

would probably have given 50 bushels on acre on the same land. The pease were put in late, hardly harrowed at all, and that in a bad season, and the furrows badly drawn, so that they have stood full of water most part of the summer.

Wells—A contractor has been at work for the last month or two sinking a well for the supply of the Lachine Brewery. After going 1,004 feet, the work was suspended, as the water was found to be unsuitable to the purpose for which it was required.

Potato-beetles.—Not a single beetle did I see on the potato crop of 'no Dawes' farm yesterday. The dosing with Paris green was continued later than usual, and if all farmers carried it on in like fashion, destroying the latest survivors, the pest would be utterly banished. Unfortunately, so short-sighted are people in general that nothing is more common than to hear: "Oh, there are only a few, and the potatoes are too forward to be injured by them." Consequently, a stock of breeders is left, enough to devour the crop the following year.

Silos—The 10 acres of silage corn on the farms of the Messrs. Dawes seem likely to yield from 20 to 25 tons an acre—say 800 tons in all, but I believe there will be 1,000 tons! A new silo is in process of adaptation out of an old hop-oast. But the two together will only hold, according to my computation, 282 tons, as thus: each silo measures 21 x 21 x 16 = 7056 cubic feet, which multiplied by 40, the usual number of pounds in a cubic foot, equals 282,240 lbs.

141 tons, for the contents of each: where will they put the other 520 tons?

Belgian carrots, sweet corn, swedes, mangels, the whole root crop, in fact, on these farms are about as good as they can be. This, after three years' failure, must be pleasant to the proprietors. I do not think they will give up rolling the drills down and manuring in the spring again in a hurry. Fall manuring is advisable on heavy land, where spring-ploughing only produces clods, but not on such soil as the Lachine slopes. And, again, if land is manured in the fall, the spring cultivation should be done with grubber, harrow, and roller, and the mangel-seed sown on the flat.

Southdowns.—Mr. Webb's sale of Southdown sheep at Stroud, Cambridge, England, seems to have gone off very well. The lot fetched £5729 - \$28,000; the average for rams being \$160, and for ewes, \$37.

Hampshire-downs I see by the papers that Mr. Wood of Mount Kisco, New York, has been selecting the pick of these sheep for his flock. I had hoped to have seen an importation of them into this province, as well as a small herd of Dairy shorthorns, but I am doomed to be disappointed.

Early harvest.—In England, Talavera wheat was cut in Kent and Sussex on the 17th July! This wheat has a very long grain and is much sought after by biscuit bakers. Farmers in the southern counties sow it in the fall, and thresh immediately—in the fields by steam—as it gives them a few pounds of ready money to pay their harvestmen.

Cheese.—Prices keep at about 9½ cents a pound. Not much profit on exportation with Liverpool at 44 shillings per 112 lbs. Best creamery butter only 20 cents! Not being able to get any butter fit to eat either here or in Montreal, I content myself with making Camembert cheese. I buy the milk of Mr. Trenholme, of Rockfield; 3 quarts make a good sized cheese—5 inches in diameter by 2 in depth—and, after

three weeks keeping in a cool cellar, I find it takes the place of butter very well, though of course it is more expensive.

Sturgeon.—Dr. Stockwell says, in the Country Gentleman, that there are no young sturgeon taken in our waters. This seems odd to me, as I always supposed the *escargot*, lots of which I have seen caught on night-lines in Chambly basin, to be the young of the sturgeon. Will some one enlighten me on the subject? Why *escargot*, which is the edible snail of Europe?

Grain returns.—Mr. Dodge, statistician of the Agricultural Department of the United States, does not seem to give satisfaction. Dr. Hoskins says he does not put the returns of the potato crop high enough, and Mr. Chamberlain accuses him of magnifying the yield of the wheat-crop in Iowa. "The United States Department of agriculture," says the latter, "estimates last year's Iowa wheat-crop at 24,000,000 bushels. I do not believe there was one-quarter that amount of No. 2, or even of No. 3, wheat in the state."

English wheat fields.—Mr. Wood, the Hampshire-down breeder, Mount Kisco, in a recent issue of the Country Gentleman, seems to have been delighted with the farming on the Chalk districts of the south of England. But I must notice one statement in his letter that might easily be misunderstood: "Within the past few days I have seen a number of pieces of wheat of from 500 to 1,000 acres each." Mr. Wood is speaking of the custom observed in the Chalk farms of doing without fences, except the hurdles surrounding the sheep-folds. He cannot mean that he saw a number of pieces of wheat of a thousand acres each belonging to one farmer, as that would only be possible if the farm consisted of four thousand acres, the district in question being, as Mr. Wood truly observes, farmed on the 4-course system. There may be men in the southern countries who cultivate as many as four thousand acres, but there is no one farm of anything like that extent. Mr. Houghton, an eminent land agent, did farm between four thousand and five thousand acres, but his farms were situated in four or five different countries. *Chrysal Grange*, near Saffron Walden, Cambridge, in the occupation of the late Samuel Jonas, was the largest self-contained farm I ever knew, (1) and that was only 2,200 acres.

Bulletin—I have read with a good deal of attention, but, I regret to say, without much profit, all the bulletins that have been sent me by the managers of the Experimental Stations in the different States of the Union. A sum of, I believe, \$15,000 a year is handed over to each of these establishments by the central government, and an immense amount of almost useless figuring is the result. Column after column of analyses is printed, and, I suspect, in most cases the bulletins are thrown aside as soon as received. Some practical experiments have been carried out, but they are chiefly repetitions of English ones. It was surely unnecessary to prove anew that pease and other nitrogenous foods produce lean meat, and corn-meal, fat, for every feeder of animals knew that practically when I was a boy.

Nitrogen.—In England nitrogen, in nitrate of soda, is worth about 10 cents a pound; in sulphate of ammonia, 12½ cents, f. o. b. at Liverpool. The latter is, I believe, to be had at Mr. Vasey's works, Hochelaga, for \$3.25, in quantities, which would be equal to 13 cents a pound for ammonia = nearly 17 cents a pound for nitrogen.

(1) Not speaking of the mountain sheep farms of Scotland.