

ishment of Government stations in those countries. Their consumption of these manuring substances now exceeds that of the British Isles, and, through the spread of scientific knowledge on the continent of Europe, the very small farmers now seek the aid of the chemist. The increased production thereby secured may greatly account for the increased import to England of agricultural produce, and consequently to the low range of prices that have ruled in our markets, and last year's extraordinary harvest in America may be in no small degree referred to the use of phosphates, potash, and nitrogen on areas that, by a system of exhaustive culture, were becoming sterile. The conclusion of the whole matter may be summed up in these recommendations:—1. Seek for phosphatic plant food in superphosphates or in bone manure, if priced fairly; 2. for nitrogenous plant food in nitrate of soda or in sulphate of ammonia, 3. and for potassic plant food in kainit or muriate of potash; and, finally, buy with a guarantee, and seek the advice of the chemist appointed by this chamber.

Mr. J. B. Ellis moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Brown for his very instructive and exhaustive paper, and asked what was the action of nitro-plants. Mr. Brown stated, and other chemists said, that the nitrogen to these plants was absorbed from the air. But he could say from his practical experience that with a little addition of nitrogenous matter to the land the vetches and clovers of Norfolk would be of much greater bulk than they otherwise are. Beans on heavy soil were made more bountiful by the addition of muck. If they followed science too closely without going into practical trials also they might be led somewhat astray by the chemist, and find that they were not so well off at the end as at the beginning. (1)

Mr. C. Cozens-Hardy seconded the vote of thanks.

Mr. Brown said he always regarded muck as a potash manure, for there was considerably more potash than ammonia in farmyard refuse. Farmyard manure contained potash and lime. Vetches, in his opinion, required potash. When he grew vetches in pure sand in pots there was scarcely any difference in the growths of the plant in pots in which there was no nitrogen and in the plant grown in pots to which nitrogen was added.

The Chairman expressed his gratitude to Mr. Brown for the singularly instructive and interesting paper he had read, which had the great advantage of being thoroughly practical. He said he had thought that Mr. Brown would probably have told them something about the evidence he and Mr. Sapwell gave before the Royal Commission on the adulteration of feeding stuffs; but, perhaps, he would do that on some future occasion. He fancied the English people were getting into the habit of depending too little upon themselves, and too much upon what the Government could do for them. He learned from Mr. Sutton that a very excellent Act, in the passing of which he took great interest—the Food and Drugs Act—was not put into force in the county of Norfolk as it ought to be; and, indeed, he might say generally that legislation was frequently disappointing because of the difficulty of enforcing it. Even in the case of the Agricultural Holdings Act, it was not so much the Act that was at fault as those who had to administer it.

The resolution was carried, and Mr. Brown briefly acknowledged the vote of thanks.

#### A short Trip through some of the Parishes North of Quebec

I have lately had the honor to be commissioned to visit several of these in the interest of Agricultural progress and I am surprised to find that in the Laurentide range there are such admirable facilities for dairy and sheep farming. The

(1) Bravo!

intervalles are rich in alluvial deposits which extend far up the hill sides producing abundant crops of herbage, in many cases, naturally, and where they have been seeded, with proper permanent pasture in meadow grasses. They were as fertile and productive as could well be desired. If the farmers go on progressing, as many of them now are beginning, this region will be as productive as that which has been considered more favourable to farming in other counties. The mountains are well wooded and many of them give shelter to the lowlands and keep up a more uniform degree of temperature than on large flat surfaces of country.

It is in these places where the silo and the butter factory would be of the greatest advantage. Being far removed from the market and having only distant communication by railway, it is necessary they should deal in as portable articles as possible, and feed all the animals they can, so as to give them a good stock of manure which the more fortunate dwellers in city suburbs can easily obtain, but which they can only have by making it; and then have the produce of their stock turned into articles for consumption, the freight on which will be an inconsiderable item of expense in comparison to its value in the market.

It is in such localities that the lecturer can do the most good, because their lack of easy communication with the outer world precludes the possibility of the people being as intelligent on any subject as those who are in daily contact with men of business, and hence they are more likely to go on in the old jog-trot way of their forefathers, while those with better opportunities of acquiring knowledge leave them as much in the rear as is their parish as to its position on the map.

In most, in fact, in all the places I visited, I found the farmers received the information I had the pleasure to offer with avidity and full appreciation of my advice, but complained of their inability to follow it for want of means. This I had to overcome by recommending them to begin a better method of farming on a small scale, improve a small patch of land, however small, thoroughly, and then proceed as the means of doing so came to them, which they certainly would.

One man, especially, was deeply interested in the silo system, and wrote me a letter suggesting that it would have been well for the executive to have offered a bonus to the first man who would build a silo in each parish instead of a premium to the best. How far his ideas are correct I leave to wiser heads than mine, but I am certain that these men of all others ought to be encouraged to build silos and grow suitable forage, because that is the only means in these isolated places by which their condition, as farmers, can be materially improved.

GEORGE MOORE.

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