new system had to be begun; and, even now, after some 30 years of trial, intestine war is being waged between the Principal and the Professors; the prospects of the establishment, so fair a year ago, are again clouded, and an attempt is being made to establish a new school, in another place; an attempt which will probably turn out to be fatal to the interests of both the contending factions. But, judging from the report before us, there seems to be little danger of any such jealous quarrels disturbing the peace of the Ontario School of Agriculture. A pleasant