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Notes by the Way.

Candlemas-Day.—It is rather amusing to see, every time the Feast of the Purification of the Mother of our Lord comes round, all the papers repeating the old rhymes about the prospects of the weather. The ancient foretellings were made when the Old Style was in vogue, so that, to appreciate their meaning, we must postpone the date twelve days; just as what we call Twelfth-day, was in our younger days called by many of the older people Old Christmas, so Candlemas-day should be the 14th instead of the 2nd of February. The rhymes are chiefly from the North country, and are frequently misquoted:

"If Candlemas-day be clear and fair,
Half the winter's to come and mair."

"The hind would assoon see his wife on her
[hear,]
As that Candlemas-day should be fair and
[clear.]"

The very peculiar word hind, for farm-labourer, a term unknown in the Southern counties of England, shows the locality whence this latter distich is derived. Another curious pseudo rhyme is connected with this month:

"February fill dyke,
Be it black or be it white,
But if it be white it's the better to like."

That is: it is well to have the ditches filled in February in some way, either by rain or snow; black or white; but the latter is preferable.

Of course the actual day of the month does not signify, but no doubt the state of the weather about the date in question is, in general, a fair prognostic of the duration of the winter.

Artificial manuring.—A liberal mind has Prof. Brooks, of the Massachusetts Agricultural College. He says, and with perfect truth, that "for oats, rye, and grass, nitrate of soda applied just as the growth begins in the spring, has proved very beneficial." Nobody doubts this, for a moment, but when the Professor goes on to advise that "400 lbs. to the acre should be applied," there, we must call a halt. Nitrate of soda costs \$60.00 a ton, here, therefore, the dressing of an acre of oats, rye, or grass, would cost \$15.00: could that pay? A bushel of oats, for instance, is worth, say, 40 cents, to ask one to believe that the additional crop grown by the application of fifteen dollars' worth of a manure so evanescent in its effects as nitrate of soda can by any favourable conjunction of weather, &c., amount to thirty-seven bushels an acre is rather too much of a good thing, and yet that is what it must come to, if there is any truth in figures: 37 bushels of oats at 40 cents a bushel amount to \$14.80. We are afraid the extravagant statements that emanate in such numbers from the agricultural colleges in the States, are doing more harm than all their combined energies will remedy in many a long year.

But, of course we are not to be supposed capable of underrating the use of artificial manures; only, their use must have sense as a guide. For, another case in point: a Professor advises "the application of 400 lbs. of highgrade sulphate of potash to the acre of potatoes;" not a word about the soil being fall, or the reverse, of potash already; and the adviser does not seem to have the least idea that potash is of no use at all, in nine cases out of ten, unless it is applied in the fall or, at latest, in early March. In

the dressing of grass-lands with potash, it is different; for, if the manure does not act this year it is there ready to act the next year. But the fact is, that where farmyard manure is used equally all over a farm, there, potash will be found to be a most costly and useless application. Phosphoric acid, in the shape of bone dust or of mineral superphosphates, and nitrogen, in the form of nitrate of soda or sulphate of ammonia, are all the additional aids needed.

And this leads us to advert to the sales of artificial manures that are made annually in this province. Mr. Spafford stated, the other day, at a meeting, at Capelton, of gentlemen interested in mining, that, "at present, about 1500 tons only were used, whereas, ten times that amount might be employed with advantage."

Now, in round numbers, a ton of superphosphate, of fair quality, may be taken to represent a decent dressing for seven acres of land. So, we have it that 10,500 acres are annually dressed with superphosphate, in this province, or in this Dominion, for, unfortunately the report of Mr. Spafford's address is vague. And, again, we have to remark upon the absurd fact on, both here and in the States, of calling all commercial manures "superphosphates." Superphosphate is, properly, a certain amount of phosphate of lime dissolved in sulphuric acid, and nothing else; and this phosphate may be in the form of bones or in the mineral state, as in Carolina or Florida rock, in apatite, &c.

By the bye, we remark in some of our exchanges a resuscitation of the old scheme to persuade people that Canada apatite ground extremely fine, may be used as advantageously as if it had been dissolved as above.

Now we have the authority of the three greatest and best known agricultural chemists in the world; Lawes, Volcker, and Aitken; for saying that any crystalline form of phosphate of lime is useless as a manure, unless it has been previously dissolved in acid. No infinitesimally fine pulverisation is of any use.

Turnips.—A correspondent of Hoard's Dairyman, signing himself F. C. N. send the following to that paper:

Vermont Way of Raising Turnips.—ED HOARD'S DAIRYMAN:—Having had several years' experience with turnips will give H. C., Short Creek, Ohio, a few suggestions. We sow the round turnip—never heard any other name for them. Sow seed before cultivating the last time, generally about the last of June. Use quarter of a pound to the acre, which is a great plenty. This year we raised two thousand bushels on twelve acres of corn and potatoes—did the best in corn. Fed fifty bushels a day to thirty-seven cows, also gave them two quarts of bran and middling. Got seventeen thousand pounds of milk in October—paid us \$1,047. Skimmed night's milk and made 100 pounds of butter, which brought 24c—top price. Feed turnips after milking at night and you will get no turnip taint in butter, if nothing but night's milk is skimmed. Be sure and sow them thin. Do not feed more than once a day. Better take the tops off if wanted for winter feed. Would not advise butter makers to grow them, but for cheese they can't be beat, considering cost of production and milk value.

Cows are scarce and high. Good ones sell from \$30 to \$35. Calls in good order go from \$18 to \$22. West Pawlet Vt. F. C. N.

What is this marvellous eagerness to grow two crops at once? Fancy the skill of a man who can make a quarter pound of turnip-seed cover an acre of ground! Surely, if the cow could spare some of its food to the turnips, the potatoes would want all they could get. This is not farming at all, but scratching for a living, some thing like the Channel-Island people, where, in Guernsey and Jersey, we have known carrots sown among the barley. However, we are glad to see that there are some who, like ourselves, give turnips to cows, though we never dreamed of such rations as 50 bushel a day for 35 cows!

Again, we see in the Farmer's Advocate a letter from M. Wark, of Windsor Mills, on the same subject:

"Beautiful Butter" from Turnips.—I saw in the Advocate for December 15th, that "F. J. S." informed us good butter could not be made when turnips were fed the cows. I received a remittance from Montreal, the day I got your paper, for a quantity of butter, the cows having been fed turnips and hay. The buyer paid 22 cents for the butter, and said it was beautiful.

ROBERT WARK, Windsor Mills.

[NOTE.—Would Mr. Wark give our readers further information as to the quantity of turnips fed, method, before or after milking, &c.; also give his plan of handling and creaming milk.]

The roots should be given immediately after milking, and we never gave more than half a bushel a day to each cow, either here or in England. As for the flavour of the butter we made, the opinion of the Trustees of a certain College in the Townships was: that we ought to have sold the butter we made on the college-farm and bought inferior butter for the use of the pupils, as it was the height of extravagance to give boys such butter as that!

As to feeding fat into milk, we were glad to see that Professor Long, at the annual meeting of the English Dairy-farmers' Society, last month, said: that he saw no remedy that would protect the fraudulent sale of separated milk, except the fixing of a reasonable standard. Farmers ought to experience no difficulty in producing milk containing a certain proportion of solids as specified in the resolution. It was within their power to improve the quality of the milk yielded by their cows by the addition of certain foods.

Mr. Long, I need hardly say, is known in England to be as distinguished for practical knowledge as he is for theoretical acquirements.

The two prize-animals we lay before our readers in this number are the Queen's Shorthorn steer and the wonderful Polled Angus heifer, exhibited by Mr. Clement Stephenson whose winnings at the Fat Stock Shows are probably without precedent. At Birmingham her prizes were: £15 as best in her class; £30 as best Soot; the President's prize of £25; the Elkington Challenge Cup, 100ga.; and the Thorley Challenge Cup, 100 ga. At the Smithfield Club Show she won first in her class, £20; the breed prize, £25; the prize as best cow or heifer, £50; the Club's champion prize, 100 ga.; and Her Majesty the Queen's Cup, 150ga. The last-named trophy is not won absolutely, but the others are final, and, of course, a half-share of securing absolutely the championships at Birmingham is due to Benton