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DE OMNIBUS REBUS.

Box 23, Sorel, Que. October 4th 1886.

Headlands.—A very striking point in the economy of the farms in this neighbourhood is the manner in which the *headlands* are treated. As a general rule they seem to be regarded as necessary encumbrances, hardly worthy of attention, and, in fact, troublesome features to which the eye of the inspector should be charitably closed. People do not seem to understand that a foul headland will, sooner or later, infect the whole piece. The harrows in turning will drag out small bits of couch-grass, roots of docks, and other rubbish, and spread them all over the field. I have a farm present to me which is an awful example of this fault. In one division, more especially, the headlands are very numerous; I really

believe they occupy one-eighth of the superficies, and in comparison with the remaining seven-eighths, they return next to nothing for the labour expended on them. The field is 120 yards long; there are three headlands in it, and all three were, at my instigation, sown with buckwheat, as it was hopeless to attempt to sow them with the regular crop in April and June, when the wheat and the swedes were put in. These two crops were excellent, but the headlands were so foul with couch-grass and thistles, that the buckwheat was a complete failure. The soil is a fine sandy loam, in good condition, and, if attacked in the proper season, very easy to work. I say, in the proper season, because if the preparation of the headlands be left till the busy time of spring, it will, almost infallibly, be neglected.

It may be laid down as a law, that every time the main body of the field is ploughed, the headlands should undergo the same treatment, and the same with grubbing and harrowing. But more than that: in fall-ploughing, according to my ideas of good farming, the headlands should be first *split* and then *gathered*. This would bring the land into good shape for drainage-furrows, and would have the additional advantage of leaving all the weeds on the top, where they would be easily dealt with by the harrows in the following spring.

Again, where land is in root-crops, or corn, nothing is more common than to see the headlands left untouched all the summer! This should not be, for the benefit they would derive from aeration, &c., by successive stirrings during the growth of the crops is quite as necessary to them as to the other part of the field, and even more necessary, as they generally have to depend for their manure upon any chance morsels dragged out from the drills by the horse-hoe, and by the subsequent operations of ploughing and harrowing.

I do not propose that in all cases where root-crops are grown the headlands should be sown. The horse-hoeing would