

sides there are lands so full of lime that we do not know what to do with them. With sufficient manure the valueless lands may produce fine asparagus and thus become a source of revenue.

Mr. Chapais said they were very grateful for this complete and scientific paper. Those who had never cultivated asparagus would do so when they had the principles and practice so clearly put before them, and there was no doubt considerable profit would be the result.

Mr. Brodie of St. Henri, read the following paper :—

### THE NEW ONION CULTURE.

The Island of Montreal has long been noted for its market gardens, and for the good quality and great quantity of vegetables shipped by boat, and by rail to other parts of Canada and the United States.

My paper to-day takes up onion growing, and my experience with the "New Onion Culture" introduced by Mr. Greiner of Western New York, or I should say, an old system revived, for the late Mr. Cooper of St. Denis Street, Montreal, used to grow them in this manner over thirty years ago, but not in large quantities, and others have grown them for exhibition purposes.

I sowed the seed in hot-beds early in March, about three ounces of seed to a bed, thirteen feet long by six feet broad, weeding them only once, and watering them when required.

We prepared the ground the second week in May, choosing a plot of one half arpent, that had been heavily manured for cabbage the previous year. We ploughed the land about six inches deep, and having a small harrow following behind the plough smoothing down the furrow, so that there would be no need of tramping the ground with the horses harrowing after the field was ploughed. We applied four hundred pounds of special fertilizer for vegetables to this plot. We had a marker that made six rows at a time one foot apart, and we set out the plants four inches apart in these rows. Four women planted the plot in about one day and a half. The weather was very dry, but the ground was moist, and I was agreeably surprised that they took root as well as the cabbage in the next field, with this advantage, that no black flies could injure them. They grew to a large size, some weighing two pounds.

We harvested 450 bushels off the plot, but they came into competition with the imported Spanish onions that were very cheap at that time, and they lacked the bright straw color of the imported ones.

The varieties planted were the Prize taker and large White Italian. There is no better way to grow onions for home use where the onion maggot is generally more destructive than in large fields; it also saves the first weeding, which is always tedious. It is the general opinion, that onions do better, planted year after year in the same ground. This is an error. In my experience, land, heavily manured, pulverized, and cultivated with any other vegetable, will do just as well, if not better; for the onion maggot does not do so much injury in new land as in old.

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