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OFFICIAL PART.

Table of Contents.

De Omnibus Rebus.....	1
Our Engravings.....	9
Guernsey cattle.....	9
Agriculture.....	10
Southdown Ram, Standard.....	11
Twenty years' experience with ashes and bone.....	12
Liquid manure.....	12
The Wheat Crop in England.....	14
A talk in the Vegetable Garden.....	15
Questions answered.....	15

DE OMNIBUS REBUS.

Box 109, Upper Lachine—December 5th, 1888.

**Ensilage.**—There is no doubt about one thing connected with ensilage: the silo is the proper place for the second-crop of clover. By some peculiar arrangement of nature, it almost invariably happens that, if the first-crop of clover is made in fine weather, the second is subjected to drenching-rain. In fact, I have very seldom seen, either in England or in Canada, a good stack or bay of second-out clover. As for ploughing it in, we cannot afford to do that; so the silo is just the place for it.

**Sorghum.**—It seems that the experiments in the manufacture of sorghum-sugar that have been carried on for some time in the United States, have a tendency to show that the extreme variability of the products, owing to climatic changes, deprives the manufacture of all chance of success. The yield

of sugar as compared with the yield of molasses differs widely in different districts, and no definite percentage of sugar can be fixed as being present in a certain amount of sorghum-cane. The cultivation of sorghum for sugar-making purposes may be set down as impracticable.

**Spaying cows and heifers.**—I have often wondered why the farmers who supply our towns with milk bother themselves with breeding calves. It would surely be wiser to follow the practice of our great London milkmen, who never let cows take the bull, but milk them as long as they give a paying quantity, and then send them to the butcher—and they are not half-fat, either. Cows, we know by experience, differ very much in the time they continue to give milk after calving. Some, even if not in calf again, begin to fall off in yield at the end of eight or nine months; some, on the other hand, I have seen keep up a good flow for twice that period. An anonymous writer mentions the following cases as having come under his observation: 1. a cow at Hampstead, near London, that gave milk continuously for seven years, after having her first and only calf; 2. a large polled-Suffolk, which never ceased yielding milk for five years, during which she never calved; 3. a small French cow that gave milk for three years after dropping her last calf; 4. a cow at Dublin, which for four years never dried, and whose yield of milk never diminished more than three pints daily, and that only in the winter months. The morning of the day on which she was slaughtered, she gave her usual quantity of milk.

I am led to this subject by a report just received, from the Veterinary Department of the Missouri Agricultural College, entitled, "Generalities and experiments in spaying cattle." And here I must remark once more that it is really provoking to see how the Stations are wasting their valuable time in going