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Deliberations of the Council of Agriculture.

(11th and 12th April, 1893.)

All the deliberations of the 11th and 12th April last, published in this Journal—May number—, have been approved by order in Council, dated 5th June last, except the matters reserved for subsequent consideration, to wit:

1. The report of the committee appointed to study the programmes of the agricultural societies.
2. The 23rd resolution, on the subject of Jersey-Canadian cattle at the Provincial Exhibition at Montreal.
3. The 26th resolution, on the report to be made concerning 2-rowed barley.

OFFICIAL NOTICE.

The Agricultural Societies and Farmers' Clubs, are bound, in virtue of the rules of the Council of Agriculture, to acquaint themselves with the deliberations of the Council of Agriculture, and to conform thereto, in all things that concern them, and that without any further notice from the Department of Agriculture or from the Council of Agriculture.

Notes by the Way.

June 2nd, 1893.

**CHEESE.**—The first market for cheese, this year, was opened at Prescott, Ont., on the 6th May. The average price was 10½ cents a pound = \$11.20 a cwt. Now, as the best September and October Canada cheese was then fetching in England 52 shillings the cwt., 112 lbs., this only leaves 72 cents for cost, freight, and insurance, to say nothing of brokers' charges.

**WHEAT CROP IN THE STATES.**—Mr Wood Davis, a frequent correspondent of the "Country Gentleman," thinks it would be highly advantageous to his fellow-countrymen if they could manage to have a succession of bad wheat-crops for the next three or four years. As the average crop of that cereal in the States is only about 12 imperial bushels to the acre, we should like to know what Mr Davis' idea of a bad crop is.

**GREEN-MANURING.**—Mr Blacknall, another correspondent of the above paper, shows that, in several instances, green-manuring has injured, rather than benefited land. It seems, from this statement, that green-crops tend to make the land sour, whatever that may mean. If so, a dressing of 40 or 50 bushels an acre of lime would soon cure the fault. We do not think green-manuring would injure land, but we must regard it as a wasteful way of utilising valuable food. (1)

**CLIPPING HORSES.**—Mr J. Smith, the chief of the English Army staff of veterinary surgeons, is an earnest advocate of clipping horses. Taking into consideration the loss of tissue by sweat, he is of opinion that a clipped horse requires one pound a day less oats than a horse with all his coat on. In this climate, horses that are kept standing about in the streets should never be clipped; but carriage-horses, hacks, &c., under the care of a good stableman, would be all the better for

(1) See Mr. Stewart on this subject, page 132.—Ed.

being clipped in October, and regularly singed once a month throughout the winter.

**CREAMERY FLOORS.**—The inspectors of our factories often observe, in their reports to the Dairymen's Association, that the floors of both creameries and cheese-works are not kept so clean as they might be—this, we beg to observe, is a very mild way of putting it. A good pine floor well dressed two or three times with boiled linseed oil, and finished off with shell-lac varnish, will be found easy to clean with a common mop, and need not take much time to be kept tidy.

**COWS AND COWS.**—Why the editor of that well conducted paper, "Hoard's Dairyman," should be so hostile to shorthorn and other large breeds of cattle we do not see. Surely, we should not condemn a cow because, after having given for four or five years a large yield of good milk, she will furnish a heavy body of fair if not superior beef. If the "Dairy-shorthorn" were so contemptible an animal, would not the practical English farmer, and the still more practical English cow-keeper, have discarded her long ago? We do not condemn a Jersey, if she is a good one, because her carcass is of little value when her last lactation is finished. The fact is, the true English dairy-cow has yet to be seen on this side of the Atlantic. When she makes her appearance here, the prejudice against her will soon disappear.

**AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE.**—Scientific agriculturists, both at home and abroad, will be glad to have their attention called to a very valuable paper on "Home Produce, Imports, Consumption, and the Price of Wheat over Forty Harvest Years, 1852-3 to 1891-2." It appears in the Royal Agricultural Society's Journal for March 31st. It is written by Sir John Bennet Lawes and Joseph Henry Gilbert, and gives details as to the results of the very careful experiments in crop-raising which have been conducted during these years at Rothamsted.

It is very much to be regretted that the very valuable articles contained in the above Journal should be a sealed book to most of us. Mr. Stevenson, the secretary of the Board of Arts and Science, at our request, wrote to the secretary of the R. Ag. Society some two or three months ago, requesting him to send the periodical in question to the Board. The answer was that it was impossible, as the circulation was confined to members of the society.

**THE DROUGHT IN ENGLAND.**—No appreciable quantity of rain fell in the southern half of England from March 2nd to May 17th. Hunting was brought to a sudden close in March, neither horses nor hounds being able to stand the heat! However, that does not matter much; what is a great deal more serious is, that there will be no hay. The cattle and other stock have been over the meadows as well as the pastures, and an early fed meadow never produces much for the scythe to cut. Now, here is a chance for our people. Hay, both clover and timothy-hay, if properly made, must be worth money in England next winter. We say, "if properly made;" that is, if the timothy is green, and the clover has its leaf on. Good clover-hay must be worth at least \$40.00 a gross ton next December in any of the English sea-ports.

**FAT LAMBS.**—Pease and oats make good fat lamb; corn, and no pease, makes soft, flabby stuff.

**BARLEY FOR MALTING.**—Mr. Tyico tells us that the idea of growing 2-rowed barley; for exportation to England, is now given up at the Ottawa Experiment-Farm. Just as we always predicted. A great mistake is commonly committed in supposing that malting-barley is the better for being sown on very rich land. On the contrary, providing the soil be "barley-land," for the malting-quality depends entirely on that, a moderately rich condition will answer. As we have remarked before, better malting-barley is grown when a crop of wheat intervenes between sheep-fed turnips and the barley than when the latter grain follows the turnips. The fine Bavarian and Saale barleys, so popular with the English brewer, are grown on land not so rich, naturally or artificially, as are the fine loams of Kent and Hereford.

Another point to be attended to in growing barley for malting is one that is, we may say, universally neglected in this continent: *the sweating in the stack.* As there are no stacks built here, but all the grain is stored in barns, we do not see what is to be done to obviate this defect. With us, in England, at least 6 weeks are allowed after stacking before any barley is threshed. In close barns, we should fear the grain would be *mow-burnt* if it were carried in so fresh a state as we carry it in the old country. Still, this is worth attending to, for the one great reason why the fine sun-ripe barleys of Algeria, Chili, and California make such harsh, steely malt as they do, is because they have never sweated in the stack.

**NITROGEN FOR POTATOES.**—In spite of the denunciations of the theoretical objectors to the use of nitrogen for the potato-crop, and in full agreement with the practical English farmer, the Rural New-Yorker, whose innumerable experiments on the growth of that esculent are noteworthy, recommends the practice of adding nitrate of soda, as a top-dressing, to the manure used for potatoes:

"WHERE potash and phosphate or even 'complete' fertilisers are used upon potatoes, it is our advice to sow a small quantity of nitrate of soda just as the vines are breaking through the soil and to give another application in about three weeks thereafter. The amount need not exceed at the rate of 75 or 100 pounds to the acre for each dressing. It is not necessary that the soda should be harrowed in. It is so soluble that the first rain will dissolve and carry it into the soil, so that the plant may feed upon it."

**NIGHTSOIL.**—We saw hundreds of tons of nightsoil used on the farm of our old friend and agricultural tutor, Wm. Rigden; but before we left him, he had made up his mind that its collection—4 men and 3 horses being employed every night—cost more than it was worth. It is a nice thing if, as was the case at the Ottawa Experiment-farm in 1888, the stuff is brought on the land free of expense; but to run about from pit to pit, some of them half-full of water, and weary out horses and men, is a job fit only for professional scavengers. We notice an attempt at depreciating the value of this manure because it contains a very large portion of nitrogen, as compared with potash and phosphoric acid. Well, so it does, but so does nitrate of soda and nothing else. If a general fertiliser is wanted, it is easily