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Notes by the Way.

The harvest is all in throughout this district except the buckwheat. (Sept. 1st.) As for the yield, we cannot say much in its favour. There is very little wheat grown, and the only piece we saw was standing a fortnight after we, if it had been ours, should have cut it; consequently a large proportion of the grain was shed out in the field. Pease, too, left till dead ripe, and having a good deal of rain on them after cutting, lost much, and as the fences are but badly made, there is no chance for the young swine to go out shacking.

Oats would have been a good crop, but, unfortunately, rust attacked them early in July and shortened the yield materially. We saw one piece of late sown oats that will certainly not give back twice the seed. Barley seems to be the best crop of the year; some fields were sown very early, and turned out all the better for it both in quantity and quality. No roots grown, except a patch here and there of mangels, perhaps, on the ten farms I have visited, an acre in the whole.

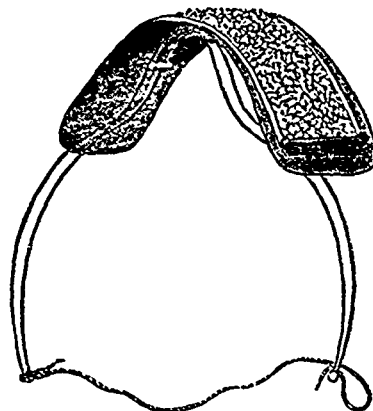
Tobacco.—A small plantation of tobacco is to be seen on most farms here. A great mistake is made in letting the plants come into bloom before heading them: this draws force from the leaves and delays ripening. As a rule, the sort planted is the Havana; but in one or two places we find the old Canadian kind, small and crooked in the stem and mean in the size of leaf, but of all the tobaccos grown here by far the sweetest and richest in flavour. For this sort, 24 inches between the rows and 12 inches in the rows is wide enough; so the number of plants to the acre will be about 20,000. Now, allowing the dried leaves of twelve plants to weigh a pound, this will give upwards of 1,600 lbs. to the acre, which, at 10 cents a pound, would be a return of \$160.00, as much as would pay the interest on the purchase money of many a farm. The expense of cultivation is not half as much as people fancy, the horse-hoe, properly employed, will do three-fourths of the work. But to grow even this small kind to the best advantage, the seed must be sown in a gentle hotbed, and should be transplanted into a cold frame, before being finally set out in the open air. Treated thus, it would, in an average year, be fit to harvest by the 25th to the 31st of August, before there is any danger of frost. (1) Then cut, let it wilt till it is safe to hang, and hang it at once; never pile it to sweat, this makes it "bite the tongue;" the sweating is the business of the manufacturer, who knows, far better than the grower does, how to conduct the process.

Potatoes, as a rule, are planted much too near together in the rows, and of course never arrive at any decent size;

(1) No frost here yet! Sept. 21st.—Ed.

we are still speaking of the Pointe-Clairo district, though of course there are exceptions to which we shall advert later. It is a pity that they are not sorted, but all, except the very tiniest, are thrown together into the bogs, and this must deteriorate the sample. In England—Britain in fact—potatoes are classified into *wares*, *middlings*, and *chats*, the last being retained at home for the pigs, and the sooner our farmers get into the habit of treating their potatoes in like fashion the better it will be for them. As yet, we hear no complaints of the disease: the haulm, in general, is all dead, and yet no one seems to be digging. (1) Potatoes should be dug as soon as ripe, and either stored, for the present, in a shed, or covered up with straw in the field, so that they shall be thoroughly dry before being put into the root-house or cellar.

The Horn-fly.—The cattle fall off in milk yield, the young stock don't thrive, the fly is abundant, and get no one will use the simple remedy. By the bye, we received a slip, from the inventor, containing a cut and description of a protective saddle to be fastened on to the cow's back. It is an extension of the old "Catch-em-alive-oh!" plan, but we fear it will have a good deal of trouble in making its way. However, we give an engraving of the saddle, and, doubtless, the Messrs. Senécal will have great pleasure in receiving orders for advertisements from the proprietor.



TEXAS FLIES, HORN FLIES, CHICAGO FLIES.

We have just shown the above engraving to the two most promising of the farmers of this district, and they seem to think that the plan would answer, as answer it certainly would if the cow-feeders in general persist in carrying it out. But we fear that during haying and harvest, two months during which the fly is most savagely active, farmers would be mighty apt to neglect the application of the "Sticky": but, we shall see.

A well cultivated farm.—On August 22nd, we paid a second visit to Mr. Crane's farm, at Lakeside, where we were fortunate enough to meet with his very intelligent steward, an Aberdeenshire man, who formerly lived with Dr. Craik, at Lachine Bank. The stock on this farm is very good, though not numerous. The Small Yorkshires, from Ontario, are true to their type, and their habitation is thoughtfully arranged, with a handy boiler in the entrance-porch to cook roots, &c. We doubt if any roots pay for cooking, except potatoes. Five Jersey cows, and a few sheep were in the pasture, which looked bare enough, but a plentiful provision of fodder-corn was quite ready to cut.

The root-crops were very good. Swedes had been sown too early—the

(1) Hard at it now.—Ed.

middle of May—; consequently the mildew had affected them sadly, the lower leaves being quite withered. May is the right time to sow swedes in Scotland, but not here. From the 10th to the 25th of June gives a far better quality of flesh, and, if well worked, as these were, the weight to the acre is not very much less than when sown earlier. Carrots, both red and white, were thriving and well cleaned; in fact, the whole farm was clean.

The horse-beans, for the "Robertson-mixture," were sown too far apart—28 inches—and not half thick enough in the rows. As we mentioned in our last, if beans are sown too late, the aphides play the mischief with the blossoms and leaves, (1) and those had suffered greatly from the attacks of those beasts: practically, there was no crop. If we were growing this plant, we should put the seed in on the flat—these were on raised drills—and allow only 24 inches between the rows, sowing at least 2 bushels an acre. But why not mix 1½ bushels of beans with a bushel of pease, and try that? The idea of ½ a bushel of beans on an acre of land must strike any one who has grown the plant as an absurdity. The distance between the rows—28 inches, though some were 34 apart—is the same as used to be observed in Scotland before the double-mould board plough was improved for drill-making, and the reason was that the ordinary plough in use there made that width of drill to perfection. Why, again, earth up horse-beans in this dry climate? Necessary enough in Scotland, no doubt, but perfectly needless even in England, therefore not required here. All earthing up is bad, as it confines the roots of the plants. Thousands of growers are giving up this treatment of potatoes, and even corn-growers are abandoning it.

A piece of clover, in full bloom, attracted my attention, as it was then being cut for the third time: pretty well for the 23rd August! Not one other piece here has given even a second cut. (2)

The fodder-corn was looking well—10 to 12 feet high—but such lofty stuff wants more room, if good ears are desired. Potatoes were a good crop, and very few small ones, plenty of room in the rows being allowed between the sets, and, we must say it, more space between the drills than necessary. We observe that this crop is turning out very badly in the States: Apples, too, are only 40% of a yield. Will not these two failures give our farmers a chance?

Bonnets.—Whence the following comes we know not; but it is not bad:

"Who now of threatened famine dare complain,  
When every woman's forehead teems with grain?  
Mark how the wheat-ears nod among the plumes;  
Our barns are now transferred to drawing-rooms;  
And husbands who engage in active lives,  
To fill their granaries may thresh their wives."

Ensilage.—Mr. McPherson, of Lancaster, who is so well known to all those who attend the annual meetings of the Dairymen's Association, has published an account of his stock and crop of last year. A most successful exploitation it seems to have been.

(1) V. p 162.

(2) Except an orchard near our house, where the 2nd crop has been fit for days and is yet uncut! Sept. 17th.—Ed.