

it is the red-clover plant that is so specially impatient of repetition. White clover, Al-ike clover, and trefoil, come readily enough to the scythe, it is only the *trifolium pratense* that is so dainty.

I see that Mr. Barnard, in the French edition of the Journal for January, advises farmers to sow clover in the husk. In England, 40 years ago, clover and sainfoin were always sown without *milling* by men who grew their own seed. that they sold to the merchants was milled or husked of course.

Red clover is a mystery altogether: if our friend M. Choquette can find out a clue to the labyrinth in which it is involved, he will have deserved well of his country.

**Barley.**—Mr. Ryde, of the Lachine Brewery, tells me that very little of the barley grown in this neighbourhood this last harvest was fit for malting. All the barley the firm has bought, up to the present time, has come from the Ontario province, and cheap enough, too. (1) The season was too wet here, and, in consequence, the young seeds grew so fast that they nearly came up level with the heads of the barley, and made it very difficult to dry after it was cut.

In my country, the East of England, we fancy we grow the best malting barley to be found in the world, and in order to do so we take more pains over that crop than over any other grain we grow. Barley, with us, is generally sown after rape, coleseed, or turnips fed off by sheep. The land is ploughed close after the fold, to cover in the sheep-droppings, and the seed is invariably sown on the stale furrow without any more ploughing, the frost—slight as it sometimes is—making a finer tilth than any amount of our work can do. As early as possible in the spring, the harrows go to work, the horses stepping as briskly as possible, and when the land treads as equally under foot as the floor of a carpeted room, the seed is drilled in at the rate of from 2½ to 3½ bushels to the acre. Our 2 rowed Chevalier barley is a much larger grain than the 4-and-6-rowed kinds used here, so that an allowance of from 1 to 2 pecks must be made to equalize the quantity required in this province.

One reason why we sow barley thickly is that an unequal sample would be rejected by the maltster, and thin-sown barley on our manure-full land would tiller out so that many small, unripe grains would be produced. For the same reason, even on heavy land, we plough the ridges as flat as they can be safely made; for, the grain on the flanks of rounded ridges is never as plump as that on the crowns. It is a sad sight to see in some parts here narrow ridges left for the winter with the last furrow's unploughed. such farming can never produce malting barley.

If the seed-time is early and the spring propitious, we do not sow the grass-seeds at the same time as the barley is sown. For instance; if we sow barley about the middle of February, the grass-seeds would not be put in until April, unless the growth of the barley was very rank indeed. We do not like to see the seeds too forward. Generally speaking, a month or six weeks after sowing the grain, the grass seed-barrow is run over the land—preferably, along and across—and the light, winged-harrow, followed by the roller, covers all in tight. The barley is improved by the scarification, and there is no danger of the clover, &c., getting forward enough to injure it. We do not choose a frosty morning for this job.

The difference of price between certain qualities of barley in the English market is far greater than any thing of the sort here. For instance, to-day I see by the Agricultural Gazette:

Grinding barley	is worth from 20 to 24 shillings a quarter;
Distilling " " "	25 " 28 " "
Malting " " "	30 " 50 " "

(1) Forty-eight cents a bushel, delivered at the brewery door!

That is from 60 cents to \$1.30 a bushel! Weight, in England, has very little to do with the value of barley; the grinding qualities weighing frequently almost, if not quite, as much per bushel as the best malting barleys. No one but a maltster can tell wherein the difference lies, but a skilled operator knows at a glance all about it. Fifty years ago, the *heavy lands* on the chalk grew only grinding or, at best, distiller's barley, but, since the discovery of the Chevalier barley, that grain is sown on those soils after a summer fallow instead of wheat, and as from 56 to 64 bushels an acre is not an uncommon crop, the change is a highly profitable one.

**The Dairymen's Convention**—The annual meeting of this society took place at Arthabaskaville on December 12th. A report will be found elsewhere.

Mr. Barnard took occasion to urge "English fellow citizens" to join the association, and I think it is a great pity they keep aloof from it, but *en revanche*, Mr. Evans told me last week that there were no French-Canadian members of the Montreal Horticultural Society! A thousand pities indeed that this mutual indifference should exist—but I am trenching on politics.

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## DAIRYMEN'S CONVENTION.

TWO DAYS' MEETING AT ARTHABASKAVILLE—A MOST SUCCESSFUL GATHERING.

(Special to the Star.)

ARTHABASKAVILLE, Que., December 12. — The annual convention of the Dairy Industry of the Province was held yesterday and to-day, a large number being in attendance. At the first session, Hon. Louis Beaubien addressed the meeting on the "Huras National" or Provincial stud, and at the second session the report of the official inspector, Mr. McDonald, was read. A lecture of Reverend Father Chartier, on ensilage, was followed by a lively discussion between Hon. Mr. Beaubien, Mr. Barnard and the lecturer. Reports of the delegates and the Federal Dairy Convention of last April at Ottawa were presented by Mr. J. C. Chapais. A resolution of the Convention asking the Federal Government to appoint a dairy commissioner and to give a liberal subvention to the Federal association was passed.

At the third session the opening address of the President, Hon. Mr. de la Bruère, was made, followed by an address by Hon. Colonel Rhodes, Commissioner of Agriculture; an address by Hon. Dr. Ross, ex-Premier of Quebec, on general agriculture; report of the Rev. Abbé Choquette, on the experimental station of St. Hyacinthe; lecture on the Federal experimental farm by Mr. Chicoine, of Sherbrooke; lecture by Dr. Couture on the herd book of the Canadian cow and the distinctive characters of Canadian cows.

## SECOND DAY.

At the second day's morning session the order was as follows. Lecture on cheese making by Mr. Vigneau; lecture on butter making by Mr. Leclaire, and lectures on churning by Mr. Allard. At this session the elections took place. The Hon. Mr. De La Bruère, who was active President for the last seven years, was elected Honorary President; Mr. Bernatchez, M. P. P. of Montmagny, active president, and Mr. Taché was re-elected secretary. Eighteen directors were elected.

At the afternoon meeting a message was received from Mr. W. W. Lynch, expressing his regret at not being able to be