



Published for the Department of Agriculture for the Province of Quebec, (official part) by
EUSEBE SENECAI & FILS, 20, St. Vincent St. Montreal.

Vol. IX. No. 9.

MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER 1887.

\$1.00 per annum, in advance.

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OFFICIAL PART.

Table of Contents.

De Omnibus Rebus.....	129
Laves on Wheat and Turnips.....	130
Manures.....	135
Our Engravings.....	136
Dorset Sheep.....	136
Houdans.....	136
The Hay Harvest.....	139
Horse-Breeding.....	139
Feeding Work-Horses.....	140
Clean Potatoes without Hoeing.....	140
Dairy Husbandry.....	142
Liquid Manure.....	142
Soiling crops.....	144

DE OMNIBUS REBUS.

Box 109, Upper Lachine, Que.
July 18th, 1887.

Cheese.—The price of cheese in the English market, immediately upon the receipt of the first importations from this country and the States, fell from 64s. to about 48s. per 112 lbs. Cheese was worth, here, on the 24th June, eight cents a pound for the best, since which date the price has risen about one cent. During the recent scalding weather, great complaints have been made of the cheese melting. (1)

Pasturage.—If constant feeding without manuring exhausts pasturage, how can we account for the obstinate way in which the Downs persist in renewing their verdure every year?

(1) Best cheese is worth to-day (Aug 23rd, 12½ cents a pound here, and 57s. 6d. per 112 lbs in Liverpool. A. R. J. F.

Thousands of acres in extent, these striking features in the landscape of the South of England have been fed, year after year, from time immemorial, by sheep, and not only have they never received a load of dung or a ton of artificial manure, but the very droppings of the sheep have been diverted from them to enrich the arable land at their base! For, the flocks that feed on the downs by day, far from passing the night there, are driven down, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon to fold on the ploughed land in the bottoms, in preparation for wheat, and are not let out again till the dew is off in the morning. And yet the pasture on these Downs is, apparently, as close and rapid in growth as ever! Sheep do as well on them as they did fifty years ago, and far as one can judge, there is no deterioration visible. Now, this is a very wonderful thing, and there is only one way in which I can account for it: is the climate of England, from its constant reception of the salt-laden spray of the surrounding sea, full of some subtle provision for the growth of the finer grasses? There is no clover of any sort on these hills. If there ever was any, which I doubt, the sheep have nibbled its heart out long ago.

This matter of the Downs, coupled with the opinion I quoted from our Gloucestershire tenants last month—that “they would not hear of constant pasturing impoverishing land”—leads one to this conclusion. we have not yet arrived at a thorough scientific acquaintance with the facts which influence the growth of grass.

Shropshires.—Mr. Wood, of Mount Kisco, N-York, has been having a sparring match with a breeder of Shropshires in defence of his own sheep, which are Hampshire Downs. I refer to this, because there has been some misunderstanding about the Shropshires and their status. In the first place, we are wrong in calling them, as we usually do, *Shropshire*