

With these materials, probably about 750,000 tons of superphosphate are manufactured, or about four times as much as was made thirty years ago.

*Sainfoin*.—Botanically, *Onobrychis sativa*, the derivation of the former of which words is a puzzle to me. *Onos*, in Greek, is an *ass*, and *Bruchos* signifies to bellow, to howl, to roar, &c., perhaps, to *bray*, but I fail to see the connection. At all events, sainfoin is a very useful, perennial plant, of the genus *Leguminosæ*, with a long, deep-searching root, capable of resisting drought, and particularly suited to *calcareous* soils. The trivial name of course is a corruption of the French, *saint-foin*, or *holy hay*. It is sometimes called in England, *cinque-foil*. It is far more productive the second year than the first, and in land suited to it, will last 8 or 10 years. Lambs afflicted with the scour soon got right again on a sainfoin layer. Our chalk-land farmers grow a great deal of it, as do the Cotswold men on the oolite. It should be cut for hay when in full bloom, and four bushels of rough seed or 50 lbs. of milled, must be sown to the acre. The small lot—1 peck—on Mr. Dawes' farm is looking very well indeed.

*Pacey's perennial rye grass* weighs from 26 lb. to 30 lbs. a bushel. the common annual rye grass, only 20 lbs. a good test of the true sorts before sowing, when up, there is no difficulty, for the *Pacey* is of a much more humble habit than the annual. Strangely enough, Mr. Stephen, in his "Book of the Farm," reverses these weights, saying—p. 613, vol. I, ed. 1850. The annual weighs 30 lbs. the bushel, the perennial, 18 lbs. the bushel." This is the very opposite to all my experience, and I cannot account for the error.

#### Speech of the Hon. J. J. Ross. (1)

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—You honour me greatly in asking me to address this important meeting. It is an honour for me, but I sadly fear that you will not find it a pleasure to listen. You have taken me unexpectedly; I had not the advantage of being invited in time to prepare something worth listening to.

I have only, then, a few words to say on the questions which occupy us at the present moment. In the first place, you will allow me to congratulate you most sincerely on the success of your association, and permit me to say, Mr. President, that when you first spoke to me about founding this association and asked me for a share of the public money to aid in its proper working, I was far from believing that it would produce all the great results it has produced up to the present time. I am glad, therefore, to see that your association is flourishing, and has surpassed all the hopes that we built upon it.

You have just heard, Mr. President and Gentlemen, the addresses of lecturers of reputation: M. Labelle, deputy-minister of agriculture, who, as such, has all the graces of his position (*grâce d'état*) for the subject he treated, M. Beaubien, who, since siloes were invented, has behaved like a crazy-man, who has been seized with a species of indescribable madness on this silo question, because he is convinced that it is destined to promote the interests of the agricultural class as well as of the whole country; Mr. McPherson, who addressed us on the important cheese-question, knowing well what he was talking about, as was probable, considering he manages seventy-five factories, and makes money by them! As for me, I have only one factory!... had I two, I should have been ruined.

But you must not be allowed to suppose that if I was nearly ruined by my factory, it was therefore due to bad management. Not at all; we made good cheese at a moderate cost. But competition intervened; in one parish where up to that time there had been no factory, one was built close to mine. I had not time to look closely into things: all the capital I had put into the business, all the milk of my cows; all vanished, and I have no longer any interest in the business. In my eyes, therefore, Mr. McPherson is a veritable prodigy!

Much interesting information have we received from this gentleman. He spoke at first about things that we all know and thoroughly understand, but which for want of reflection, we do not always put in practice. Unfortunately, we set too much like machinery, we do not put enough thought into our business.

Some people think still that a farmer has no need of thought; that if he is intelligent, he need not make use of his intelligence. Allow me to say that this is an error. As much intelligence is needed by a farmer to conduct his business properly, as by a merchant to avoid ruin, by an advocate to succeed in his profession, by a judge to insure the equity of his decisions.

Let me tell you once more, and let me implore you not to forget it, all that you do as farmers, you ought to do in a well thought out, well studied manner, applying to it the intelligence necessary to extract all possible profit from it.

I hope, Gentlemen, you have thoroughly understood the meaning of what Mr. McPherson said, about the care of your milch-cows, and therefore about the care to be given to land in order that it may furnish the food necessary to the production of milk, which, in its turn, will turn out good cheese, and plenty of it.

I cannot keep silence; I thought Mr. McPherson's lecture of great use, and after having heard it I said to myself: This is a man of great abilities; he has only one defect: he does not speak French!

When once your cows are well fed, and are giving plenty of good milk, Mr. McPherson told you how to profit by this milk in making cheese of it. And, decidedly, the advantages which he enumerated are sufficient to induce you to follow his advice.

Gentlemen, I am in favour of giving all possible encouragement to the manufacture of butter and cheese. I believed in the importance of this great industry, and I am ready to do my share (I think I have already proved it) of every effort possible to develop it.

But, I am not one of those who are always inclined to put all their eggs in one basket. (1) If your basket fall, all the eggs will be broken, and your hands will be empty. Put, on the contrary, your eggs into two baskets; if one fall, the other will remain for your conservation. I am desirous that all possible encouragement should be given to making of butter and cheese, but I trust that the other branches of agriculture will not be neglected.

Observe; to every calculating mind, it is evident that in agriculture there is a chain not one link of which can be broken without incurring great losses. For example, you aim at producing plenty of good milk. To that end, you improve your pastures, you sow green-crops; you even build siloes, if you trust to M. Beaubien, whose advice is good. Thus you can feed more stock, which produce more dung, and thus you are enabled to grow more grain.

Well! This gear (*engrenage*) must be taken into account, and our endeavours must, necessarily, not be restricted to the production of butter and cheese, but at the same time,

(1) At the Dairymen's Association meeting at L'Assomption.

(1) Bravo, M. Ross.

A. R. J. F.