the Seminary of St. Hyacinthe. I have prayed for this chair for eight years, and I trust that much good may be derived from this gentleman's labours.

Singling root-crops.—Mr. Tuck, of the Dawes' farms, tells me he has men who single a half-acre a day of swedes or mangels with ease. Wages here are $1.25 per acre a day, so the job costs $2 50 an acre, ten cents less than it costs M. Séraphin Guèvremont. I can vouch for the work being well done.

Sugar-corn.—The Messrs. Dawes are in the midst of an enormous harvest of corn. The average height of the maize is 11 feet; it stands very thick—thirty inches between the rows, and 6 grains to the foot—; the cobs are formed, and in the silk, but not much seed yet, though by the time the last piece is cut, a great advance will doubtless be made towards ripening.

A binder was sent, on trial, to cut this immense crop, but it was utterly incompetent, though a beautifully constructed implement. The work is being done by men with reaping-hooks, and a long job it will be. Three-fourths of the corn must be dried and stacked in some w y. for, as I mentioned last month, there is only silo room for about 250 tons. The dairyman, a most intelligent French-Canadian, told me, last week, that, judging from the quantity of silage consumed last year by the stock, there would be, this year, on the 40 acres, enough corn to last the whole of the cattle—150 head of horned stock, besides more horses than I can count—for two years!!! The silage-harvest began *August 29th.* (1)

The acre.—Talking t a Scotch farmer the other day, he told me that, in his opinion, too little seed was generally sown here: "My father used to sow, in Scotland, eight bushels to the acre." My friend, however, did not seem to know that the Scotch acre is a very large one—five roods, whereas the imperial acre contains only four. The three superficies, commonly called *acres*, here, measure as follows:

Scotch acre.....	54,450	square feet;
English acre.....	43,560	" "
Arpent.	36,801	" "

Thus, 8 bushels to the Scotch acre, would be $6\frac{3}{10}$ to the English or imperial acre, and $5\frac{3}{10}$ to the arpent.

But when my friend's father was in the habit of using this monstrous quantity of seed, he sowed it by hand: a good drill saves about a bushel an acre, and this lowers the seeding to 7 bushels or rather less. The climate of Scotland, too, does not push the growth of grain along as does ours in the South of England, and still less is it as conducive to early maturity as the Canadian climate; consequently, *tillering* is not desired in that bleak country, but the grain, sown thickly, runs through its different stages as rapidly as the season will allow, and the skilful farmers of the North, finding their profit in it, still sow thicker than elsewhere.

Stephens, in his Book of the Farm, almost the only work on agriculture I possess, speaking of this, says:

"The quantity of common oats usually sown is 6 bushels to the acre; and in deep, friable land in good heart, 5 bushels." Now my Scotch friend, argues very forcibly in favour of what seems to me to be, in this climate, an agricul tural heresy, viz., that good land in good heart should be seeded thicker than poor land in poor condition. I, and Mr. Tuck, a man of great and long experience in this country, hold with Stephens, that more seed is required on poor land than on rich, because the plant, all other things being equal, will tiller in the one case and will spindle up at once in the other. On land full of dung, as are the farms Mr. Tuck superintends, I conceive three bushels of oats to be sufficient for an imperial acre, stipulating of course that the seed be properly cleaned, and not used as it comes from the threshing-machine. Barley *must* be sown thick, if intended for the maltster, as the grain of it tillers always presents an uneven sample *that does not grow equally on the floors. I should* not advise less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ bushels an acre of the 4-rowed and 3 bushels of 2-rowed barley.

Stacks.—Twenty acres of second cut clover are now on the ground at the Décarie farm, rented by the Messrs. Dawes.

As every barn is full on all their farms, this must compel the putting of the hay, when made, into one or more stacks, a process I shall watch with great interest. As Mr. Tuck was born and brought up to manhood on a farm at Ware, Hertfordshire, within 25 miles of London, he cannot fail to know how to build a haystack. By the bye, a question was asked in an English agricultural Journal the other day, as to the greatest heat a stack of hay would bear without catching fire. The reply was, that up to 200° F. there was no danger, but that the heat should never exceed that. Individually, I should prefer 160° F. as the maximum. Hay is such an enormous crop this year that it will be low in price, though first-rate quality is never difficult to sell. Had I a lot of *really good hay—more than I required for my stock I mean* —I should feel inclined to keep it over the year, feeling sure that within eighteen months it would fetch its price. It is high time we learnt the value of *old* hay. (1)

Beans or haricots. I have just done harvesting my beans, and a troublesome job it was. Owing to the continued rain the haulm had elongated itself to as much as 9 feet in places, and the bother of separating the entanglement of the pods without pulling them off was very great. I persist in thick sowing: $2\frac{1}{2}$ bushels an acre, in rows 24 inches apart, and I am quite satisfied with the result.

Fertiliser work.—Mr. Cooke, of Vermont, at the meeting of the American Agricultural College Association, last month, holds, with me, that the stations established in the U. S. for experi nental purposes have wasted and are wasting a great deal of time and money in unfruitful work. "Mr. Chairman," said he, "while we are on this subject I would like to have somebody devise some way of getting rid of the everlasting fertilizer work which each State is going over, *the same thing again and again every year.* If there is any feasible plan of cooperation, I should think it might be tried on this question. A great deal of money is wasted in this work."—Am. Ag. Coll. Ass.

That an *experiment station should always be ready to* analyse samples of manures and cattle-foods for all applicants, is one thing, but that they should keep on publishing monthly or quarterly bulletins upon such subjects as we have seen treated lately, is another. Nobody reads these pamphlets, and even if they were read, they would convey but little information of value to the majority, the very great majority, of farmers. Below, will be seen a couple of specimens of useful work, done by the Chemist of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, Dr Voelcker (*fils*):

(1) Owing to the wet weather and to two or three break-downs of the cutter, I fear a good deal of this immense crop will be lost. The upper 20 inches of the first silo is damaged, having been left uncovered for days. A. R. J. F.

(1) One-half of the 20 acres was carried in the most perfect order; the remainder, owing to the 6 days rain of the middle of September is spoiled. A. R J. F.