

*Ne sutor ultra crepidam*, in the vulgar tongue, *Mind your own business*, was the ancient most trite of adages, that occurred to our mind when we found in a leading article, in a Montreal paper, a statement that the common practice in England is to "plough four times for wheat after clover." The, we may say, universal practice in England is to plough only once for wheat after clover, which, when sown alone or with rye grass, as is a common custom in Kent, Surrey, &c., though a mistake none, never stands more than one year. The clover ley is ploughed, and pressed generally, in early October, allowed to lie still for a fortnight or so to solidify; then, after a thorough harrowing, it is sown, with the drill, and lies untouched till the season for spring cultivation arrives.

**Change of seed.**—Professor Wrightson, Principal of the College of Agriculture, Downton, near Salisbury, England, agrees with us in the doctrine that seed grain should be changed frequently. "All seed corn," says he, "should be imported on to the farm every two years. No stock can be safely sown more than two or at most three seasons, and if a grower has a choice of variety which he sets store by, he should, by exchanging seed with a friend at a distance, contrive to get a change of land for his seed, and thus secure a change of seed for his land."

This comes to pretty much what we say in reply to the enquiry of "A Quebec Reader," see p. 36, though therein we speak of rotations in place of years. In three rotations of the Norfolk course of cropping wheat would be sown three times.

**Barley.**—English barley of fine quality has been very scarce this past season. Really fine quality has sold for 5 shillings a bushel, while plenty has been sold for 3 shillings, and either distilled or given to hogs. The season has had a good deal to do with this, but the difference is in some degree controllable. A good sample of barley demands great care in the selection of the seed, preparation of the land, the sowing of the grain, &c., and the harvesting, threshing, hulling and winnowing, must be carefully looked after. The Bavarians and those who dwell on the banks of the Saale seem to understand, not only how to grow good barley, but how to turn it out in a fit state to attract the eye and satisfy the judgment of that most difficult of all chapmen, the English maltster. Hence the barley from these Germans fetches some six pence or seven pence a bushel, this year, more than the finest samples of home-grown grain.

**Mow-burnt Clover.**—A very common incident in harvesting the second crop of clover is that it becomes mow-burnt from over-heating. This generally springs more from the hay being carried before the dew has been dried up by the sun, than from the internal moisture of the clover itself. The dews are so heavy when the second cut is made, and the weather so catchy, that a stack of it entirely free from mould is rarely seen. An enquirer wishes to know how to restore its original properties to hay in the above condition. This restoration is impossible. Mouldy hay, which our own experience teaches is frequently the cause of injury to the urinary organs of horses fed on it, should be chaffed and stamed, if proper means of doing this are at hand; but the better plan would be to ensile it before it has the chance to mould. We have made many acres of second-cut clover into hay, but we hardly ever

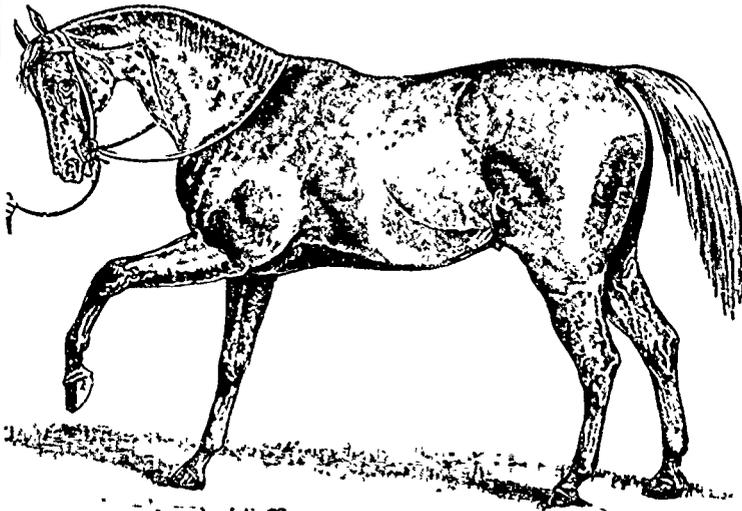
remember to have made really good hay of it. On the London markets, it always fetches an inferior price, and the buyers that attend the White-chapel and Cumberland markets know their business.

The prices of clover hay on December 5th varied as follows.

Cumberland market.  
Prime clover, \$27 to \$28 p. load of 20 1/2 lbs.  
Cumberland market:  
Useful clover, \$21 to \$25 p. load of 20 1/2 lbs.  
Cumberland market:  
Inferior clover, \$15 to \$22 to load of 26 1/2 lbs.

The load of hay, in London, consist of 36 trusses of 56 lbs. each, = 2016 lbs. As the trusses are all cut into long cubes (parallopipedons), and bound with two hay-ropes, or bonds, as the Kent men call them, there is no waste. Clover, though, is generally tied with straw: the trusses look better.

**Molasses.**—Mr. Vernon, of Waterville, Q., wrote to us, some three years ago, on the value of molasses for feeding cattle. Whether he tried it or not, on his fine herd of Herefords, he has never stated, but the unfortunate fire that destroyed so many of his best cattle naturally put it out of his head. Now, however, that he is up and doing again, perhaps he would kindly communicate any trials of this food-stuff he has made to our paper.



THE IMPORTED RACING STALLION RAYON D'OR.

Treacle, as we used to call it in our boyish days, is particularly adapted to the use of those farmers who have a superabundance of straw. It is of course the sugar molasses contain that constitutes their value. Of this there is usually present about 40% of cane- and 20% of grape-sugar = 60% of saccharine matter. The price, at Liverpool, is \$5 the gross ton = \$21.40 the local ton. About 2 lbs. a day, dissolved in warm water, and scattered over cut straw, &c., as recommended above for linseed, will do great things for young, growing stock. Sugar-fed pigs, with a few pease and barley, or corn-meal, make delicious pork.

### Public Meetings.

The Central Syndicate of the Farmers of Canada.

GENERAL MEETING TO SETTLE THE CONSTITUTION.

Montreal, Feb. 29th, 1893.

Mr. Jenner Fust, President *pro tempore*, opened the session at 10.30 A. M. Present: MM. Auzias Turanno, J. Beaubien, Rev. Frère Bruno, Oka, Rev. Frère Charest, A. Girard, vice-

consul of France, L. Labello, Trudeau, sr., Messrs C. A. Stevenson, C. D. Tylee, and M. le Comte G. des Etangs.

Monsieur Auzias Turanno explained the objects of the syndicate, a truly social, but not a charitable institution, one intended to propagate the necessary knowledge among its members, to strengthen the weak, to improve for all their means of living, and at the same time developing the moral sense of each; a work calculated to elevate the farmer who, from his isolated condition and his distance from the great centres, is deprived in great measure of the advantages enjoyed so freely by the mechanic and the manufacturer of the towns.

The Syndicate is not a commercial enterprise, a speculation. A simple middleman between the producer and the consumer, it only groups together the orders for purchases and sales, without undertaking any responsibility on itself. It is simply a commission agent, a broker, its services are gratuitous, and the wholesale prices obtained are only applicable to the consumer, who will profit by reductions in price varying from 10% to 60% on the ordinary rates, charged for all marketable commodities or machinery. On the other hand, the grouping of the orders for sale regulates the price of farm produce and prevents their

sell, on your members' account, the more they will be in a position to buy. The prime object of the Syndicate should be to make sales.

M. Auzias Turanno gave, briefly, the reasons that must necessarily delay the execution of the above project, at least as regards the minor products of the farm.

M. Labello related the facts connected with the efforts made to start a syndicate by some breeders at St Jérôme. They succeeded perfectly; creating, thereby, a good omen in favour of the present effort.

The Chairman then invited the Rev. Fr. Bruno to relate the experiments made in connection with sales of goods at La Trappe d'Oka during the past few years. They, too, were successful, as the Rev. Frère showed, concluding with a prediction in favour of the success of the Synd. C. C., of which the Father Abbot desires to be enrolled as honorary member.

M. des Etangs then resumed the question of the syndicate as it affects the dealer. He showed the advantages to be derived by the dealer from security of payment at short dates of credit, and by the economy of general expenses of every kind. To this add the benefit derived from the quantity and uniformity of quality of the purchases made of the syndicate by the dealer, and it will be acknowledged that this institution is as good for one as for the other.

Only the usurious dealer is likely to complain of this, but it is the aim of the syndicate to free the farmer from the fangs of this tradesman, who merits but little tenderness of treatment. M. des Etangs then gave a sketch of "The Credit agricole"; this part of the work of the Syndicate merits great attention from government. In France, very lately, 2,000,000 francs were voted to it as a guaranteed fund, and, no doubt, Canada will follow in the same path.

M. Trudeau corroborated by figures the statements made by the preceding speakers. Mowers that sold for \$60 00, and even \$70, cost the maker \$18 00; what sort of a discount would the manufacturer be willing to give off the former charges. It will be with the Syndicate as with the earlier railroads: the beginnings will seem astounding, even injurious to some industries, but, in the long run, success is certain, and both manufacturers, dealers and farmers will all equally profit by its transactions.

After a few remarks from Mr. Tylee and Mr. Trudeau, Mr. Auzias Turanno put to the vote the election of the Administrative Council. The list presented by the committee *pro tempore* was unanimously accepted.

After the usual thanks to the Chairman, the session closed at 12.45 P. M.

### Administrative Council

**President.**—Hon. J. J. Ross, President of the Senate, Ottawa.

**Vice-Presidents.**—Jos. Beaubien, Outremont; R. Auzias Turanno, director of the Haras National, member of the Society of the Farmers of France; "Fleurs de Lys", Outremont, Milton McDonald, M. P., member of the Council of Agriculture P. Q., Acton Vale, S. C. Stevenson, Sec. Council of Arts, &c, Montreal.

**General Secretary.**—Comte G. des Etangs, formerly Sec. of section of the Society of the Farmers of France, Montreal.

**Directors.**—The Rev. Frère Charest, Deaf and Dumb Inst., Montreal. S. Fisher, V. P. Dairymen's Ass. P. Q., Knowlton. R. Ness, mem-

falling too low.

On this latter point, M. Girard declared that he could well afford to pay from 9% to 10%, higher prices than ordinary quotations for grain coming from a syndicate whose members all sowed the same kind of seed; finding therein economy and profit.

(Note by the Editor.—M. Girard spoke emphatically about the inferiority of the usual mixture of barleys sold here.)

After a few words from Mr. Jenner Fust, showing that, for at least forty years, the system of syndicates for the purchase of artificial manures had been found useful in England, M. J. Beaubien praised highly the establishment of syndicates as a means of propagating improved methods of farming, and introducing a more extended use of artificial manures, on which subjects, M. Trudeau, agent for a manufactory of superphosphates, observed that the syndicate could easily procure for its members a reduction of 15% to 20% on such articles, both as regards the price of the goods themselves and their cost of freight.

Mr. Tylee followed in the same sense; but he wished to see the syndicate take in hand at once the sale of agricultural products: "The more you