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Table of Contents

NOTES BY THE WAY:

The root-crop... Potatoes in the U-S... Wheat-seeding... The crops in France, 1893... Letters... Leaders in harness... Headlands... A profitable beast... Trotters... Barns and tuberculosis... Top-dressing wheat... Fat and food in milk... Judging cattle... The Dunham Farmers' Club... Tanning fertilisers on potatoes... Our engraving...

CORRESPONDENCE:

On Ayrshire cattle... FORTAL LETTER...

THE POULTRY YARD:

The Aymer meeting... The spread of knowledge... Are similar meetings held elsewhere?... Back to poultry...

THE FARM:

Machine-planting potatoes... Ensilage clover... The silo... Stock-foods... Timothy... Some shorthorn reminiscences... Feeding steers... Root-growing (by the editor)—III... The mangel... Cleaning land... Drilling up land... Manure... Singling roots... Dung...

THE DAIRY:

Dairying... Winter-dairying, improvements in... Choice of foods... A... for information on feeding oats... Temperature of cream for churning... Rich Guernsey milk... Winter-feeding of cattle...

ORCHARD AND GARDEN:

Montreal Horticultural Society... Hints on planting Fruit-trees... The history of the rose... Winter meeting of Pom. Society... Tomatoes in the greenhouse... ON INCREASING THE FERTILITY OF WORKING FARM-LAND...

THE HORSE:

Breeding draught-horses—III... Showing the colt...

THE FLOCK:

Rape for sheep... Sheep vs. dogs... Winter treatment of breeding ewes...

THE HOUSEHOLD:

The farmer's wife... A child's dress... Parlor games... Nervous children... Useful hints... Work in the laundry... Do you know?... BRAIN-CULTURE... Care of lamps...

Notes by the Way.

THE ROOT CROP.—In another part of this number of the Journal will be found the commencement of a series of articles on the root-crop. This was requested to write by the Department of Agriculture, it being

considered, and in our opinion very wisely, that the cultivation of roots has been too much neglected in this province.

POTATOES IN THE U. S.—The crop of potatoes in the States—1893—was nearly the worst ever grown there, except in that wonderful Aroostook district, where the yield was enormous. Why? Probably because the farmers in that county study the nature of the plant and have learnt how to prepare their land for it. The yield per acre varied from 97 bushels in Maine to 48 bushels in Indiana, the average over the whole of the States being according to the government report, 72 bushels an acre.

WHEAT-SEEDING.—As a general rule, thin sowing of wheat has not found much favour on this side of the Atlantic. It is clearly inadvisable when spring wheat is grown, but on good land, well farmed, there is no reason why a bushel an acre of early-sown fall-wheat should not be sufficient, though, at most of the Experiment-stations in the States, eight pecks of seed were found to give the largest yield. (1) But, then, we must remember that, as a general rule, there is something or other left out in these experiments. It takes a long experience to make a good experimenter; a man must be a good farmer, as well as a well taught scientist, to conduct a series of experiments to a satisfactory end; and the worst of it is the scientists are not farmers and the farmers are not scientists, or else we should not find in the Reports of the Stations such a marvellous statement as the following allowed to pass unnoticed: "Farmyard dung is of little use on heavy land"!

THE CROPS IN FRANCE-1893.—The following are the returns of the yield of the various crops grown in France during the season of 1893. *Meslin* (2) is, we believe, a mixture of rye and wheat. The French measures are converted into English, imperial, and the cwt. is 112 lbs.

Table with 4 columns: Crops, Acres, Bushels per acre, Cwt. Rows include Wheat, Meslin, Rye, Barley, Oats, Maize, Buckwheat, Potatoes, Mangels, Sugar beet, Hop, Tobacco, Hay, from clover, &c., Hay, from permanent grass.

(1) Just about the same as in England. Three bushels are never sown in England, though they may be in Scotland. Dr Hoskins'—Ed. (2) In Yorkshire, called *Maslin*. A mixed cake is called in Scotland, if our memory serves us: a *maslum bannock*.—Ed.

One very striking point in the above is the trifling difference between the mangel and the sugar beet yield: only 560 lbs. to the acre! But, then, the mangel-crop is very small, not quite ten tons an acre. The hay, for such a dry year, seems to have yielded well, particularly the hay from the sown grasses, clover, sainfoin, lucerno &c., but the potato-crop was poor, not 3 tons, or about 105 of our bushels (60 lb.) an acre.

LETTERS.—Says Dr. Hoskins, in the *Vermont Watchman*: "We got some queer letters: all editors do." Do they? We don't. Nobody seems to think it worth while to write to us.

LEADERS.—The leaders in four-hand, unicorn, and tandem are some way from their work; consequently, to pull a pound takes more out of them than the same amount of work takes out of the wheelers. Except on a heavy bit of road, or up hill, the traces of the tandem-leader should be slack, and the bars of the four-in hand or unicorn should rattle. This remark we are led to make because on Saturday, January 20th, we saw a very nicely appointed four-in hand going down that pretty slope in Guy street, between Sherbrooke and St. Catherine streets, with the leaders traces as tight as they could be.

HEADLANDS.—As a general rule, the headlands in this country are defrauded of their rightful due; they are, apparently, supposed to be places for the horses to turn upon, and are neither properly ploughed nor fairly manured. Even when the rest of the field is turned up in the fall—and that is not done too often—the headlands are not touched till spring. Why neglect so large a proportion of your farm, asked we of a Lachine man once? Oh, replied he, we have lots of it! Not so, with Monsieur Guèvremont, of Sorel; his headlands are ploughed every time the field is ploughed; equally manured when the rest is in roots, and when the horse-hoeing of the potatoes and swedes is finished, the headlands are sown with white-turnips, which, in their turn are horse-hoed and singled, yielding pretty nearly as well as the main crop.

A PROFITABLE BEAST.—The Queen's shorthorn heifer, that won first prize at the late Smithfield Club-show, turned out the most profitable beast that has ever been exhibited at any of the fat-cattle shows. The percentage of carcass to live-weight of this wonderful animal was 77.55! The Devons, though pretty bullocks enough, seem to have been lumps of fat, and did not please the butchers, but the polled Angus and Galloways, and the Kyloes, or Highlanders, turned out, as they invariably do, full of marbled lean. Still, the best of all others that was what is turned the "best butcher's beast," was a Sussex, its purchaser telling Mr. Turner, who reports for the *Agricultural Gazette*, that he wondered farmers did not breed and feed more of them. And so it was the common opinion in 1830, since which time, the Sussex cattle have been marvellously improved, their great fault, the hollow behind the shoulder, having been nearly, if not quite, filled up. There was a very good selection of this breed, some years ago, at Mr. Whitfield's, Rougemont. What has become of all that wonderful lot of cattle?

TROTTERS.—The Americans have begun to find out the mistake they have been guilty of in breeding so much for trotting-speed to the entire neglect of size and form. The farms of the Eastern States are full of speedy weeds, undersized, inferior animals, useful for no purpose, and men are everywhere crying out that the business is overdone. Once more, they have to look across the ocean for a remedy and they have found it in the English hackney, of which strain a very large number was imported into the States last year.

BARN AND TUBERCULOSIS.—A voice is heard saying that shutting up a lot of a cattle in a barn is a sure way of promoting tuberculosis. Granted, if the ventilation of the barn is imperfect. But there are so many ways now practised of securing the introduction of fresh air into buildings and at the same retaining warmth, that an ill-ventilated barn or stable is an unpardonable crime.

TOP-DRESSING WHEAT.—The *Country Gentleman*, in a reply to a question, on the propriety of top-dressing fall-wheat when above ground, says that "it is rather a desperate remedy to apply fresh manure to growing wheat," wherein we disagree with it. For, if, as it recommends, "well-rotted dung be applied to the land and ploughed in before sowing," there must of necessity be hollow places left in the land by spring, and the root-hold of the wheat will be imperfect. Top-dressing growing wheat was a common practice in Kent, England, in our younger days, and answered well, but the best crops we ever grew were after clover top-dressed in the first winter, and mown twice for hay. The clover-ley, ploughed once, was rolled with a heavy roller, well harrowed, and then drilled with 6 pecks to the acre. Clover never was allowed to stand for more than one year, as the rotation imperatively required by farm leases was: roots, grain, seeds, wheat; the regular 4-course system.

FAT AND FOOD.—Prof. Cooke, of the Vermont Station, says that "cows that have been properly fed in the barn do not shrink in quality of milk when turned to pasture. They usually increase both in quality and quantity." If this does not imply that you can feed fat into milk, what does it imply?

Again "Hoard's Dairyman," acknowledges that "the great majority of cowkeepers believe that the food eaten has an effect on the per cent of fat in milk, and that there is some evidence to support that belief;" and, it continues, "There is no question with us but that generous supplies of rich food do, in the long run, tend to improve the quality of the milk, but the great preponderance of evidence is that you cannot by any change of food for a few days or weeks make a 3 ozo cows give 5 ozo milk...." True; for the first thing the poorly fed cow has to do with her improved rations is to supply the waste of tissue, &c., caused by being obliged to furnish a quantity of butter-fat from insufficient food.

What says the well known Mr. Woodward, a great feature in the discussion of the New-York Institute meetings. He is a very heavy feeder, buying up thin, young, farrow cows cheap in the fall and expecting to have them into beef by spring, with