

### Eastern Townships, Quebec Notes

The hay crop is now all stored away. It was not such a laborious work as usual as it was the lightest crop Quebec has seen for many years. It will not be more than a two-third crop if even that. Clover was largely a failure owing to the severity of the winter and late cold spring. Instead of seeing large fields of clover as is usual only here and there was noticed a field, and that was generally thin. We hear occasionally of farmers who cut on their best land, 2 and 2½ tons of clover per acre or only about two-thirds of what is usually cut. Timothy was light, but of good quality, heavy to handle and should feed out well.

Many who depend largely on hay to winter their stock, will have to cut down their stock, go into the market and buy fodder, or provide some substitute. Oats cut on the green side will help them out quite a bit. I think one mistake that most farmers make is allowing our oat crop to become ripe before being cut. We do not place sufficient value on the oat straw, which if used in conjunction with roots or ensilage will make a roughage that is not only palatable but nutritious. In Scotland farmers who feed cattle extensively feed largely on straw and turnips and as a concentrated food use oil-cake very liberally. We try to get the best of the grain crop by allowing it to become ripe before the binder is put to work, when we lose the largest grains by shelling. We may harvest a little sooner too, when cut on the green side and grain well stooked will come out all right. We will get as much good grain and a much better quality of straw.

Quebec sends each year many tons of hay to market, but this year she will not reap the returns in cash for hay and this will be a hardship in many sections where the hay is depended on as the chief income from the land. It may however be a blessing in disguise as it will lead hay-producing, hay-selling farmers to change their methods.

The oat crop is fairly good. We have seen some excellent crops, and again some very light ones, especially among the late sown fields. These are more or less affected with a species of rust, and many of the leaves have turned brown. I notice that this is a common complaint, not only here but in Ontario and the States. Some

fields that are badly affected will no doubt give small returns in grain and the straw will be of little use for feed even if cut green, as stock do not relish leaves affected by this blight.

Barley is good and promises a nice crop. Peas will be a fair cut, but only a small acreage was sown as compared with some few years ago when Quebec was the pea growing province of the Dominion.

Corn has done remarkably well, and never in my experience have I noticed such remarkable growth in such a short time as since July 1st. Many fields that looked sickly and worthless have developed into fine stretches of waving corn promising a good yield per acre, while there are fields that had most favorable conditions, of soil, fertility, and care, where the scuffler was used freely when the weather was hot and dry, that will give unusually heavy crops, which will relieve the shortage of the hay crop. Owing to the heavy hay crops of 1903-4 and 1905, many dairymen and stockmen discontinued the silo, but are now glad to go back again to corn silage, and those who are equipped with a well-filled silo this fall will have nothing to fear from a shortage of fodder. More new silos have

been built in consequence than for the past three years.

Potatoes are doing well, and at this writing early potatoes are good and large and free from blight, the beetle has been exceedingly had in sections, but occasional dressings with Paris green or Bug Death usually fixes them.

Roots are only a fair crop. Turnips were badly fly-eaten in some sections, and mangels and carrots did not come on well the first part of the season. Small fruits have been remarkably plentiful both wild and tame, and numbers of berry-pickers have enjoyed a day's outing in the berry-fields. Apples are not a promising crop, although a full blossom, yet there are few apples.

The output of dairy products will be much less than last year although there are as many cows in milk, the milk-flow will be much less per cow, owing to the short pasturage all season, scarcely has there been the full "bite" in June and July that our pastures are noted for. The price of cheese averaging higher than butter, caused nearly all the combined factories to make cheese, but as prices of butter rise many will return to butter making again.

"Habitat."

## Our New Zealand Letter

(By Our Regular Correspondent on Travel)

Taking train at New Plymouth bound southward we passed through a jumbled up formation, small cones being dotted over the whole of the landscape, in many instances only a chain or two in diameter, all clothed in luxuriant grass and the clear streams of water running through the whole form a scene rarely to be met with. Passing the Bell Block, the home of the Holsteins, noted in a former letter, we see on our right hand "the famous snow-capped Mount Egmont," a land mark for long distances up and down the coast. Inglewood and Stratford followed, all good country, which appears to be better the farther we travel. It is in this district that phenomenal returns have been secured in the dairy industry. At a place called Manahia, a farmer with 800 acres, in the month of June received a cheque for £850 (£2,520) for his month's milk, and another with a farm of 500 acres secured a return of £525 (\$2,625) for the

same month's milk. It will be readily understood that land in these districts is easily sold at from \$125 to \$150 and even more per acre. We saw dairying in full swing, some of the factories being situated at the smaller stations on the railway. Traveling on we approach Hawera and come into grazing country unsurpassed in the world. It is from here that some of the finest beef has been sent to the Old Country, one exporter alone sending 5,000 head in one year. It was he who years ago informed me that the English people thought the New Zealand beef grew without a head or tail and hide to cover it. So to enlighten them he had one bunch of beautiful Shorthorns photographed before slaughtering and sent an enlargement of it home. This was copied in England and the copies distributed among the buyers, and they afterwards displayed these in their shops, thus giving them an idea of the quality of meat, and New Zealand a great advertisement.

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