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FARM NOTES AT ST. ANNE'S.

I have been passing the summer at St. Anne de Bellevue. A lovely spot; situated, as most of my readers know, on the banks of the Ottawa. The soil is light, but of good quality; in other words, it will grow anything you like to ask it; but it is most admirably adapted to the cultivation of potatoes, barley, and Indian corn. The farmers of the neighbourhood are, as is usually the case on the Island of Montreal, of divers nationalities; the majority French-Canadians, but there are several sprung from Irish and Scotch parents, and a few English. As a general rule, the farming is pretty good, though, as we shall see further on, there are some woful exceptions. Artificial manures seem almost unknown, but the villagers get a good price for the dung they have to spare. The implements in use are of the usual kind; a Scotch plough, iron harrows, and a roller, may be found on most farms; the drill seems unknown, though the soil for the most part is perfectly well suited to the implement, and the horse hoes and grubbers are by no means constructed on the best models; the ploughing is shallow, and, in too many instances, sufficient care is not taken to abstain from working the land when wet, for even on this light soil I find plenty of steelly clods.

Though there are several herds of thoroughbred cattle in the parish, the general stock does not seem to have benefited by their introduction, the cows being, as a rule, of the usual mongrel description. I can see nothing to recommend them, either for milk, which is scarce and poor, or for beef, which is unattainable on such animals except at an extravagant outlay. Of sheep there are hardly any, the losses formerly experienced from the ravages of roving curs having entirely frightened the farmers. What an iniquitous thing it is that a stop is not put to this abominable havoc! One year's strict observance of the law, aided by a little exertion on the part of the farmers in shooting the pests, would make a quick end of the marauders, and the short, sweet herbage on the, at present, almost useless slopes, would afford plenty of keep

for thousands of ewes and lambs, which could be finished off in the latter summer and autumn on the second crop of clover and rape. If ever there was a district cut out by nature for sheep-farming it is St. Anne's.

There are three or four lots of good Berkshire pigs: Mr. Dawes, I presume, being the founder of the stock; but, as I write, I am a most terrified by the sight of a monster, *informe, ingens*; with ears, compared with which those of the African elephant are merely rudimentary; two feet and a half, at least, in height; how long I don't know, but the head alone must measure eighteen inches; elegantly built as to his back, which slopes both ways towards the head and tail, and is terminated by a sharp ridge, for the purpose, I presume, of shedding off the rain. Plenty of bristles, but no hams, only a hook carried well up to the hip, and sides like a slab of marble. Fifty bushels of pease wouldn't fatten him, and were he made never so ripe, I pity the unfortunates who have to eat him. He would make a good charger for a light cavalry regiment, or, if his mate could be found, which may heaven forbid, the two in a plough could manage a fair depth in light land. As a target for rifle practice, with his head towards the marksmen, he would last a long time, only the bristles would shed off the bullets, and they would find it difficult to keep a correct score. His home is under the wing of an ancient store-house, long in the possession of the Hudson Bay Company, so I conclude he is a descendant of some of the original stock imported into this country at its first colonization. There are, I am sorry to say, plenty of pigs almost as hopelessly unprofitable as the one I have particularized, but now thoroughbred Berkshire breeders can be bought of Messrs. Dawes, Reburn, etc., for \$5 a-piece: I hope the wild pig of the country will soon become extinct.

A beginning of root growing has been made at St. Anne's, though not so successfully as might be wished. My own conviction has always been that the ordinary Canadian farmer, the *habitant* I mean, can hardly be expected to succeed with these crops until he has been shown *practically* how to manage them. Now we will take, for example, two contiguous farms, both belonging to French-Canadians, average cultivators, and see what they have done in this way. Alex. Crevier has three acres, or rather more, of sugar beets; the preparation for which was as follows: Sixty loads of dung per acre ploughed down last autumn; in spring, the land was harrowed, ploughed again, set up in drills, 30 to 36 inches apart, each drill about 9 or 10 inches broad, and the seed, too little by half, sown by a vile machine, and left to take its chance. I believe a drill-grubber has been once between the rows, but that is all the cultivation the plants have received. The land, a fine sandy loam, is full of steelly clods, from having been ploughed when wet; the plants are too thick in one place, and too thin in another; the drills are so wide atop that the singling, if it had been done, would have cost twice as much as it ought to cost; and from the great distance between the rows of plants, the beets, if of the size desired by the manu-