



THE JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE

Vol. 4. No. 16

This Journal replaces the former "Journal of Agriculture," and is delivered free to all members of Farmers' Clubs.

FEB. 15th, 1901

THE
Journal of Agriculture and Horticulture

THE JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE is the official organ of the Council of Agriculture of the Province of Quebec. It is issued bi-monthly and is designed to include not only in name, but in fact, anything concerned with Agriculture and Stock-Raising, Horticulture etc. All matters relating to the reading columns of the Journal must be addressed to Arthur R. Jeanner Fust, Editor of the JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE, 4 Lincoln Avenue, Montreal. For RATES of advertisements, etc., address the Publishers.

LA PATRIE PUBLISHING CO.

77, 79 & 81 St James St. Montreal

Subscription : \$1.00 per Annum payable in advance

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NOTES BY THE WAY.

"Hounds."—We fear that the prophetic threats of Carlyle, in the last century, as to the fate inevitably reserved for the wretched squirarchy of England, if their passion for the chase did not soon give way to a passion for higher things, have not had much effect upon that thickheaded lot. Things are, apparently, worse than ever in that benighted island. Where there were ten packs of hounds in Carlyle's day there are at least fifteen packs now, and the number of horses kept solely for the purpose of hunting is beyond belief. And yet, our young men do not seem to be very degenerate: Africa and the Boers did not find them weakly or effeminate. They lived hard and they fought hard; did not some at least of their hardiness derive from their early introduction to the sports of the field? Well, we had plenty of it in our time, for we went to our first Meet on 15th of October 1831, just a fortnight before we reached the great age of eight years, and we do not think our early experience in hunting had the effect of either coarsening our habits or lowering our love of books in after life. At the present day there are in England of Staghounds 24 packs, of Foyhounds 196, of Harriers 127, and of Beagles 51; in all 396 packs. Of course, the Beagles are, or at least used to be, followed by men on foot; the run of course ridden to by mounted men. Diffi-