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Notes by the Way.

HORSES AT CHICAGO.—It is almost incredible! In the class of "thorough-breds" no United-States' horse was exhibited. Robert Davies, of Toronto, won easily both with single horses and collections. Nearly all the heavy teams in the parade of draught-horses were *Percherons*. The most useful team was one of six *Shire Clydesdales*. A four-horse team and a two-horse *Shire-Clydesdale* team from Canada were highly approved of, but, says our authority, the prizes for good looks went mostly to *Percherons*. According to M. Auzias-Turenne, the system of having only one judge, instead of three, was not a wise stop. Well, that depends upon circumstances. We were once judge of *Jerseys*, at Mile-End, with two others: one of our co-judges had once seen a *Jersey-cow*, but had never seen a *Jersey-bull*; the other had never seen either the one or the other!

"How much does that horse weigh? He must go over 2,500 lbs;" was a remark M. Auzias-Turenne often heard; as if bullocks not horses were being judged; and the 2nd prize went to a *Percheron*, a monstrous mass of fat, whose defects were concealed by a vast accumulation of adipose tissue.

The *Normans* were highly satisfactory, and Mr Ness won 3rd prize, with *Maltôt*, and the *Haras National* the 11th with *Marquis de Puisaye*.

The *Hackneys* brought Ontario to the front. "They are miniature *Normans*, said M. Auzias-Turenne to a neighbour." "Hum!" replied the other, "the *Normans* are only enlarged *hackneys*."

Suffolks poor. Indeed, we have never seen a really good *Suffolk* on this continent. Useful beasts, they are; rattling fast walkers, and that is the pace for a farmer's horse. Not bad roadsters, either, for 8 miles an hour in a tax-cart is quite pace enough for a market-horse.

VETERINARY-INSPECTION.—We all have our favorite points in an animal, be it horse, bullock, sheep, or hog. As an old hunting-man, we confess to look at a horse's hocks and loin, more than any other part, to the neglect, very likely, of other points just as material. But a veterinary-surgeon, who is examining horses every day, not only brings his scientific knowledge to bear, but conducts his examination systematically, taking in every point of the animal from hoof to withers. Not only will the skilled, experienced veterinary detect any manifest unsoundness, but, he will discover lurking symptoms of unsoundness, particularly as regards the sight, that one of the laity would very probably pass over unobserved. Wherefore, when buying a horse of any value, submit him to the examination of a veterinary-surgeon of established reputation.

KOHL-RABI.—Of this very useful vegetable, we never saw but one in the province, it was at Sorol, on the farm of Mr Gustaf Gylling. As the plant requires rather heavy land, it did not turn out a heavy crop on the Sorol sand. We grew them once or twice in England, and found them very useful for ewes and lambs in spring. They will stand frosts that would rot a swede, and grow up to the very latest day of the season of growth. The leaves are good for milk-cows, and the bulb has about the same feeding value as a swede. As the seed is very dear here, it might be sown in a nursery-bed, and the plants set out like cabbages, only rather closer together: 24 inches by 10 inches. If the seed is sown on drills, as usual, put it in as early as possible; it cannot be sown too early. The fly does not seem to touch it; perhaps because the beast is not much about when the plant comes up. And the earliness of the sowing season has another advantage, where a great breadth of root-crop is grown: it can be finished and done with before it is time to get the other seed in. One thing is certain. milk never tastes of *kohl-rabi*.

TURNIP-TOPS.—We have always turned our *ewe-flock* on to the land after the turnips and mangels were harvested and never found that the leaves, if not too abundantly eaten, did them any harm. They make cows scour too much to do them much good, and the milk they give when eating mangel-tops is poor enough to prove the truth of the position that food *does* influence the quality of milk. We hear, however, from England, that, in many cases, the tendency to abortion in cows and early lambing ewes has been traced to the practice of feeding them when pregnant on turnip-tops and mangel-leaves. Can any of our readers give us any information on this point?

BASIO-SLAG.—Are we not going to import a cargo of this valuable source of phosphoric-acid? It is to be had, in England, at 30s. a gross ton = \$6.48 for 2,000 lbs., and 500 lbs. is a full dose for an acre. Something must be done, and that soon, to lower the price of fertilisers here, and we look to the Farmers' Syndicate to aid us in this. Superphosphate, analysing 23 0/10 of soluble phosphate is selling at Bristol for £2.2s a gross ton = \$9 00 for 2,000 lbs.

THE WHEAT-FIELDS OF THE WEST.—Good heavens! Listen to the following, from that very trustworthy paper, "Farm and Home:" "In sections of the West where farmers have planted 700 acres of grain, they have been obliged to find work as day labourers at day-labourers' wages, and in counties far distant from their own, simply because crops did not germinate and grow the past season. And this is not all. The brave wives and daughters cannot find land, in some sections, on which stock can get enough food to sustain animal life." All this is intended to prove that it is very wrong of the Eastern mortgagees to howl out because interest is not paid. Is it possible that men who have "some 700 acres of grain" cannot stand the failure of one year's crops? Is this not a pretty fair argument in favour of "mixed farming"?

AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS.—Again, Dr Hoskins, of the Vermont Watchman, lets off one of his incisive paragraphs against *sham* agricultural schools and colleges. are we, in this province, going to do any better than we have done?

Dr. T. H. Hoskins:—"The attempt has been made, and has well nigh succeeded, to make the alleged agricultural schools a scientific department of impecunious literary colleges; or to furnish work for a lot of professors too ignorant and too gonteel, and, in most cases, too lazy and inefficient, to make any kind of a school successful. The results are seen, in almost every State, 'agricultural colleges' teaching very little agriculture, and not enough of anything else to attract the public patronage, or awaken any feeling other than something very closely akin to disgust and contempt."

Strong language, the above, is n't it? but not a bit too strong. The waste of money in the *experiments*, as they call them, that are being carried on in some—most?—of the stations in the States; experiments that were tried fifty years ago in England, and descriptions of which, with their results, are to be found in publications known to every one interested in agricultural science; the waste of money, we say, lavished on these experiments would go far towards providing for the building and equipment of a real, practical school of scientific farming.

WHITTLESEA POULTRY-SCHOOL.—Whittlesea Mere, in Cambridgeshire, England, was really a *mere*, i. e. a fen almost under water, in my younger days. Its chief products were geese, plucked for their feathers, wild-fowl, eels, and pike. Steam-drainage, however, cured the land of its surplus of humidity, and bulky horthorn beasts, heavy Lincoln sheep, and superb flocks of turkeys now feed profitably, where once the boom of the bittern and the sharp screech of the snipe were the principal sounds to be heard. And it is on this once almost uninhabitable fen that the Cambridge-shire Council, last month, opened a great Poultry-school, where the entire rustic population of the county was invited to come and study gratis, under professional tuition, every phase and problem of profitable poultry-raising. With some thousands of minor bodies given similar powers of initiative and expenditure, we are likely to see things in England which no previous system of government has introduced.

This seems to us to be the beginning of a very satisfactory state of things. The county, which votes the funds to be expended in this and other "new-fangled" ways, is not likely to enter upon a "Grandmotherly" style of proceeding, and there will not be that absurd waste of money on which Dr. Hoskins expended the vials of his just wrath in the passage we quoted above.

FARM-IMPLEMENTS.—We believe that, at our instigation, the Central Farmers' Syndicate of Canada will import specimens of *Coleman's Drag-harrow*, early in the new year. This is by far the best of all the grubbers, or scarifiers, in use in England. It works well, as a grubber with narrow teeth, with two horses; and, as a scarifier, for breaking the crust of stubbles with the paring-shares, three horses will not find it too heavy.

Now, we have plenty of good, skilful implement-makers, and there is no reason why they should not,