

thorough steaming. An excellent way to do this is to have a table across which pass the ends of pipes yoked to a principal tube connecting with the boiler. The tub or box to be steamed is to be turned upside down, with the mouth resting flat on the table, and the steam turned on four or five minutes. As soon as the steam is shut off, the inside of the box or tub is to be quickly rubbed with a clear solution of salt and water; while the wood is still very hot, it is to be filled with cold brine; and three or four minutes afterwards, the wood will be found to have imbibed this fresh liquid, after having given up, through the effects of the steaming, the liquid that served to dissolve its juices.

Of late, anti-septic powders have been recommended; but their use in addition to the salt should be avoided; their use in the salt solution to rub into the tubs, or to moisten the outside of the parchment-paper, would be probably more useful. If the box is not staunch, it must be plunged into water, or brine and all there is to do in this latter case is to free the outside from the salt encrusted on it. This last method does not improve the appearance of the box.

Nowadays, parchment paper must be used in all packages, whether tubs or boxes; the stoutest and the best quality will be none too good. This parchment should be well moistened when fixed; this might be fairly done by using a sponge or a sprayer for the inside of the receptacle. Buyers prefer butter that is moist and does not adhere to the paper; this slight bringing evidently serves to prevent the wood from reacting on the butter.

I believe that with the above remedies all the faults of which Mr. Stark complains will be completely abated.

Believe me, dear Monsieur Gigault,

Yours very faithfully,

J. de L. TACHÉ

(From the French.)

NOTES BY AN AGRICULTURAL LECTURER, ON THE COUNTY OF CHAMPLAIN.

(Continued.)

STE. ANNE DE LA PÉRADE.

This is a considerable parish, to the north of the river of the same name.

We were greatly pleased to hear, from the President of the Club, M. Rousseau, a most enterprising manufacturer, that, after all, his farm, when compared with his other business, returns him a net per centage on the capital invested higher than all his other works, though they involve an original outlay of several hundreds of thousand dollars.

Among other things, we laid great stress on the growing of roots and pulse, with a view to the improvement of the soil, and the economical production of milk and pork.

We observed that a well fitted-up creamery can be worked for perhaps the entire winter. This we earnestly advised to be done in a previous lecture.

ST. LUC DE VINOENNES.

A good parish, though small. A fair farmer's club. The cultivation of clover, roots, etc., is being resolutely prosecuted by some farmers here. Only, in general, the profits of the

summer are lost in the winter. Many go to the shanties; some to the United-States, though no one has as yet made his fortune there, and several have lost their health in that country.

Nevertheless, confidence is everywhere reviving under the animating inspiration of progressive ideas, and many are doing well at dairying.

ST. JACQUES DES PILES.

As regards farming, this parish is only just beginning. Shanties, charcoal-making, etc., supplying the people with plenty of work. Still, some farmers, seeing that there is a large local market handy, have begun to improve their farms.

A cheeseery has been started, and the general farming will, we hope, be carried on in connection with dairying; for the more extensively dairying is practised, the more grain and hay there will be to sell to the lumberers in the neighbourhood.

MM. Ephrem Désilets and Ulderio Mailloux are the principal growers of green-fodder crops and roots. Several good implements have been introduced lately.

We earnestly pushed the organisation of a good Farmer's Club as a supervisor of the visible agricultural movement. There are several here who we are sure will never regret having taken advantage of present circumstances to improve their farming.

ST. TITE DE CHAMPLAIN.

Here is indeed one of those numerous parishes that during the last few years, have made great progress. Five years ago, said the Rev. M. Grenier, it was a rarity to find a tiny kitchen garden of 20 feet square! Now the growing of roots, is common enough. M. Onésime Cossette has his 2,000 bushels of carrots; others prefer swedes, the *chou moellier*, mangels, etc. All these crops are capital.

M. Cossette, says M. Grenier, fattens his pigs on boiled carrots, and M. Provost gives his hogs cabbage-soup. *The pork turned out by these two farmers does not cost a cent a pound.*

The curé, M. Grenier, has a fine field of hoed crops. See how example acts! When visiting such encouraging parishes as these, the lecturer is rejoiced to find a club of 200 members. The ladies of St. Tite, as in many other parishes, honored us with their presence. Dairying is very popular; it will be carried on during the greater part of the winter we hear.

ST. SÉVERIN DE PROULXVILLE.

A new parish, full of promise.

Farming is not the only business here; the shanties are too near for that; still, many are profiting by this local market to improve their farms, and when the timber becomes scarce, or has disappeared altogether, the land will be improved enough to afford employment through the whole year.

The danger, if danger there be, is lest the shanty-work become a habit, for when the time of starting to the lumber-camp arrives, the men all flock thither. The cattle are left to the care of the children, too young to look after them properly, and the milk cows are in a poor state when spring arrives.

The Rev. M. Proulx, the curé, has delivered some practical lectures, assembling, for that purpose, the members of the club, in his root-field, where he grew more than 400 bushels of carrots, mangels, etc.

M. Charles Francœur harvested this year at least 300 bushels of roots.

As to dairying, M. Narcisse Trotter, with 4 cows and green-fodder, &c., took to the factory, this summer, 11,720 lbs. of milk.

ST-PROSPÈRE DE CHAMPLAIN.

One of the most prosperous parishes in the province. The farmers are educated and well-informed. It is noticeable how sensibly the most recent subjects under discussion are treated by the members of the club. Farming is certainly in an advanced state here. The answer to the question as to who were the best and most successful farmers in the parish was: *All of them!* We are well assured that, under the influence of good example, all try to do their best. Among others, we found that MM. Trudel and J. B. Massicotte had grown several thousand bushels of various roots, of excellent quality.

Dairying, too, will be continued in winter, and, probably, without interruption throughout the year.

A parish like St-Prospère, where clover and hoed-crops are regularly grown, cannot fail to achieve success. We congratulate its people sincerely.

SAINT-AUBRE.

A manufacturing and agricultural parish. We strongly advised the erection of a winter creamery. With out this improvement, farming, here, will indubitably take a long stride... *backwards.* So, now, to work! Experience enough has been gained to show it pays; let us, then, place a good creamery in the hands of an orderly, progressive maker of butter.

Winter dairying pre-supposes clover and root-crops, for, generally speaking, these are the only ones able to preserve and even increase the richness of the land. The hay-crop here has paid well, and as a noted farmer said to me; as it is much less work, people will not at once plunge into a business like dairying that needs constant work and attention all the 12 months of the year.

In a large parish like this, the club ought to have more names on its list.

As for markets for agricultural produce, this district has the great factories in the neighbourhood, Three-Rivers, the shanties on the St-Maurice, which get many of their supplies from Ontario, such as hay, pork, beans, &c., and lastly, the dairy industry which, like the sun, shines for all the world.

The following is the list of prizes, &c., awarded by the Farmer's Club:

VETCHES (tares) GREEN FODDER CROPS:

The Rev. Canon J. G. Prince, curé; MM. d'Argie, Pierre Lefebvre.

MAIZE.

MM. Joseph Desilets, fils; André Aubry.

ROOT-CROPS.

MM. Maxime Dugas, A. Aubry, P. Lefebvre, E. Morin, Jos. Désilets, Jos. Désilets, fils, D. Carleton, E. Lanouette, A. Lavasseur, P. C. Naud, J. Meunier, J. Lorangeur, Elz. Beaudoin.

SILAGE.

M. Prince, curé, and M. Aubry. All of whom we congratulate.

The club had just received a good chaff-cutter, and the farmers were

invited to come and see it work the next day at, I believe, M. Lefebvre's farm.

The club has, besides this implement, 2 sowers (*drills*?) and 3 selected bulls.

Experiments in the use of lime, plaster, salt, and ashes have been made.

M. E. Blondin has some cows here several of which give from 80 to 82 pounds of milk a day. One of their heifer gives 60 pounds a day; 4 of them supplied 170 pounds of milk daily throughout the summer to the factory. M. Blondin sold two cows for \$140.00, and refused \$100.00 for another. He never fails to give his herd salt every day.

A M. Lemire has a cow that gives 70 lbs. of milk a day.

M. Aimé Lavasseur, the secretary of the club, has a herd of 15 very choice cows, that are comfortable in their rich pasture of permanent grass.

M. Prince, the curé, always takes great interest in every thing that tends to the advantage of his parishioners, especially in the club of which he is President.

ST-NARCISSE DE CHAMPLAIN.

The soil is highly productive and the farmers well up to their work. Dairying is in great favour, but there are, perhaps, too many cheeseeries.

Butter making might be carried on profitably in winter. Many men go to the lumber camps, though more from custom than anything else, as it does not pay now. (1)

The very numerous attendance (at the lecture) seemed to indicate that a club well organised would do well here. At the request of the chairman of the meeting, we showed how many advantages would result from the formation of a club, and expressed a hope of seeing this parish among the names of the 554 clubs now existing in the province.

ST-STANISLAS DE KOSIKA.

A large parish on the banks of that fine river the Batiacan. Agriculture is fairly advanced here, though most of the men neglect their farms in winter. Shanties, Shanties! Some make money at this work. There are some old men, pretty well off too, who cannot resist the temptation of going to the lumber-camps every autumn. Such is custom!

Nevertheless, plenty of red-clover, roots, green-fodder crops, *choux moellier*, &c., is grown here. Dairying is on a good footing, but only in summer. We, ourselves believe that winter dairying is now a necessity, and perhaps the best way of making people estimate agriculture at its real worth. For it is not unusual, under present circumstances, for not only the profits but also part of the grass returns of the summer to be spent in the winter. Large herds are kept, which cost a good deal to feed in winter, while no profit and sometimes no returns at all are derived from them.

The Rev. M. Caisse is greatly pleased at the sight of even the slightest improvement in farming among his people, and the Farmer's Club keeps the inhabitants fully informed as to agricultural progress.

ST-THÉOPHILE DU LAC À LA TORTUE.

This place has only had a resident curé for the last two years. Still, the greatest activity seems to reign among the settlers who are in the midst of

(1) But they get their wages, do they not?—Ed.