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Table of Contents.

Inspection of farms.....	145
De Omnibus Rebus.....	147
Feeding Calves.....	148
Preparing land for wheat.....	149
Stock at grass.....	150
A Grand Guernsey Cow.....	151
Our Engravings.....	151
Clover as a Fertilizer.....	151
In favor of the "General-purpose" cow.....	154
Pleuro-Pneumonia.....	154
Flavoring the Pasturage.....	154
Correspondence—Ensilage.....	155
Richness of Holstein Milk.....	155
Market Notes.....	156
Weaning Lambs.....	156
Is Ensilage fatal to Horses.....	156
British Bee-keepers' Association.....	157
Cheddar Cheese.....	158
About Working Butter.....	163
Cut Early.....	160

INSPECTION OF FARMS; I.

Box 23, Sorel, Que.—Sep. 6th, 1886

Having been requested by the Department of Agriculture of the Province to visit the farms of the three counties of De Rouville, Saint-Hyacinthe, and Bagot, I started from Sorel by the South-Eastern railroad on Saturday morning, July 24th, with the intention of making Saint-Césaire my headquarters for the first few days. My time was limited to six days, and six days they were of very awkward weather—rainy, muggy, and oppressive. However, by dint of sticking to

it, I managed to get through a good deal of work and returned home on Monday, August 2nd, with a pretty good notion of the changes that had taken place since my last *tournée d'inspection* through part of the same district, in July, 1880.

Amongst other instructions, I was desired by the Department to restrict my visits to those farms which were in the occupation of men who earned their living from the land alone. This I took to mean, that I was not to inspect the farms of wealthy proprietors, whose means were in the main derived from other sources than agriculture. Consequently, though I should dearly have liked to see them, I passed by such establishments as the farm and orchards of Mr. Charles Gibb, at Abbotsford, and, though I saw it in the distance, I paid no attention to the great institution at Rougemont. By the bye, in Scotland they call a farm and its dependencies *the town*, as: "*there's nae luck about the town*;" and the Whitfield homestead, with its innumerable stables and barns, really does look like a good sized village at least. Well, I hope, at any rate, that there will be good luck "about that town"; for I have a very pleasant recollection of the frequent hospitality I received there some five or six years ago.

Everywhere in my trip I was received with an obliging courtesy, for which I shall always feel grateful. All my questions were answered freely and without reserve, and every opportunity was offered me for the inspection of both stock and crops. I am particularly indebted to the kind attention of M. J. de L. Taché, Secretary to the Dairymen's association at Saint-Hyacinthe. This gentleman was so good as to place himself at my disposal for the better part of three days, and to him I am obliged for an immense fund of information which, without his assistance, most ungrudgingly afforded, I should have found it hard to come by. My hosts, M. Robidoux, at Saint-Césaire, and M. Perrault, of the Yamaska Hotel, Saint-Hyacinthe, paid every attention to my