

choice specimens this fall with the object of producing seed next year for use the following season.

### Eastern Townships, Quebec, Notes

This season has been an unusual one. A cold, wet April, suddenly burst into summer weather with the advent of May. Seeding was retarded until late in the month owing to excessive rains. There being a heavy rainfall in May, the land became wet and soggy. It was difficult to get on the low-lying lands. These were not seeded until the last days of May or first days of June. Much of the early grain was sown on a wet and impacted seed-bed. When the hot, droughty days of June came this land became baked. Consequently, the early sown grain crop was lighter than that sown later on a better seed bed. The growth of vegetables in May was unparalleled, and there was promise of a bountiful hay crop. It was sadly checked, however, by the drought of June, for day after day the scorching sun, and dry hot winds broken only by one good shower, put all vegetation at a standstill. The pastures became brown and bare, especially in the western parts of the province, and dairymen had to resort to feeding their cows forage crops and grain feeds to maintain the milk flow. In the Eastern Townships proper, this was not so noticeable. No matter how little rain, the pastures are usually fresh and verdant owing to the moist nature of the soil.

#### FORAGE AND ROOT CROPS

Grain is not a staple crop with the Eastern Townships farmer. More attention is paid to the growing of forage and root crops, and these latter they can grow to perfection. West of the Richelieu River, on the flat clay lands, more grain is grown, and a shorter crop rotation is practised. Were we to point to one weakness in the economy of the Eastern Townships farmer, it is, his too long "crop rotation." Perhaps lack of "crop rotation," would be more in order. Frequently we have seen fields that had been "down to grass" for ten years or more giving only a fair return which had a short "crop rotation" been followed, twice the amount would have been realized an acre. They are getting into a short rotation system, however, and the sooner the better for Quebec agriculture.

If the grain reaches 60 per cent. of a crop it is all that we need expect. Though short of the straw, we expect a good quality, as it has been comparatively free from rust, except in a few low localities. A light hay crop, and a lighter grain crop, is the reward of the Quebec husbandman this season. The one redeeming crop and one the farmers have learned to value highly, is the corn crop. 'Tis a bumper crop this season, and few failures are noticed. The writer has already seen samples that measured 15 feet of a stalk, with full ears. Previous to 1908 we could boast of many such. This year again sees a large number of new oshes being erected, principally of the stave make. They will be filled to overflowing, as the corn acreage is about 50 per cent. more than in previous years. This will help the stockmen and dairymen out very materially.

#### DAIRYMEN FARKING WELL

The milk flow dropped quite perceptibly during the latter part of the year. The frequent showers in July, however, freshened up the pastures. This, and the forage crops fed, brought the milk flow up to nearly normal. Good prices have been realized for dairy products, netting the creamery patrons from 85 to 87 cents

and cheese patrons from 92 to 97 cents a cwt. for their milk for the month of July.

Owing to many new shippers the Montreal milk supply has been well maintained all season, and it is only within the past few weeks that the milkmen have complained of a shortage. It is expected that winter prices of milk in the city will be about the same as last year, 22 cents a gallon delivered in the city. While prices of roughage will be lower it is expected the price of grain feeds will be high, if not higher. The condensary at Huntingdon has handled a big lot of milk this summer. Their capacity of 50,000 lbs. per day has been pretty well taxed at times. They have a growing demand for their "Reindeer" brand of milk, and "Jersey" brand of condensed cream, and have difficulty in filling their orders.

We cannot boast this season of overflowing barns, yet we will have sufficient to meet the needs of man and beast. Even though not a full year, our farmers will be in a much better position than last year. The artisan, and many of the urban population. The capital of "Old Quebec" province was the centre of attraction last summer—celebrating the Tercentenary—and can boast of having the greatest pageant ever seen on the American continent. This great event, we trust, will draw the different races into a closer bond of union, and lead our people to a higher degree of citizenship.—"Habitat."

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