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## OFFICIAL PART.

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### The Quebec Dairymen's Convention, 1887.

The next annual meeting of the Quebec Dairymen's Association will take place at Three Rivers, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 19th and 20th January next, 1887. Most important matter connected with dairying generally will be discussed. All interested are invited to attend. Address at once to J. de L. Taché, Secretary, St-Hyacinthe, for members' certificates, securing reduced railway fares, etc.

### CLOVER.

It was with a good deal of pleasure that I read an article on "Récoltes améliorantes," in the French number of this Journal for October. M. Lippens, the author of the work in question, has evidently kept himself well informed as to the

progress of agricultural knowledge during the past few years. Words are nothing to him: facts are all he cares about; and he speaks out like a man who has made up his mind on the matters he treats of. A translation of M. Lippens' article will be found on page 179 of this number.

And, now, let us see what was the opinion of our predecessors as to "meliorating crops;" and, first, what did the Romans, the most attentive of all nations to everything relating to husbandry, think about them? Repeated observations convinced them that besides the alternate resting of the land under summer-fallow, "wheat might," as is observed by Pliny, somewhere about A. D. 110, "be sown after lupines, vetches, beans, or any other plant which has the quality of *fertilising and enriching the soil.*" How these plants, all *leguminous*, be it observed, possessed this quality, Pliny does not stop to tell us.

Again, I find, in an old work on agriculture dating from about the beginning of this century, the following words: "It has been discovered by modern cultivators that some sorts of crops, such as beans, pease, clovers, and all other plants of the *pulse* kind, are *enrichers* of the earth; while wheat, barley, oats, and rye, together with the whole tribe of vegetables, whose roots are fibrous and spread far, impoverish and rob the ground. It is therefore evident, that by judiciously interposing such green or other *enriching* crops as are adapted to the soil between the grain crops, the farmer may not only, in a great measure, avoid the necessity and expense of fallowing, but frequently be enabled to reap better crops. Besides, under this system of management, he may be enabled to keep a much larger stock of cattle, and consequently produce a much greater quantity of manure, the advantages of which are very great." Here, again, the writer does not stop to tell us how the *leguminosæ*, or pod-bearing plants, are gifted with the power of enriching the soil, but