

of Dorset Horn ewes were sold which lambed in November, the greater part had twins, and their second crop of lambs were sold fat in Dorchester Market in August last. One ewe in particular lambed on the 26th October, 1887, twins, which were sold fat at 34s. each; she afterwards produced a second crop of three lambs, which were sold in August 1888, in Dorchester Market at 22s. 6d., the ewe then being worth 50s. to the butcher, making a total of £9 6s. 6d. in ten months."

Métis crops.—I regret very much to find that my prophecies of a *diselette* at Petit Métis and its neighbourhood have been justified by the results of the harvest. I hear from Mr. McGeoghan, secretary-treasurer of the school-commissioners of the place, and a large and intelligent farmer, that the wheat was frozen before it was ripe, the potatoes, though free, as usual, from disease, never ripened at all, and are, in consequence, shrivelled and unsaleable. This is a serious loss to the farmers of the district, as they have been in the habit of sending several schooner-loads of potatoes to the Quebec and Montreal markets every year. The cattle, too, owing to the dearth of pasture, have gone into winter-quarters a month earlier than usual, and of course in very inferior condition, which will not be improved by the bad quality of the hay, which suffered greatly from the persistent rains of the past autumn. And the losses will not end here; for the cows will necessarily come out to grass next June in bad condition, and instead of producing at once the normal quantity of milk, they will take half the summer to put a little flesh on their bones.

Importations of stock into the U. S.—I was surprised to see in a statistical return that the number of stock imported into the States during the present year was only 626! This must exclude the importations of sheep and horses, one would think.

Fire at Guelph.—The noble barn and stables recently erected at Guelph for the Agricultural College of Ontario, at an outlay of \$25,000, have been destroyed by fire—supposed to have been the work of an incendiary! Fortunately, all the stock was saved, and I hear that, as they have no shelter for them, the whole of the animals, except a few of the choicest males, will shortly be offered for sale by public auction.

Price of roots in England.—The appreciation of roots in England may be judged of by the following report of the market held at Stratford, Essex: Swedes, 22s. a ton gross = \$5 per 2,000 lbs.; mangels \$4.60, do. *Meadow* hay sold for \$19 a ton, and *clover* hay for \$30! a difference of \$11 a ton; which shows that the clover must be very different from the rough stuff brought to market in Montreal. If we ever have an Agricultural College in the province of Quebec, I should like some one who has seen clover-hay made in the neighbourhood of London to try his hand at putting up a stack of it here. I say a *stack*, because, carried as green as we carry it in England, it would probably burn a barn down. (1)

Failure of grass-seeds.—Mr. Tuck, Messrs. Dawes' foreman, tells me that he has been obliged to resow the whole of the season's grass seeds over again, the drought of the early summer having caused the entire failure of the May sowing. Do we not, as a rule, fear covering our seeds too much? Half an inch would not hurt them. On the other hand, I have always had an idea that the practice of attaching the grass-seed box behind the broadcast machines so much used at present might endanger the success of the seeding by bury-

ing the clovers, &c., too deeply. I should sow the grain first, harrow it well to a finish, then go over the land with the seed-box at work, but the grubber-teeth fastened up, and finish off with a chain- or bush-harrow.

Shorthorns—Shorthorns are looking up again. At the dispersion sale of the Hilldale herd on Nov. 21st, 22nd, ten representatives of the Duchess family sold for an average of \$2,500 a piece; one bull fetched \$3,000, and 8th Duchess of Hilldale, \$6,600. The average of the 75 animals, young and old, was \$560.60; total = \$42,045.

Potato-crop in the States.—I really thought, when I was speaking last month of the average yield of potatoes in the United States, that there must be some error in the statistical returns. But they were correct enough, as is shown by a more detailed account of the crop which I have since received. "Potatoes," it says, "are the best and largest crop ever known with but a single exception. Three poor years have been succeeded by a fairly good season, and the yield per acre is large enough to show that neither the crop, the seed, nor the soil, is running out in this country, as some have contended. The crop of 1888 is believed to be about 196,000,000 bushels, or 79 bushels an acre on 2,460,000 acres, the average yield for the past eight years being 160,828,000 bushels." Taking this latter sum to represent the yield of the 2,460,000 acres during the eight past years, we have an average of 65 bushels of tubers to the acre, which reduced to gross tons is equivalent to 1½ ton per acre, equal, at 30c a bushel on the spot, to \$19.50. Now the cost of manure, rent or interest of capital, labour, &c., on an acre of potatoes cannot, in the States, amount to less than :

2 ploughings.....	\$5 00
Harrowings, drilling up, planting, &c.....	4 00
Seed.....	3 00
Horse- and hand-hoeing.....	2 00
20 pair-horse loads of dung.....	20 00
Harvesting.....	2 00
	\$36 00

leaving a loss of \$16.50 an acre to be recovered from the succeeding crops of the rotation. What does it mean? Nothing less than 160 bushels of potatoes to the acre are fit to be called a crop, and here we have the average of land in an extensive country not bearing half as much! And yet the *Rural New Yorker* makes a bet that it can grow 700 bushels an acre, and nearly wins its wager! I say again, I cannot understand it!

Root-crops in England.—It has long been the custom of Messrs. Proctor & Co., of Bristol, England, manufacturers of artificial manures, to give prizes every year for the best crops of roots grown with their manures only, that is, without the addition of any farmyard manure or other assistant fertilizer. As the general run of the farmers of the province not only never use any artificial, but do not believe in their utility—and I speak of the British—as well as of the French-descended farmers,—I think it is worth while to republish the list of prizes; and the statement of the crops that were victorious in the contest, as I find them in the Gloucester Chronicle of the 17th November, 1888, the past half-year.

H. AND T. PROCTOR'S ROOT CROP PRIZES.—The prizes given by Messrs. H. and T. Proctor, Catnay, Bristol, for the best crops of swedes and mangolds grown *with their manure only*, have been awarded by Mr. R. W. Lync, Barton, Marlborough, who acted as Judge, to the following competitors, the figures at the end of each paragraph denoting the average

(1) Mr. Deming will see that I am incorrigible. A. R. J. F.