

Gascony, Italy, and of those that grow "on the slopes of the sunny hills round Heidelberg." It is a fact as mysterious as that the barley-grain, with not a particle of apparent sweet taste about it in its natural state, should, after malting, contain 15 oyo of sugar; but this, science explains as the effect of the *diastase*; the other is, at present unexplained.

It is certainly an advantage to have the command of a fair amount of capital in entering upon a new business of any sort; but of all cases in which it is advantageous, commend me to farming. Now, Mr. Dawes is one of the fortunate ones; and a slight glance over his land will not be out of place. You see, he had the additional chance of having been brought up on a farm, too, as every one knows who has seen the Lachine estate; and, thus, when he bought his St. Anne's property, he knew how to set about its improvement, instead of wasting time and money both, as so many wealthy people have done, in learning the business, thereby retarding, instead of advancing, the cause of agricultural improvement, and defeating the very object it was their amiable and patriotic intention to promote.

A German would tell us that the proper way to build a stable and barn is, to evolve from our inner consciousness the perfect idea of the erections, and then make them. But the inspection of other people's failures have led Mr. Dawes to his own success: and a successful end he has arrived at. I do not believe that it is possible to find a more thoroughly economically set of buildings in the Province. I see only one fault: the width of the passage behind the stalls is hardly sufficient. There is one peculiarity: a *siló*, 24 feet long, 16 feet wide, and 16 feet deep, entirely of stone, and sunk in the hill-side, with its door opening into the very passage at the head of the cows-stalls, may certainly be called a peculiarity in this year of grace, 1881. Two and a half acres of Indian corn, not chaffed, I am sorry to say, were placed in this pit, in September, and well trodden down by horses. After its completion, covering with boards and stones, the contents subsided about three feet; and when I visited it, on the 9th of October, a fruity smell, something not unlike the smell of a freshly turned piece of malt, was the only odour perceptible. Mr. Sidney Fisher's siló, at Knowlton, turned out a failure. It seems to have been made of boards, and not to have been air-tight. However, first attempts of this sort seldom succeed; and it is, perhaps, as well that they should not, or else the unimproving farmers would have nothing to laugh at. Mr. Dawes ought to have conducted his trial in perfect agreement with the rules laid down by the precursors in the system. It is possible that there may be too much air retained between the stalks, and, as has happened more than once to beginners in the States, the whole mass may be decomposed by its action. I hope not; for I devoutly believe that we are on the eve of an entirely new way of preserving the whole of our winter provision of cattle food—clover will no longer be made into hay, but buried and all its wonderful goodness preserved. Late as the clover was cut here this year, there is more than one tolerable piece of second-crop to be seen; but had it been siloed, say, on the 12th of June, I verily believe that, on these quick soils, even three crops might have been saved; and saved in spite of the weather, too; nay the worse the weather for hay making, they better the succeeding crop for the siló.

As I knew Mr. Dawes had only had his farm about 18 months, I was surprised to see the quantities of boulders that had been extracted by dynamite. Some of them were monsters, and must have weighed several tons each. His outlay in this operation must have been considerable; but here lies the advantage of capital in the hands of a practical man: the land was comparatively useless; the expense, if the work were spread over a number of years, would be the same; but done at once, the profit begins at once, and the gain in additional crops, to

say nothing of less wear and tear to implements and horses will far more than compensate for the trifle of interest saved by less immediate outlay. It is too much the habit among farmers, in this province, to imagine that they pay no rent. Nominally, they do not; but in reality the interest on the purchase-money of the farm is its rent. A farm that costs \$400, when money is at 6 oyo, should be debited with \$240 a year, and this is *rent*, which must be made off it before a farthing of *profit* can be claimed by its owner. If by the outlay of a couple of thousand dollars the land can be made to yield a materially additional crop, it is clear that the sooner the outlay is made the better, for there will be a longer period for reaping the benefit. Hence, to a man with \$4,000, 75 acres will, infallibly, be a more profitable investment, than 150 acres, all other things being equal.

Stones carefully gathered off the mowing land; fences neatly kept; a sound road; drains round the buildings; perfect absence of weeds among the root crops; and the plough started to work the moment a crop is off the ground; these are the principal things that strike one in going over this farm. The rye after corn, is already up, and looking well. It is to be ploughed-in next spring, but I should prefer its being fed off by sheep; for this light, shattery soil demands *à grands cris* the pressure that nothing can give like the little pointed hoofs, to say nothing of the dung and urine the sheep behind them. Rape with superphosphate, might follow, and feeding off the two crops would leave the land in perfect condition for grain and grass.

There is a fine piece of long red mangels, and a fair one of yellow globes; but the plant is uneven, and so it is with the white and red carrots. There seems to be no drills that sows these seeds with regularity, and I must say that, considering the small average of roots grown on these farms, I should sow the seeds by hand, having previously stepped them for 36 hours, and allowed them to *chip*. The drill which works with a lot of tiny cups on the periphery of a disc is the only one to be depended on for sowing such rough seeds as mangels, turnips, and carrots; where they have to pass through a hole, they are sure to cling together and choke the passage up. The swedes were persecuted to such an extent by the fly, that they never got a chance to grow.

There is a stump pasture, black earth, at the North end of Mr. Dawes' farm, which is to be cleared up next spring. With a fair dressing of bones, it would grow rape up to the horses' bridles; and this, fed off by sheep, would establish it for ever, at least for two grain- and half a dozen hay-crops. I hope its owner will not go to much expense in carting the peaty soil about for compost. The cost of this expended in bones, or in superphosphate, would prove much more remunerative.

Two or three very good Ayrshire heifers, a good Berkshire boar and two young sows, and a superb South-down ram, from Lord Walsingham's stock, are the most taking specimens of Mr. Dawes' stock. The ram, lately bought at Guelph, is a very superior animal; long and growthy, with a good shoulder, neck, and true character of head, he will not be beaten next year at Mile-End. I don't see any fault about him, though his rumps might be a little extended without any disadvantage. The wool is all right, and he is evidently a sheep of a strong constitution, and fully as large as the descendants of Jonas Webb's flock usually are, that is to say, about one third larger than the general run of Sussex sheep.

ARTHUR R. JENNER FUST.

An experimental Silo.

To the Editor of the Journal of Agriculture.

Dear Sir.—Having read a great deal about the method