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Notes by the Way.

Butter.—Who makes the butter at the Compton Agricultural School, we do not know, but judging from the samples we have tasted he should travel and give lessons round the country. Anything more perfect, in flavour, firm, and fracture, we have never met with since we first came to Canada.

Bacon and hams.—By the subjoined report of the London market prices for these articles, the vast difference between "Best Irish, lean sizeable" bacon and the same quality, as regards size and leanness, of Canadian, appears clearly enough. The prepara-

tion must be in fault. Fancy, too, the American ham of heavy weight being worth only 46s., and special brands of Irish 108s. the 112 lbs. All those who can get the chance should consult M. Gigault's Report on his European tour, in which the Asst. Commissioner of Agriculture fully treats this important subject.

Bacon and hams.—London, Friday.—

Irish bacon, although in fair demand, has ruled easy owing to large supplies, while Continental, although in better demand, is still quiet, with prices slightly better. Irish, lean sizeable, 48s. to 50s.; best, 52s. to 54s.; stout, sizeable, 42s. to 46s. Danish, lean, No. 1, 48s. to 50s.; best, 52s., and exceptionally 56s.; No. 2, 45s. to 47s.; best, 49s.; No. 3, 44s. to 45s.; best, 48s. Canadian, lean sizeable, 36s. to 39s.; fat and heavy, 35s. to 37s. Ham's—Irish being scarce for small sizes, has had a better trade for medium and large at 70s. to 74s.; small, 78s. to 84s.; special brands, 86s. to 98s. and 108s. American are quoted 47s. to 50s. for light, and 44s. to 46s. for heavy, both long and short cut.

Seeds.—The price of seeds in England, and that we need hardly say governs the general price throughout the world, is, we regret to say, likely to be very high. There was a very short acreage of clovers, many pieces of which the great drought of 1893 had left thin in plant and therefore full of weeds. The rainy spring of 1894, followed by a wet early summer, produced an enormous growth of everything, but the only really fine samples of clovers grown were after the first crop was fed off by sheep and the sheep were removed early. So red-clover and cow-grass (t. pratense perenne) must be very dear.

Alsike suffered from the wet season, and the only seeds that seem to have turned out well are the sainfoin, both common and giant. On land that has a notable proportion of lime in it, the common sainfoin should be more extensively tried here. It lasts from 6 to 10 years, and is a great favorite with all kinds of stock. As the first year's crop is always shy, a few pounds of common trefoil, or hop-clover, should be sown with the sainfoin.

Rape seed, we hear, was a large crop, and as the dripping season of '94 brought as a consequence an enormous bulk of grass, but little demand existed for rape-seed, so the present prices for it are lower than they have been for years.

Vetches or tares are very cheap, as cheap now as they were dear a twelve month ago. The large spring-tares are the kind we find answer best in the country. The small black "lentil," yields but little herbage.

Manures.—The following are the prices of fertilisers in Liverpool. We have reduced the terms to Canadian weights and currency;

Table with 2 columns: Fertiliser name and Price. Includes Nitrate of soda per 2,000 lbs. at \$40.00, East India bone-meal at 21.75, Superphosphate (26 o/o soluble) in bags at 10.00, and Superphosphate (35 o/o soluble) in bags at 13.00.

The English quotations given here are liable to misapprehension. The value of superphosphate mainly depends on the percentage of "soluble phosphate" present. By this term, analysts do not mean "monocalcic phosphate," but the quantity of tricalcic phosphate rendered soluble. All kinds of superphosphates sold in England are, un-

less otherwise described, mineral phosphates prepared with sulphuric acid and contain nothing else but lime, phosphoric and sulphuric acids. The sulphuric acid and the lime form land plaster, as we call it here. Superphosphate, 26 o/o soluble, contains a trifle less than 13 o/o of soluble phosphoric acid. Of course, considering freight and other expenses, any one importing superphosphates from England would do well to invest his money in that kind containing the highest percentage of "soluble phosphate."

Table with 2 columns: Fertiliser name and Price. Includes Kainit, 23 o/o potash at \$10.50, and Basic-slag, 28 to 35 o/o total phosphates at 8.00.

Autumn is the season at which both Basic-slag and Kainit should be sown, as they are slow actors. Basic-slag, from all accounts, seems to suit sour, wet land, newly drained bogs, and sandy soils. From 5 to 7 cwt. an acre is the proper dose, and its action will last over several seasons.

Singling root crops has always been a terror to those who have not seen the work done in countries where it has been the custom for many years. If a Scotchwoman can single an acre of roots in two days, and if our Sorel friends can do an acre for \$2.50, there is no great expense incurred in the operation. For allowing 18 tons an acre to be a fair crop of swedes, and a ton to contain 47 bushels, we have a total of about 940 bushels, the singling of which will have cost rather more than 2 1/2 cents a bushel. Mangels cost no more and carrots may cost 3 cents, and they are well worth it. M. Seraphin Guévremont's crop of swedes at Sorel certainly ran to 1400 bushels an acre, and cost at the above rate 1 1/2 cents a bushel to single. The horse hoe being kept at work, and the drills having been well levelled, any man can get over an acre of the second hoeing in a day if he will keep the row of plants between his feet, and make one cut of the hoe on each side and one in the interval between each two plants. The provoking thing here is that on farms where the hand-hoeing is otherwise well done, the men will persist in hoeing all the ground, whereas the space between the rows of plants should be left entirely to the care of the horse-hoe. Men do not like the singling at first, as it seems to them "niggling", or as my French-Canadian man at St-Hugues called it, "s-é petite cochonnerie," but they soon get used to it, when once they have seen what comes from it. If Dr Hoskins would do us the honor to read attentively the articles we published last year in this periodical on root-growing, we cannot help thinking that a good deal of the difficulty he has hitherto encountered in this—to us at least—the most fascinating branch of farming, would vanish.

A correspondent asks us whether it would not be much better if dairy farmers should make more of root-growing. His note was probably written before reading our remarks on the subject in a recent issue. We were for a long time a good deal interested in root-growing for dairy purposes, and we still recognize the great and manifest desirability of roots on the farm for many uses in the way of feed. Nevertheless, we have to consider more and more the drawbacks attending the culture, storing and feeding of roots in so cold a region as northern New England. And besides that, Americans have not the knack of the long experienced British farm hand in growing and cultivating roots

cheaply, even if we had as cheap labor, as they have, and so good and handy a market for the ultimate products. Englishman or Scotchmen, in Vermont, (and prominently our friend Aitken of the Billing's farm in Woodstock, have managed to make root-growing for dairy cows a success, but we think Mr. Aitken must have found it pretty hard to drill a Yankee farm hand into "singling" the young turnips and mangels with a hoe. And then, when this trained man leaves, all that instruction has to be gone over again! When root have to be thinned on the knees, as most Yankees do it, we hardly think they pay.

Bad Farm-water.—When we first went to live at Sorel, the well on the Fosbroke farm was being used for the cattle; the smell of the water drawn from it was something awful. Of course we had it closed at once, and supplied other drink to the stock. Without going quite so far as Prof. Shutt in the annexed extract, we feel perfectly certain that many heads of cattle, aye, and many human beings, fall victims to the use of well-water contaminated with oozeings from cattle-sheds and cess-pools.

BAD FARM WATER.

ITS AVERAGE DEGREE OF VILENESS DEALT WITH BY PROF. SHUTT.

Gananoque, January 5.—At Thursday's meeting of the Eastern Ontario Dairymen's Association there was a very much greater attendance than the previous day. The town was so filled with dairymen that the hotels could not accommodate more than half the crowd. Prof. Shutt's address, dealing with science in dairying, was confined chiefly to an analysis of the constituents of milk and their application in the produce of milk. Referring to recent tests of water used on farms, he made the astonishing statement that on the average it was very bad, and in many cases in all truth he told farmers to use their well water as a liquid manure instead of drinking it. Mr. Gould's address on "How to Grow and Save Silo Corn," at the afternoon meeting was well received.

Prof. Dean's (of the Guelph Agricultural College) recent experiments with milk made by the college, to endeavor to arrive at fairest way of paying patrons for their milk at the factory, were very interesting.

Hops.—We thought our Kentish farmers knew all about hop-growing, and they themselves, doubtless, held the same opinion. But, of late, it seems that science has been at work on this plant, and experiments have been carried out in the Mid-Kent district to see if there is any means of improving the quality of the hop by the use of artificial manures. The hop-crop this year yielded prodigious results, but foreign competition has lowered the prices to such an extent that there is a talk of grubbing many of the gardens, and considering the enormous cost of cultivating an acre of hop-land, unless some way can be found to lessen this, the growing of this plant will have to be abandoned.

The manures used in the past were: dung, rape-dust and shoddy or wool-waste; all highly nitrogenous, but, on the whole, wanting in phosphoric acid. Now nitrogen will most likely produce bulk, but quality depends in a great measure on the phos-