

THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

the earliest settlement... French Canadian farmers... tobacco... Montreal... the province of Quebec... the tobacco industry... the climate... the soil... the cultivation... the processing... the export...

coming in contact with each other... It is well for those who can afford it to have a special... The doors should be kept open... but before taking the plants down... it will be advisable to admit moisture... the leaves when slightly damp can be more conveniently subjected to manipulation... Laid on a bench or table the plants are then spread out, culled and sorted... This is the most critical in the preparation of the tobacco... the utmost precaution must be exercised to arrest fermentation at the right moment... so that the proper shade and aroma may be preserved... The bunches, as prepared, are packed into boxes and placed in a cool, dry spot... The leaves of a brown tinge are of the best quality, those of a deep yellow coming next the green, black and whitish ones being of inferior value... From this brief summary of the processes of tobacco raising and curing, as described by Dr. Larocque, it will be seen that, although the industry requires intelligence and attention, there is nothing connected with it which may not be learned by anyone of ordinary capacity... Everything depends on a diligent observation of details, the neglect of which may sacrifice the whole labour of the grower, while, on the other hand, considerable profit may be realized by due care... There are some other instructions to be followed by those who send their tobacco to market, such as relate to the different forms (plug, twist, etc.) which it may be made to assume... Like other plants, tobacco is the chosen prey of certain destructive insects and is also subject to certain diseases... Among the latter is what is known as the 'chancer', which is ascribed to the ravages of a phyto-parasite, which attacks itself to the root and strangles it... Early planting is the best preventive; the only cure is to pluck up the plant attacked... For the ravages of the white worm, tobacco worm and other foes of that kind, the best remedy is watchfulness... Crops may be saved from frost by lighting straw or stuff at nightfall at some distance off so that the wind may carry the heat over the plants... It is of importance that all persons who engage in the cultivation and manufacture of tobacco should be acquainted with the provisions of the revenue law which relates to them... Dr. Larocque has, therefore, thoughtfully appended it to his treatise, so that no one reading it may be at any loss on this point... We have read his little book with much pleasure and profit and can recommend it to those who think of cultivating a plot of tobacco for their own use (which amateurs, even in the city, may easily do), or to such farmers as may choose, for purposes of trade, to devote some of their land and labour to this important industry... Dr. Larocque is also the author of a manual on gardening and tree planting, which has already been reviewed in our columns, and the study of which, we have reason to believe, has been attended with good results... Like advantages, we do not doubt, will follow the observation of the suggestions contained in the little hand-book before us... Montreal Gazette.

THE DEAD MEAT TRADE

Mr. Symes visited Pictou, N.S., and on Tuesday last delivered an interesting lecture on raising cattle for the meat trade with England... This lecture was attended by a large number of the most prominent business men of the town and leading farmers of the county... Mr. Symes being introduced, said: "He had already met several of the gentlemen present, and had spoken to them of his object in visiting Nova Scotia, and he supposed most of those present had read the different addresses given by him in other parts of the Province, published in the different newspapers, and were aware of his object in visiting this country, viz: the establishment of a dead meat trade with England, France and Belgium... Referring more particularly to this part of the Province, he remarked that in travelling through the country he found the farmers belonged to what might be called the 'old school,' not up to the times, do not keep posted in agriculture, literature, in fact he might say belittled the average Russian farmer, and as to comparing them with English, French or German agriculturalists, it would be useless... But he might say that with all this they had the advantage of having a beautiful climate and a fine country, and he hoped that improvement would follow in time... He then referred to the class of cattle raised in this country, comparing them with English cattle... referred to their general appearance—large, bony animals, worked when young, ill fed and poorly sheltered, and pointed out the improvements necessary to enable farmers to raise cattle fit for the business he was engaged in... He then spoke of the advantages to be derived from the dead meat trade in contradistinction to the exporting of live stock, saving on hides, hoofs, horns, etc., etc... How this would foster manufactures, give employment to hundreds, and save the country large amounts of capital... Speaking of sheep raising, he pointed out the advantages this country had for this branch of the industry, and pointed out the different breeds suited for the different localities, breeds suited for the hills, the cross breed Merinos for the hills, and the South Down, Leicester and Val-Ainshires for the lowlands and valleys... He then gave a sketch of the most advantageous manner of raising those different varieties, the benefits derived from good stock, etc... Speaking of the live venture in general, he explained the

natural advantages of Nova Scotia for shipping dead meat to England over the United States and Upper Canada, saving of expenses in freight, railway traffic, keep, loss in weight, etc., and urged our farmers to exert themselves to bring about a better state of affairs in regard to stock raising, by forming societies, working together and using the advantages they possess to make their country prosperous... He spoke in strong terms of the emigration to the North-West and Manitoba... No inducements were offered to keep our young men at home... Nova Scotia is almost unknown to the average farmer in England, whilst Manitoba, the North-West and the Western States of America are well advertised to emigrants leaving the old country... Nothing is ever said of Nova Scotia, no arrangements made to induce emigrants to stop here, and consequently they go through to these countries, where they settle... He then spoke of the arrangements he had made in the other counties—Colchester, Cumberland, etc.—and of the slaughter house just finished in Amherst (the best, he thought, in the Dominion), and of one to be completed in Annapolis, 308 by 60 feet (the most extensive one in British North America)... After again referring to the natural advantages of this country as a sheep raising and cattle breeding locality, the climate, land, etc., he closed by pressing on the farmers the necessity of immediate action and unanimity in work, trusting there would be improvements in agriculture that would develop our natural resources

GRAIN ELEVATING AT MONTREAL

The grain elevating "ring," which has been a standing reproach to this port for years, is evidently to be crushed out of existence at last... Last March a petition, signed by a number of leading citizens interested in the business of the port, was presented to the Governor General and Parliament, drawing attention to the practice of the Montreal Harbour Commissioners in remitting or commutating harbour dues on elevator steamboats, and praying that the Government should take steps to cause the Commissioners to refund the sums illegally remitted... The Government, it is understood, has given the matter due consideration, and the decision arrived at is that the Harbour Commissioners cannot legally commute harbour dues on these steamboat elevators... The amount involved is very large, and may cause considerable embarrassment to the companies interested, one having been obliged to comply with the law, while the other, and more formidable opponent, has had concessions made of years—Star.

THE ONTARIO DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION

A meeting of the committee on dairy products of this association was held in the Walker House, Toronto, on Friday... After informal proceedings the gentlemen adjourned to the City Hall in the evening, where, in the executive rooms, they transacted their principal business... The revision and correction of the price list occupied all the time of the committee, the following gentlemen taking part in the work: Messrs. Thos. Davison, chairman of the committee; J. J. Withrow, president; Jas. Magee, manager and treasurer Industrial Exhibition Association; H. J. Hill, secretary; Messrs. Swan and Park, Toronto Provision Exchange; Thos. Ballantyne, M.P.P., Western Dairymen's Association, Stratford; Messrs. Vandewater, of Foxboro, Derbyshire, Brockville; H. Ashley, Belleville; and J. H. Craig, Toronto, directors of the Eastern Dairymen's Association; and Messrs. Scott and John James, Toronto... A few changes were made in the general price list, all of which the members felt were actually necessary, on account of dissatisfaction last year... After a little discussion about the advisability of having a real cheese factory at the exhibition, the meeting adjourned at ten o'clock.—Evening News.

LOOKING AHEAD ON WHEAT

A writer in the Country Gentleman says: "Whatever may be said of the outcome of the wheat crop, and however it may rule, the wheat crop of 1881 will be a great deal less than in 1879 or 1880, and on the whole prices will advance, though possibly not as much as they should; and therefore he who is fortunate enough to make a great wheat crop in 1882 is pretty sure to have a very good thing... At this time it seems to be important for the farmer to be governed so far as he can by the facts, that in the order of nature there are seasons, or years of large crops and better if not high prices; but owing to certain circumstances not under the farmer's control prices do not always rise, and sometimes do not fall, until the crop has passed beyond the control of the producer... The seasons, in the order of nature, make crops and mar them, and the commercial classes, being the superior force, fix prices to suit themselves

PREPARING DRIED FRUITS FOR MARKET

Apples should be carefully peeled and cored, then sliced or quartered, placed upon frames, then dried in a gentle heat... Unearly or wormy apples should be discarded, or such pieces carefully cut out... Patches may be dried either peeled or unpeeled... If the former, they will best cut fine... If the latter, in halves

cherries must be pitted, and to bring good prices they must be very dry, entirely unmixt with sugar... black raspberries and blackberries are dried whole, and care must be taken that they be unbroken... Dried tea raspberries never sell well... Apples and peaches, to bring the best prices, must be bright and light coloured, to secure this, they must be dried in a dry air... The atmosphere is often so charged with moisture, even in sunshine, that it will take up more very slowly... Such an atmosphere is very unfavourable to the drying of fruit... the juice evaporating so slowly that it decays and darkens the colour... Those who cannot construct drying houses should prepare and dry their fruit upon strings when the air is very dry only, out of doors, or else indoors in a gentle fire-heat and current of air... Apples on strings are objectionable... If dried on strings, these should be removed before the apples are packed... Barrels are the best packages.

THE AMERICAN COAL TRADE

But little can be said in addition to our remarks of last week on the position and prospects of the coal trade... They remain essentially unchanged... Even with the restricted production of the past two weeks, the demand seems to be fairly met, and consequently the accumulations at tide water have not been sensibly reduced... In some few cases the surplus held in cars waiting shipment may have been worked off, while in other cases it has increased... Dealers in this city buy sparingly, for the very good reason that their wants are small, and they find no difficulty in supplying them at schedule rates, and in some cases at a slight concession... Their customers are taking only such quantities as they actually need for the time being: the householder a single ton for cooking purposes, and the manufacturer as few tons as he can get along with... In fact, consumers are not laying in coal, and consequently the dealers find themselves with all the stock they can carry, or care to have at this season, with little or no demand for it... To be sure, there is some demand, as there always will be, but it does not amount to much... It does not afford encouragement to the retail dealer to lay in any additional stock... At the outward things appear to be in the same condition and consequently the demand from that source is a limited one, affected only, and that to a moderate degree, by a possible further advance in freight, which may or may not come in the near future... The question of an advance in prices of coal at tide water ports is being actively discussed... Some are in favour of an advance "all along the line"... Others favour a moderate advance on the "domestic class" leaving steam coals unchanged, while others, again, hold that if an advance is announced at the present time it will be only "on paper," and will not be maintained, that individual operators and "outsiders" are cutting rates now, and an advance by the companies will only give them a wider margin to cut from... It seems quite certain that so long as present prices can be maintained only by restricting production to three days in each week it is, as it were, nonsense to talk of advancing prices... When the demand becomes sufficiently active to require working full time, then prices can be advanced legitimately, and without fear of any unfavourable reaction... From the bituminous regions we hear of steady shipments, but occasional lots have to be sold at a concession from published rates, in order to secure prompt shipment and keep things moving.—The Mining Record.

THE PRODUCTION OF BEER IN THE UNITED STATES

The statistics of the Inland Revenue Bureau show how enormously the production and consumption of beer have increased in the United States within a very short time... In 1870 we produced of fermented liquors 203,813,098 gallons, and consumed nearly the whole quantity, besides more than a million gallons which had been imported... In 1880 the production had increased to 413,760,310, and the consumption to nearly a million gallons more... The most of this liquor was beer and lager beer, and the quantity brewed is yearly increasing at a rapid rate... Though in production our breweries are still far behind those of England and Germany, which annually send out one thousand millions and nine hundred millions of gallons respectively, before many years ours will produce as much as theirs... Already we are far ahead of Austria, which produces only 270,000,000 gallons... Meantime our importation of foreign beer has greatly declined... The quantity was two-thirds less in 1880 than in 1873... Our domestic beer has so much improved in quality that imported beer is now in very small demand... The value of what was brought over last year was only \$683,485, and much of it was the light beer from Bavaria... The English malt liquors are no longer preferred here to any great extent... But we are not yet by any means as heavy drinkers of beer as the English... They consume annually the enormous quantity of eighty-two gallons per head of their strong beer, while Germany's consumption of lager is only twenty-two gallons per head... The milder beverage is apt to breed a depraved taste which only an inordinate quantity can satisfy... How to substitute lager beer for the heavy ale and porter with which so large a share of the English people regularly furnish themselves is, therefore a question which vexes many of the philanthropists of the country, for Great Britain is more cursed with drunkenness than any other nation... The temperance people ought to rejoice that so mild a beverage as lager beer has become the most popular drink of the country... Its increasing use is aiding the cause of practical temperance in the most efficient way, for it may be drunk daily by the majority of people without endangering their sobriety, while the habitual use of whiskey can be resisted in by only a very few without lamentable consequences.—New York Sun.

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ALLEGED ADULTERATION OF JAPANESE TEAS

Consul Stahel writes from Hogo, Japan, a report on the tea trade of 1880, which contains the following interesting passage on the subject of colouring teas in Japan, which will be novel reading to American consumers... I avail myself of this occasion to call the attention of the Department and of American consumers of tea to the fact that most of the teas shipped from Japan to the United States are now artificially coloured... About 1870, consumers began to call for a higher colour than any natural process would furnish, and although this demand was long resisted by the shippers in Japan, and at some loss to themselves yet ultimately it prevailed, and for some years past artificial colouring has been the rule, so that Japan teas, which are naturally of a blackish green colour, are now made to resemble the bluish gray or grayish blue teas shipped from China as "green teas"... The materials used to produce these unnatural shades are not very pernicious, being nothing worse, as a general rule, than indigo and gypsum, but they certainly add nothing to the value of tea leaves for drinking purposes, while they do add considerably to their cost... There is therefore nothing to be said in favour of the practice, except that dealers in America prefer teas of that description... The adulteration will probably continue as long as consumers in America buy teas only according to the appearance of the leaf, regardless of its drawing qualities, and as long as the simple secret of making the infusion is so little understood in our country.

BADNESS IN CIGARETTES.

There are few current delusions that have become so firmly fixed as the trade which claims that the only original cigarette, warranted not to kill or ruin the larynx, is the one wrapped in rice paper... During the last ten years cigarette smoking has grown apace in this country... At the beginning of the war the cigarette was the mark of a foreigner, the Spaniard especially... All the continental nations, however, do most of their smoking in this way... The ready-made cigarette is only a comparatively late invention... It was created in deference to the impatient spirit of the American, who cannot give the time or possibly acquire the skill necessary to roll a cigarette... The address with which this job is done abroad elicits admiration... The great adept was Napoleon III... In the making of this small article that with one hand, the left, he could arrange the tobacco and roll the paper into a condition fit to smoke... This, however, is by no means a rare accomplishment in France, Spain or Italy... It was the American who invented the patent cigarettes, not so much to save the consumer the trouble of making the article as to get a good chance to adulterate them... There is not a cigarette made in America that any man, boy, or woman would smoke if the making and mixture of them could be seen... Every brand makes a loud boast of using rice paper, whereas any one who takes the trouble to examine the rice plant will see at a glance that there is no fibrous consistency in it to make paper of the sort used in cigarettes... Prodigious fortunes have been made and are making, and millions of people are slowly ruining their digestive organs by inhaling the foul stuff wrapped up in the various brands that claim to be pure... Let any smoker of cigarettes subject his tongue and throat to a medical examination after smoking a package of cigarettes... Vitriol itself leaves no more sinister impression on tongue, throat and palate if the cigarette were made of pure tobacco and fairly good papers it would be no more harmful than a cigar... But the greed of trade enters this, like all other enterprises, that spring up to supply sudden demand... A package of twenty cigarettes, which may represent an outlay of three to five cents, the manufacturer exacts twelve to sixteen cents for... There is rarely in a package of twenty as much genuine tobacco as a smoker consumes in one honest puff... It may be safely said that, with one or two exceptions, every cigarette made is a source of violent physical reaction, destructive of vital tissues and the active principle of lurking and insidious diseases, and that it is better to smoke a pound of tobacco in any other form than the pinch mingled with poison that makes up the ridiculously expensive and utterly worthless article of cigarette that holds the market.—Philadelphia Times.

The locust plague is doing much damage in South Carolina.

Lord Lorne has given a number of medals for distribution amongst the scholars of the various educational establishments in Quebec.