**Rape and other green-fodder.**—*Lathyrus sylvestris*, the flat-pea and *Polygonum sachaliense*, sachaline, have proved to be failures at some of the U. S. stations where they were tried; but, according to the report of the Colorado station, rape yielded very heavily, the *smallest product* of any plot being 22 tons of fodder to the acre! Now supposing a *teo*, i. e., a 6 months' old lamb of any short wool breed, requiring 15 lbs. a day of rape, in addition to a little dry food in the form of clover hay, cake, or grain and pulse, an acre of such a plant should keep 100 tegs for all but 30 days! We have never seen such a product in England; 15 tons to the acre being a very good crop; but only conceive the effect on the succeeding crops of 100 sheep passing the whole of their time for even 15 days on an acre of land! Of course, the flock must be folded carefully over the piece and not be allowed to tramp it down by being turned loose into the field. We still hold the opinion we expressed when, nearly 38 years ago, we arrived in the province; that the *hinterlands* of our long farms will never be properly cultivated until the rape plant is grown on them, and fed off by sheep in the later summer and fall.

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**Club-root or finger-and-toe**, as this disease is sometimes called, we have heard of but never seen in this country. We fancy it generally proceeds from the too frequent repetition of the same crop on the same land. It never affects any other plants than the *crucifera*—cabbage, turnips, rape, &c,—and rejoices in the scientific name of *Plasmadiphora brassicæ*, which, being interpreted, means "a variation in the shape of the *brassica* or cabbage tribe," and a very nasty variation it is. The cure for it seems to be a heavy dressing of lime or potash, at least so says Mr. G Massee, of the Royal Society of England. As the germs of disease remain in the soil and retain their vitality for at least two years, it would be wise not only to omit sowing any turnips, &c., on the land affected for three or four years, but to eradicate thoroughly any weeds of the *cruciferæ* order such as wild mustard, charlock, &c, for the disease profits by them as well as by the cultivated plants of the *same order*. It is probably caused by a fungus.

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**Vetches or tares.**—We are very fond of tares as a fodded-plant, but it has the inconvenience of making the land so loose that the grain-crop succeeding almost invariably goes down. The same defect we have often noticed in England, and the only cure we knew of there is to feed off a crop of rape after it with sheep.

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## FARM-WORK FOR APRIL.

### Treatment of the animals of the farm —Preparation of the land.

If any one imagines that *horses*, kept idle in their stalls and fed upon straw during winter, will be fit to do real work when the stress of spring cultivation begins, he will find his mistake out before many days of ploughing and harrowing are finished.

Horses should be worked moderately in preparation for the spring-campaign, and their food should contain a fair proportion of oats and sound hay; a few pease, say a double handful, twice a day will do them much good: a pity we grow so few horse-beans in the country.

*Cows* are busy calving, on those farms where fall-calving and winter-dairying have not been introduced We repeat, for the tenth time at least, do not let the cow see her calf after it is born. The young one will do very well, covered up with soft straw, without food for, anyhow, 10 hours after birth, and it will not be half so much trouble to teach it to drink from a pail as it would be if it had once sucked its dam. After the second week, the calf will do pretty well on skim-milk with a little crushed linseed (flax-seed) previously steeped in plenty of boiling water. 90° F. to 96° F. is the best temperature for the mixture.

*Ewes* will, in the majority of cases, finish lambing by the middle of the month. Clover-hay, a few oats, and as much water as they will take, if there are no roots, will do for them. Castrate and tail the lambs at from ten to fifteen days from birth. We always select ewe lambs for our own table, for most of the male lambs—or rather, *tegs*—that reach Montreal in the fall are uncut, and the flavour of a ram-teg is anything but nice.

Young *pigs* should not be weaned till they are at least six weeks old. Why not spay the sow-pigs that are not wanted for breeding? Every time the young sow comes into season she loses flesh, and as this happens several times when the pig is from 6 to 8 months old, she is often arrested in her fattening, besides, many a man kills his sow-pig when she is in season, from carelessness or inattention, and that is much more likely to prevent the pork from taking the salt than any influence the moon can exert

*Poultry.*—Well, probably Mr. Gilbert will have something to say about the spring treatment of poultry, so we leave the subject to him.

*Preparation of the land.*—A late spring is before us, we fear; the autumn lasted well up to Christmas and the old Canadian saying is pretty true: If you don't find winter at the month of the sack, you may reckon on finding it at the bottom; however, *some* fall-ploughed land in the western part of the province will surely be fit to work before April is over, and the sooner pease, wheat and oats are in the ground the better chance for a crop. Pease and wheat will stand a lot of freezing *when the seed is well covered*; say 3 to 4 inches deep for pease and 2 to 3 inches for wheat. Black Tartar oats, too, are hardy, but perhaps barley may need a little delay. At all events get grass- and clover-seed sown as early as possible, the great droughts in the States of last summer played the very mischief with all the late-sown seeds.

*Do* try a piece of *lucerne*. If only an acre. All it needs is: land not too heavy; a dry subsoil; and as much dung as you can spare. Do not be afraid of sowing it with spring grain, barley for choice.

Get your dung out down to the very last load, and put it up in well built-piles in or near the fields intended for potatoes and roots.

Use the *grubber* on fall-ploughed land, particularly on light soils, before sowing. And harrow harrow, harrow, both before and after the drill or seeder.

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**Oat-crops.**—Mr. Wrightson, of the Salisbury, Eng., College of Agriculture, writing in the *Agricultural Gazette*, requests his readers to give him an account of the largest yields, per imperial acre, of oats that have come to their knowledge. We ourselves never exceeded 14½ quarters = 116 bushels, and they were not very heavy. Mr. Clare Sewell Read, a well known Norfolk farmer, and ex M. P., mentions a field in that county, the 30 acres of which produced—after swedes fed off—450 quarters = 120 bushels an acre; but the oats—white-Tartars—grown by my dear old friend and farm tutor, Wm Rigden, of Hove, Sussex, on three acres of ground, turned out 525 bushels = 140 bushels to the acre; and this is the largest authentic crop we ever heard of, the 200 and 250 bushels grown (?) in the States being fairy-tales, probably.

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**Bullocks' heads.**—A vast difference between the price of bullocks' heads at Quebec and in England! M Dubord (v. p. 307, Journal for March) only pays six cents a piece for them, and gives them to his laying hens, in England they cost 83 cents (3s. 6d.) each, and the cheeks and palates are often to be seen on our best tables, the remainder of the head being converted into stock for soups We were often shocked, when living at Sorel, at the sight of bullocks' heads kicking about in the butchers' yards as things of no value. Are there no poor in the country to whom such food would be a blessing?

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**Talking of bullocks**, we see a statement in one of the U. S. papers that, in New York, steer-beef is the only beef fit to be eaten! And how about the beef of a maiden-heifer? In England, within easy reach of the London market, we could always sell our Welsh heifers for a cent a pound more than the best steers fetched at Smithfield, and the butchers of the neighbourhood were glad to get them, thereby saving all market expenses, and incurring no risk of loss in transit

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## COMPETITION OF AGRICULTURAL MERIT FOR 1896.

### NOTICE.

The Competition of Agricultural Merit will be held in 1896 in the counties of Bagot, Beauharnois, Brome, Chambly, Châteauguay, Compton, Drummond, Huntingdon, Iberville, Laprairie, Missisquoi, Napierville, Richelieu, Richmond, Rouville, Shefford, Sherbrooke, Stanstead, St-Hyacinthe, St-Jean, Verchères et Yamaska.

In accordance with the regulations of the Council of Agriculture, all those desirous of entering into this competition must file their entry in the Department of Agriculture and Colonisation on blank forms that will be sent to them on demand by that Department.

During the last year or two, certain persons asked the judges to inspect their farms after the competition had been opened, under the pretext that they were not aware before that the competition was to be held in their district.

We are anxious that in future, there should be no misunderstanding on this point, so no entry will be received after the lapse of the delays fixed by the regulations of the Council.

The *Lauréats* who obtained the silver-medal and the diploma of The Highest Merit, in 1891, must not forget that, this year, they are entitled to compete anew for the right of winning the gold medal and the diploma of the Highest Exceptional Merit. Those who, at the above epoch, only won sufficient marks to entitle them to the bronze-medal with the diploma of Great Merit or of Merit, may likewise compete again this year.

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## COMPETITION OF AGRICULTURAL MERIT 1895.

### REPORT OF THE JUDGES.

*(Continued.)*

#### HOUSES.

As is evident by table of marks awarded, it may be said that all the competitors in the Competition are suitably housed; but we may say that many people in this province are ruining themselves by trying to out-do their neighbours in this respect. It would be far more useful to have a spacious, convenient barn well adapted to the needs of the farm, and so arranged as to economise labour, time, fodder, &c.

A population that, like ours, is still young and not abounding in funds, ought to avoid luxury, and expend the wealth Providence allots to it in useful things.

#### BUILDINGS.

Great improvement is to be found everywhere in the erection of buildings.

It were easy to show that it is especially those who have travelled that possess the most sensible ideas on this subject. We advise all those who intend to build to visit other places, for they will bring back thence many good ideas that, united to their own, will probably lead to the construction of a suitable building.

#### STABLES.

So useful is the horse, that it does not seem necessary to say that he should be treated carefully, kindly, &c. The young horse needs particular care and to ensure his proper form of growth, he should be kept in a loose-box; otherwise, he will turn constantly to the light, and his neck will become deformed, his fore-quarters, too, will be wrenched out of all balance. On the other hand, the stable should be properly lighted, else the horses will suffer from ophthalmia, and every one knows how troublesome and even dangerous a horse is whose sight is affected.

#### COW-HOUSES.

Nowadays, very comfortable, well arranged cow-houses are to be found in many places. As dairying can now be practised with profit in winter, the importance of conjoining in the construction of cowhouses all possible conditions of order, cleanliness and economy of labour is better appreciated.

The cowhouse ought, in the first place, to be erected on a dry or thoroughly drained spot; for numerous complaints often arise from the constant chilly damp of the floor; or again, from the ice that forms there from the drip of the eaves, from the rones, the urine and manure-leakings (1) that collect there.

Secondly, the light should be ample; the windows opening in such a way that no draughts fall directly on the cattle, especially not on the milking cows. The house should be warm enough to allow of constant and perfect ventilation. Good ventilators are,

(1) *Rones* is Scotch for the gutters under the eaves.—Ed.