

English tick beans—just as fine a crop as we have ever seen growing in England; they were full, well laden and just ripening. This is the only farm on which we have seen this crop raised in Canada. Mr. Irving finds them highly useful for his stock. Here we see the finest Clyde mare we have yet seen in Canada; she is two years old, coming three. We tried to induce him to send her to our Provincial Exhibition, but he prefers exhibiting her in Quebec. His crops are very good; he has just finished his wheat harvest, and has a good crop and good sample. No winter wheat is raised in this locality.

We also go to Lachine and see the fine stock farm of Messrs. T. & J. Dawes. Here are to be seen some of the fastest and finest blood mares, with their colts; also a fine stock of Clyde mares and colts. We see here the largest and best stock of brood mares, colts and young horses that we have yet seen in Canada. Mr. J. Dawes is very proud of his horses. The mares and colts will come round him at his call. What appeared to us remarkable with the colts is that the thorough-breds would come close round him and liked to be petted and to be friendly. They would stand quietly and allow their feet to be lifted, but the Clyde colts would not be friendly and would evade the society of man. Mr. Dawes says he has always tried to treat them with equal kindness, but they never will be friendly, and keep away from him. There has been a blighting wind in this locality that blasted the foliage of some of the forest trees and other vegetation; the grass or grain had not been injured by it.

Mr. Dawes drove us to Ardojowan, the farm of Mr. Andrew Allan, of Messrs. H. & A. Allan. It is near Lachine, and he is making quite a model farm of it. Mr. Allan has leased his farm at the eastern end of the island. Ardojowan was rough, stony, and in some parts swampy. The stones have been collected and solid stone fences have been erected round the farm, and dividing it into fields. One job was let for \$3,000 for the erection of part of the fences. On this farm are to be seen Shetland ponies—real beauties; also some of the best blood and Clyde stallions in this part of our Dominion. Ayrshires rule supreme; butter and milk are more sought for than size and beef. There are but comparatively few that raise Shorthorns. For the richness of butter, even the Ayrshires here have to yield the palm to the

ALDERNEYS.

Mr. Romeo H. Stephens, of Slocum's Lodge, St. Lambert's, has the finest herd of this class that is in this Dominion. Only two or three other parties have pure-bred stock.

On the south side of the River St. Lawrence, and 1½ miles west of Victoria Bridge, a fine growth of ornamental and useful trees may be seen. Enclosed in this grove is a comfortable, spacious and picturesque house, built something after the Elizabethan style. Fruits and flowers are growing in the neatly kept garden as luxuriantly as can be seen in most parts of western Canada, where attempts are made to make home look comfortable. This is the residence of Mr. Romeo H. Stephens, the proprietor of the finest herd of Alderneys in Canada. Mr. Stephens kindly showed us his herd. We never admired this stock as much as when seeing them in their pastures. The beautiful, quiet, gentle animals would come round us almost asking to be caressed, their uniform color being a light dun. They appeared to us almost as handsome as deer for the ornamentation of pleasure grounds. Any one having an eye for delicacy and beauty must admire the appearance of these animals when seeing them among groves of trees or in their pastures, but when exhibited in pent-up, dirty stalls, or amongst a lot of large Durhams

many practical farmers would say, "I would not have such rats on my farm." But there are fair ladies and tasty gentlemen who are admirers of gems of beauty. We noticed, when at the New York State Fair in Rochester, some years ago, a richly attired, handsome lady passing the cattle pens. An Alderney cow put her nose over the fence. The lady stroked its nose with her kid-gloved hand and said: "Oh, you pretty, gentle creature, I should like to take you home with me." We know not if her lordly attendant gratified her wish or not, but there are some ladies and gentlemen who will have some of these Alderneys on their parks when they have seen them as we have out on the green pastures. This class of cows produce the richest and finest-flavored butter. Mr. Stephens informed us that he could sell all his butter at contract at 10 cents per lb. more than the common price for butter. Mr. Stephens has 160 acres and keeps 60 head of Alderneys. The Americans have purchased his surplus stock since his commencement. The price for this class of stock is not as high as it is for Shorthorns; thus the Shorthorns have absorbed the principal attention.

ASTONISHING FACT.

Mr. Stephens said that I was the first Upper Canadian that had been on his farm. He has been there the past ten years, and during that time no farm has changed hands within five miles. His property is worth \$40,000 and his taxes are less than \$10; a building in this city worth \$5,000 is taxed for \$100; the discrepancy is too great, as we are in the same country. A farm in this county worth \$10,000 would be taxed \$30.

When passing through Mr. Stephens' barns and stables, he said: "I will introduce you to a countryman of yours." He threw open his coach-house door and uncovered a handsome phaeton. "There," he said, "that was made by John Campbell, of London, Ont.; he does good work and puts good material in his carriages. I have purchased six carriages of different kinds from him." This speaks well for the London, Ont., manufacturers, to have their carriages in the best families, 400 miles from where they are made.

Many of the habitans, or French farmers, smoke lots of tobacco, but they grow it and sell their surplus stock. One gentleman informed us that they deprive the Government of a million dollars of revenue annually. Many of these Lower Canadian farmers make their own sugar, tan leather, and raise a substitute for tea and coffee; they make their own cloth, boots, harness and even rude implements. They contribute almost nothing towards the revenue of the country, directly or indirectly. They will not sell their lands unless they get double the value for them. They are adverse to all kinds of improvement; they reap the benefits of markets opened for them and the improvements made by public expenditures, and do not pay a tithe of what Upper Canadian farmers pay for the support of the country. Two, three, or even four married women can and do live in one house in Lower Canada; in Upper Canada no hive can have more than one queen.

The French here are a contented, happy people. The cure or priest directs them. The laws are the same as with us, but custom is greater than law. A farmer cannot sell his farm without the consent of the cure. If a farm is worth \$5,000, and there are ten children raised, each child must have the tenth part of the value of the farm.

Hay appeared to be the main crop in the parts through which we passed. The spring wheat was cut and carried in the vicinity of Montreal; on our return, the farmers were in the midst of reaping in the vicinity of Whitley and Oshawa.

The best farms we visited in this part of our

Dominion were furnished with wind pumps, and the farmers spoke most laudatory of them. One has his so arranged as to water his stock in the stalls the coldest days of winter. Our western farmers will adopt them as soon as they become generally known. The high rate formerly asked by our Canadian manufacturers prevented their acceptance; now the price is such that any good farmer can afford one.

We must leave some remarks for our next issue, as we have given instructions for a cut to be made of a farm in Quebec.

Straw as Fodder.

The North Lanark Agricultural Society, in their report, say: "From what we could learn, hay, as a rule, is light." Nor is this complaint limited to one locality. We have similar reports from many parts of the country. We have to add to this deficiency in the hay crop that the oat straw is also shorter than usual. We are pleased, however, to find that the advice repeatedly given in the *Advocate* has been followed by many—that of sowing Hungarian grass and millet to make up the deficiency. Where such heavy crops of millet can be raised with so little labor, in a few months, the provident farmer need be in no want of fodder for his stock.

Straw is by many very little valued for fodder. In some places it is left to be trodden under foot by the cattle in the farm yard, and cast out sodden and not half decomposed, as manure. Now, all this is mere waste. There is no article on the farm more wasted than straw, and it can all be turned to good account. We invariably fed our store cattle on straw, and we always found good straw equal for feeding purposes to middling hay. When the grain crop is cut before it is too ripe, and the straw well saved, fresh and bright, store cattle will thrive on it. When properly harvested and in good condition, it contains of nutriment from twenty to forty per cent. It contains about five times more fat-forming elements than white turnips. Oat straw contains nearly thirty per cent, as much fattening matter as hay, and more than seventy per cent, as much flesh forming matter.

Next to pea haulm, oat straw is the most nutritious; next in value is wheat straw, and then barley straw. Rye straw also is very nutritious, but it is so much used for industrial purposes in the vicinity of large towns, as to sell for higher prices than hay. The analysis of straw shows that it is rich in fat-forming elements and deficient in those that are flesh-formers; therefore the food to be fed in addition should be rich in flesh-formers. There is no other food so good for the purpose as linseed meal, and when flax is more generally cultivated in the country, the meal or cake may be used with profit for feeding. But for the present we may well dispense with its use, till we find it necessary to supply the increasing demand for beef. Meantime we can bring our stock through the winter, even if hay be scarce and dear, by feeding with straw and roots; for though it is by itself a valuable fodder, capable of sustaining store cattle throughout the winter, if properly saved, its value is much increased when supplemented with food rich in those elements in which it is deficient. We fed with it, in our stock farming, turnips, mangolds and cabbage, and our cattle, though they got no hay, were, when turning out to grass in May, always in good condition, healthy and thriving.

Straw is fed out with greater economy if it be first run through the straw cutter. There is then no waste in its use, as the little that is left in the manger is required for litter for the cattle, and for this it will be sufficient if the floor of the cow house be properly formed.