

Agricultural Clubs—Important Notice.

The agricultural clubs already in existence and those shortly to be instituted, are requested to apply to the secretary of the Department of agriculture, who will forward to them, gratuitously, for the use of their members, certain pamphlets on agriculture, and all the information on that subject that the department is able to afford them.

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Pres. Council of Agriculture.

DE OMNIBUS REBUS.

Lachine crops.—On Monday, June 13th, I went to see my old friends the Lachine farmers. There was a visible improvement in many of the fields. The great farm of the Messrs. Dawes, some 500 acres in extent, presented a very promising appearance. The owners have taken to grow peas and beans, at last, both crops of prime importance to such extensive cattlemen. I used to worry my good friend Mr. Tuck, the invaluable manager of the estate, when I lived at Lachine, about the neglect of these plants. There are now seven acres of horse-beans and six acres of peas, and very well they look; but I do not like broadcast pulse. They should be drilled and horse-hoed like potatoes and swedes. If beans do not get plenty of air and light from top to bottom, the lower pods will not set, and it is those that are the most productive.

And another point in favour of drilling peas and beans is that at the last horse-hoeing, which should be postponed as late as possible, rape may be sown between the rows. There is no fear of this plant growing profusely enough to smother the main crop, and when the beans are out, the horse-hoe can once more pass through the vacant spaces previously occupied by them, and as no hand-hoeing is needed for rape, the expense of growing it is very trifling—a pound of seed to the acre will be quite enough, if the pulse has been drilled at 24 inch intervals. I see Mr. Dawes has at last started a small flock of ewes—not so well bred a one, though, as I should have expected—; and he would find the rape a most useful food for them: first, to fatten his lambs on, and next, to prepare the ewes for the reception of the ram's attentions. All sheep-breeders know how irritating a thing it is for the shepherd to have his ewes keep on dropping their lambs over a long period of time—5 weeks sometimes,—now, if for 3 weeks or so before *coupling*, the ewes have a good bite of rape every day, it will bring them into season all together, or nearly so, and more, there will be a large proportion of them twins. I have heard some people here say they do not want twins, if a ewe brings up one lamb well, they are satisfied. Well, I dare say, if a ewe has to pick up a scanty living on worn out "pacage," one lamb is as much as she can manage to do well, but there is not much chance of the ewes on Mr. Dawes' farms being treated in that fashion.

The *Sainfoin*, I regret to say, has been overpowered by the weeds. This I expected would be the case, as the spot where it was sown was full of water-retaining pools, and the winter of its first year was a continued succession of snow-storms, frosts, and thaws. However, what there was of it was fit to cut on the 13th June, even in this backward season, and so I conclude the position is proved, that sainfoin is a plant perfectly suited to this climate.

Potatoes were a good plant, and forward enough, but the weeds were evidently going to give Mr. Tuck a good deal of trouble.

It is a dreadful season and the worst of it is, that the better the land is manured, the more certain it is that the straw-crop will go down and yield a poor sample of grain. If,

as I remarked in the last number of the Journal, the 2-rowed barley was laid on the 12th June, what state will it be in after the terrible rains of the last fortnight? I shall go and look round again next week, but I fear I shall see an awful lot of destruction. Fancy; 7½ inches of rain in June fell, the average temperature of the month being, at Montreal, 60½° F., ½ of a degree higher than the average for the ten past years. The lowest reading of the thermometer for June was 52° F., on June 7th. The average rainfall for the last ten years is 3 inches, but last year only 1½ inches fell in the month. The hottest day was June 1st, 89° F.

This month of July, too, has been very wet and hot—overpoweringly close and muggy. Sunday, the 3rd, lots of rain fell, and again on Friday and Saturday, the 8th and 9th. Wheat was out in the county of Welland on the 9th. I fear the cold night-temperature in the West and North-West, will have had the effect of causing the wheat to rust; and there cannot be anything of a crop of corn in the country, as it was sown late and cannot ripen unless we have a marvellous October.

On all the low-lands, the potatoes are ruined. At St. Laurent, near Montreal, a young farmer told me yesterday, the young tubers are scalded—*échaudés*—and cannot increase in size.

Fortunately the price of cheese is fair, though butter is cheap enough to please the consumer, but the grass, with so much rain, can have no *proof* in it, and the yield of milk is by no means the measure of the products made from it under such watery conditions.

I hear that the country below Rimouski has been crying out for moisture all along! My poor friends at Métis are to be pitied: they never grow anything to speak of in the way of selling crops, and a dry summer plays the mischief with them. What induces people to stay on such farms I cannot think; though, indeed, the young men are moving up the country every season, some taking places in cheese factories, others buying or renting farms in better localities. Of these latter there are but few, as the means of the fathers are too scanty to allow of the sons receiving much money to lay out in land.

Water.—At the Gloucester, Eng., meeting of cheese-making farmers, in May, Mr. Embury, the lecturer, said "that drainage-water was not injurious to milk. Water had nothing to do with the production of inferior cheese. The quantity of water was of much greater importance than its quality. He thought that there was no danger that polluted water would produce polluted milk, at the digestive process always at work in the cow would carry off any bad matter present in what she drank." I do not like the practice so prevalent here of giving cows the dish-washings, &c.; but perhaps that is a final notion, as, according to Mr. Embury, there is no danger of its imparting its flavour to the milk. No one is more particular about the taste of butter than I, but I remember well the stagnant pools our cows used to drink from in England, and finer butter was never made than by our dairymaid. Wild garlic, and other abominable weeds, no doubt give an evil flavour to milk, but I do not believe we need be so particular about the water cows drink as some would persuade us to be.

Kerry cattle.—Have any of the *Kerries* or *Dexter-Kerries* been imported into this country? I have never met with any, at all events. Useful little beasts enough for the poor cottager in the old country, and susceptible of great improvement, no doubt. The cows of the pure Kerry breed give a fair quantity of milk, poor or rich in butter-fat according to the food they get, but they must not be judged from the stand-point