

The Illustrated JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE

THE ILLUSTRATED JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE is the official organ of the Council of Agriculture of the Province of Quebec. It is issued Monthly and is designed to include not only in name, but in fact, anything concerned with agriculture, as Stock-Raising, Horticulture, &c., &c.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

All advertisements appear in both Editions, giving a circulation of

55,500 -- ENGLISH, 10,000 FRENCH, 45,500

FOR RATES, address

EUSEBE SEMEGAL & CIE., 20, St. Vincent St., Montreal.

Table of Contents.

NOTES BY THE WAY :

Sparrows..... 75 Rape..... 75 Rye, etc..... 75 Origin of the Horse..... 75 Lammas..... 75 The Scale Insect..... 75 Price of bread in France..... 75 English vs. American beef..... 75 Weather predictions..... 75 Refrigerating chambers..... 76 Rents in the Laurentides..... 76

GOVERNMENT NOTICES.

Improvement of the roads..... 76 Rollers of hard-maple for wall-paper factories..... 76 Concrete, etc..... 76 Cold storage..... 77

CORRESPONDENCE :

Mr. J. K. Lee; ploughing-matches..... 77 Mr. C. F. Bouthillier on grass, etc..... 77 Mr. H. R. Fraser on the Sherbrooke essays..... 78

THE HORSE :

Thoroughbred Stallions..... 78 A few suggestions..... 78

PRIZE ESSAYS :

Mr. Geo. Buchanan on frost-killed meadows..... 79

THE FARM :

Farm-work for October..... 80 Contrasts of Ontario and Quebec, Macfarlane on..... 80 Painting farm-machinery..... 80 Practical farming, Dickson on..... 81 Early autumn cultivation..... 81 The horse-bean..... 81 Burning hay-stacks..... 81 Sparrows, Miss Omerod on..... 82 Liming land..... 82 Experiment-farms..... 82 What we want to know..... 83

SCIENCE :

Annual report of the chemist at the Experiment-farm..... 83 The infection of milk by microbes..... 83

THE DAIRY :

Somerset Cheddars vs. Scotch, Gilbert on..... 84 Properties of good butter—Parry on..... 85

Mottles in butter, Taché on..... 85 Odor in milk..... 86

THE GRAZIER AND BREEDER :

The R. Ag. Soc.'s show, 1897..... 86 The General Breeders' Association..... 87

FARMERS' CLUBS, ETC :

Dr. Grignon on Portneuf County..... 87

MANURES :

Green manuring..... 88 Nitrogen for leguminous plants..... 89

THE FLOCK :

Fattening wethers..... 89

ORCHARD AND GARDEN :

Vacant lots..... 90 Hardy herbaceous plants..... 90 A rose carnival..... 91 Commission-man..... 91 Horticultural Associations..... 91 Northern exposure for orchards..... 91 Effects of cold on plants..... 91 Packing apples..... 91 Pear-blight..... 92 Pruning—III..... 92 A rose-farm under glass..... 93

THE HOUSEHOLD :

The Amateur dressmaker..... 94

SWINE :

One litter or two?..... 94

THE ILLUSTRATED Journal of Agriculture.

Montreal, October 1, 1897.

Notes by the Way.

SPARROWS.—It may interest our farmers to know that the sparrow has, in England, been summarily tried and condemned by Miss Ormerod, the Entomologist to the R. A. Soc. of England, and Mr. Tegetmeyer, the well known writer on poultry. The flocks of these vermin to be seen in Montreal are appalling, and means should be taken to destroy them.

RAPE used formerly to be ploughed in close after the sheep-fold, to preserve the manure left by the latter, but, now-a-days, it is accounted better to let it stand for a second crop of leaves. As far as we understand of the Ontario practice, from Mr. Macfarlane's interesting letters, the sheep in that province are turned loose into the field of rape and remain there until the crop is consumed. We prefer the plan we were used to in S. E. England; we harrowed off a fresh piece for the sheep every two or three days, and gave cake, pulse and grain, in troughs, in addition. (1)

(1) See a sheep crack up whole horse-bean!—Ed.

RYE and WINTER-BARLEY.—Are these grains ever sown in this province for early spring-feeding? We have never seen any growing here, but we cannot help thinking that they should be tried. We should sow 2 1/2 of rye and 3 1/2 of winter-barley to the ACPENT.

ORIGIN OF THE HORSE.—The well-known professor Flower, V. S., has clearly shown that the original propagator of the whole equine race is the TAPIR of South America. Stale news, perhaps to some, but quite new to us

LAMMAS.—We have to apologise for misleading our readers on a point we conceitedly thought we were rather strong upon! The word Lammas is not derived from "Lamb's mass," a mass in recognition of the weaning of the lambs, as we erroneously stated a couple of months ago, but from hlaf-mas, i. e., loaf-mas; the word "Lady," as most persons know, is from the same root, hlaf, and signifies "distributor of loaves."

THE SCALE-INSECT has been committing its depredations for some eight-teen years; it was introduced into California from Australia in 1850, and, like the Colorado beetle, most people wish it had stayed at home.

MICROBES.—The GERM-theory of diseases is by no means a modern discovery, it having been promulgated, as long ago as 1658, by Athanasius Kircher. This physiologist and physician attributed all diseases to germs, or animalcules, as he called them. According to Kircher, each kind of "putrefaction" gave rise to a special "virus," which produced a definite species of disease.

An advance in the price of bread in France has caused much excitement, and popular leaders are already clamouring for the suspension of the duty of 12s. 3d. a quarter on wheat. The difference between the average prices of wheat in France and England is greater than the amount of the French duty, probably because millers are more dependent upon the native supply in France than they are in England, and the French growers are holding out for their prices. Even in this country, there is already a good deal in the daily papers about possibly dear bread; but this is decidedly premature. We have not heard of any greater advance than a penny a quarter of 4 lb. at present, and bread is still cheap, and it should be so even if wheat rose to 50s. a quarter, a price which was considered moderate twenty years ago.—Eng. Ag. Gazette.

It has been left to M. Rochefort to put a climax to the absurd exaggerations as to the probable dearness of bread in France. Of course with conscious hyperbole, he predicts "that bread will soon be at three francs, then four, then ten, then a louis the kilo, and, finally, as the augmentation of price grows higher and higher, fashionable ladies will wear little pellets of bread in their ears instead of diamonds, and a necklace composed of grains of wheat will constitute a parure of far greater value than a necklace of diamonds.—Eng. Ag. Gazette.

ENGLISH vs. AMERICAN BEEF.—We saw a statement in the papers, the other day, to the effect that beef sent from this continent to the London market is quite equal in flavour, etc., to En-

glish beef. If so, we are very badly treated here in Montreal, for, during the last three months, we, though invariably paying cash, and dealing with one of the leading West-end butchers, have only had two pieces of really decent beef. But in England, there is beef and beef; Highland Scots (Kyloes) and coarse-bred draught-oxen the difference between which quality of beasts is something prodigious: "ecce signum."

Table with 3 columns: inferior, Second, First quality. Rows for Beasts and Fat cows.

WEATHER PREDICTIONS.—It may not be generally known that constant observation of the character of the clouds is second only in importance to the study of the barometer. Cirri, which are the wispy-looking fibrous cloudlets, seen high in the atmosphere, and commonly called "mare's tails," should be most attentively studied and the following weather changes noted for future reference. But all old-fashioned methods of weather predictions, or almost all, have fallen into disrepute, though they are hard to kill, particularly the idea of the influence of the moon or the weather, as well as that animals govern their proceedings by the kind of weather that is to come. For 20 years, Dr. Abbott, of New Jersey, kept records of the building of their houses by muskrats, of the storing of nuts by squirrels, and other movements of animals, which are popularly supposed to indicate the character of a coming winter, and he found that these instinctive acts are in no way connected with the mildness or severity of an approaching winter.

Now, these cirri, or curl-clouds, are of various forms, and occur at a great height in the atmosphere. Sometimes they are like long narrow rods, lying still, or floating gently along the upper regions, their motion being from South to North, but chiefly from S. W. to N. E. At other times, one end of the rod is curled up, and spread out like a feather; and in this shape, the cloud travels more quickly than in any other, being evidently affected by the wind. This rod shape is supposed to be caused by the cirrus cloud being the means of the transit of electricity from one cloud to another.

Again, a form like a thin sheet of fibrous looking cloud is assumed; another resembling a goat's beard, etc., for there are many changes of appearance in these cirri. Keanitz, the meteorologist, says that they are composed of snow, not of vapour, their great elevation in the atmosphere placing them in the region of perpetual snow, their height above the earth being not less than 13,700 feet.

When cirri appear in a clear settled dry sky, a change in the weather is taking place. When they look like "mare's tails," wind will follow from the quarter to which the tufts point. When they unite and form what are called cirro-strati clouds, rain is at hand, particularly if they seem to descend towards the earth. When seen through a broken cloud, in a deep blue sky, the rain will continue. Cirri extending on both sides of the point above the observer's head (the zenith), forebode a wind-storm of long duration, and in whatever direction cirri are seen to be moving, and whatever may be the direction of the wind at the surface of the earth at the time of observation, the wind will be felt in a few hours as the cirri indicate.