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Notes by the Way.

The Horn-fly.—It seems to be the general opinion of scientific men that the *habitat* of the horn-fly is the droppings of the cattle, and that the best way to destroy this pest in its

infancy is to knock the solid excretions about our pastures, so that they may be quickly parched by the heat of the sun, and the eggs be thereby rendered infertile. *Rusticus*, who writes in one of the Montreal papers, gravely recommends that the pastures should "be bush-harrowed daily to spread the cattle-droppings." Fancy the expense of such a job! Two horses and a man could not bush-harrow more than, at most, 12 acres a day, and many farms have quite that extent of pasture in one piece. Of course *Rusticus* sets down the word *daily* in his article without due consideration. The best implement to knock the droppings about with is what we use in England; it is a stout stick, recurved at the end, something like a very stout hockey or shinny-stick. A lad with this tool could run over a good sized pasture in a couple of hours, and twice a week would be often enough to do it. (1)

Cattle-food in England.—Our English friends have been agreeably disappointed. They feared a great scarcity of cattle-food was impending over them, but the mildness of the winter has saved them. On January 24th, stock were still in the pastures, and the turnips, though late sown, have turned out much better than was expected, though a little harm was done in the western counties by an unusually sharp week of frost in the first half of January, the thermometer indicating, one morning, two degrees below zero! Imported food for stock is cheap, barley from the Black-Sea being only worth 14 shillings a quarter of 400 lbs.—about \$17.00 a short ton, and Egyptian beans, so useful to the dairymen, are equally reasonable in price. For spring-keep, the early fall-sown vetches and rye are said to look well and promising, while the wheat got just such a check from the frost as was required to prevent it from becoming winter-proud. Beans, peas, and some barley have been sown in the South and South-east, and the winter-ploughing being very forward, it may be said that the prospects for the future never were better. Poor fellows! they deserve a good turn, do the English farmers.

Barley—People who have never been brewers cannot understand the quotations for barley in the London market: for instance, last month, Lancashire best malting barley was worth 30s. a quarter, and Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire, and Hertfordshire barley sold for 42s a quarter, a difference of 36 cents a bushel. The reason of this immense gap between the two growths is that the Eastern farmer is intensely careful in his selection of seed, in the cultivation of his barley-shift, in his harvesting of the crop, in his never mixing two qualities of the grain together, in keeping his land free from self-sown oats, in never sowing buckwheat, in dressing his barley to perfection, in *hummelling* it till not a single beard is left on the grain, and, lastly, in having land on the geological formation best suited to the crop, and a climate that is so moderate in temperature that barley sown on the 1st of March does not, on the average of years, ripen before the first of August?

One great mistake committed by barley-growers is ploughing too deep for this crop. Barley likes a finely pulverised shallow furrow, 3½ to 4 inches is quite deep enough, and if

(1) The *Flytel*, as Prof. Fletcher calls it, takes a week to hatch.—Ed.

the previous crop was heavily manured, as it ought to have been, the grubber and harrow can hardly be used too often, as a thorough mixing of soil and manure is absolutely necessary, if a really fine sample is wanted.

A variety of goods for market.—We must repeat—as we do annually—that the farmers round this good town of Montreal do not make good use of their opportunities.—Anything really first-rate in the eating line will always, if early, fetch a remunerative price in our market, as is proved by the high rate at which M. Bourdon sells his fresh eggs and butter, and the money Mr. Brown, the butcher, pays for his early lambs. Good fresh butter, soft cheese, small dairy-fed pork—50 lbs. to 60 lbs.—Down-mutton, capons, and green-pease gathered young and not allowed to turn yellow by exposure to the light, will always fetch a profitable price here.

Hampshire-downs and crosses.—It is almost incredible, but the best Hampshire-downs and long wool crosses at the last Smithfield-club show, gave 74.70 o/o of carcase to live weight. By the bye in answer to an enquirer, we may say that the name "*Smithfield*" has nothing to do with *smith*; the name was originally "*Smoothfield*" The lightest lot of lambs at the show was Sir Mark Collet's Shropshires; they only weighed 60 lbs. the carcase.

Dorset cross-lambs.—The favorite first early lamb in the London market is a cross made by putting a Hampshire-down ram to a Dorset-horn ewe. The Londoners of the wealthy class do not like white-faced lamb or mutton, and this cross gives the desired brown tinge to the legs and head. A breeder of this cross, had, on the 10th of February, plenty of 48 lbs. fat lambs (carcase weight) ready for market, but the trade was dull, as there never is a great demand for lamb in England till *salad* is plentiful, or early spinach is ready to eat with the boiled leg of lamb. The fore-quarter, roasted and eaten with mint-sauce is the favorite dish.

Do, please, castrate your male lambs as soon as it is safe to do so. The meat would not have that red, foxy look it too often has if the testicles were extracted at an early age.

Swine-fever.—This annoying disease is so terribly prevalent in Britain at present, that very large areas are entirely closed to traffic in swine. All Bedfordshire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Lanarkshire, and several other counties have been declared infected areas and, in consequence, no hogs can be moved out of them; this will seriously affect the trade.

Mutton.—The London butchers say that the Hampshire-downs carry more lean meat, especially down the back, than any other sheep.

Pipes bursting in frosty weather.—In an exchange, we are told that elliptical pipes never burst from water freezing in them. If this is so, why not carefully hammer our cylindrical lead pipes into elliptical form?

Beans.—Professor Robertson says that horse-beans are good to supplement maize-silage. Not a doubt about it, and so are peas.

Ploughing-in green-crops.—As we were translating the last Report of the Dairymen's Association the other day, we were delighted to see the strong feeling that existed among the members against leaving the second crop of clover to rot in the ground, when it would be so much better employed in the silo for the production of milk in the winter. M. Courchesne, who supported the theoretical side of the question, was well answered by Mr. Barnard to this effect: "If you carry off the second crop of clover, to feed three or four extra cows, you will have by next summer from ten fifteen loads of dung to replace it. This will have cost the second crop, which will have fed three or four cows, from which you will have drawn a good yield of milk. Formerly, our cows used not to earn their keep; but it is not so to-day, for whereas then \$25.00 was the maximum production of a cow, we now hear, from M. Brodeur, that his cows give him an average yearly return of \$50.00." And it makes very little difference whether the crop is left to rot on the surface or is ploughed in. Nothing struck us so much last summer, as we travelled backwards and forwards from Ste Anne to Montreal, as the enormous waste of winter-food that was visible in the number of acres of second-crop clover that was left uncut. If any one imagines that, by leaving the first-crop to become nearly ripe with the idea of getting a greater bulk of hay, he is doing a wise thing, he is greatly mistaken. There is no crop on the farm the goodness of which depends so much on its being cut when in full vigour, as clover. Cut early, that is, about the 20th of June in these parts, and, again, six weeks afterwards, about the first week in August, the second-crop will be in full bloom and therefore fit to cut. The interval will of course depend greatly on the weather, and so will the bulk of the crop. Some one said at this meeting that the second-cut, when got in good order, is as good as the first! This is evidently not the opinion of English buyers; for, in the London market, the second-crop clover is invariably quoted at \$5.00 a load of 2016 lbs., i. e. 18 x 112, lower than the first-crop. Still, it is a very valuable commodity.

Wheat-seeding in England.—In an extract from an exchange, Dr. Hoskins, of the *Vermont Watchman*, states that the general dose of wheat-seed on an acre of land in England is three bushels. This may have been the case, in fact we know from our personal observation that it was, fifty years ago, but a great change took place as to quantities of seed about the year 1850; Hewitt Davies, Mechi, and others, in spite of the wildness of their theories on this subject, did this much good, that they drew the attention of the farmer to the absurd waste of seed that was going on, and led to a decided reduction in the quantity of seed employed: for fall-wheat especially. When sown in October, wheat-seed rarely exceeds 6 pecks, and an addition is generally made in November of one and two pecks, the great propensity of wheat to tiller in the spring rendering these quantities sufficient. Our own great crop of 83 acres, in 1852, was grown from one bushel of seed to the acre: yield 60 bushels an acre; but the land was full of dung, it having belonged to a man who kept a large stable of post-horses. No manure was given to the wheat-crop in this case, except 100 lbs. of nitrate of soda and 336 lbs. of