

(chiendent), or any other foul weeds—to my mind it comes next to a hoed crop for cleaning the land. (Because it is sown late, and there is more time to work the land? Ed.)

Hay.—I think I have not seen such crops of clover for several years as the appearances indicate at present. I hope the farmers will cut early and often, as two crops cut before the seed ripens are not so hard on the soil as one matured crop would be.

Timothy is looking very well at present, and should, if we have fine weather to save it, prove a valuable crop.

Fruit.—This is the off year, the trees have come out with a fair show of blossoms, the tent-caterpillars are also showing up fairly well too. Those farmers who fought the tent-caterpillar in 1899, got something for their trouble; while those who let this pest eat up the foliage, have had reason to repeat of their folly, as the trees have hardly recovered themselves yet. There was a very light frost at Châteauguay on the morning of the 26th inst. but I hardly think it did any injury to the fruit trees. Small fruits have made a fair show so far.

Butter.—The butter market has advanced to a good price, and the exports are ahead of last year; should they keep on at the rate of present shipments, they will be the largest on record.

Cheese.—The low prices of the past 5 or 6 months have so increased the consumption that the market is bare, the price is now looking up, and with the good grass prospects there is every indication of a record year for both cheese and butter. The make of fodder-cheese was very limited this spring, so every thing points to a rising market in the near future. Farmers should be very happy and contented, for the present crop prospects are very good indeed. Prices for cheese, butter, pork and beef, are fair; in fact, the price of pork is more than fair, it is very high (1). Under

these circumstances we may with confidence look for another favorable year.

PETER MACFARLANE.

Châteauguay, May 29th, 1901.

P. S.—Corn and potatoes, in some few sections, are in the ground, but only to a limited extent.

P. M.

The Poultry-Yard.

INCREASE THE PRODUCTION.

In many localities the "barnyard fowl" will not give way to improved breeds. If you cannot afford to buy all entire breeding-pen of pure stock, at least obtain a full-blooded cock, and send the old common rooster to market. This will greatly improve matters, if you are careful to retain the best pullets of this cross-breed, and when you have a stock of good ones sacrifice the common hens. Cannot farmers be prevailed upon to do this? Is not the supply of eggs, even in the villages, absolutely too small in winter? When eggs are scarce and the prices high, do not some diminish home consumption, and even then complain of the small number they have to take to market? A good thoroughbred hen will lay nearly 50 per cent more in the number of eggs than a common hen. If the prices diminish a little, the increased production of eggs will much over balance the account, and, besides, when the grocer receives a large supply he will send them to the city markets. Too many people raise poultry without regard to the use of pure breeds and regardless of an effort to maintain the high standard to which some of our domestic fowls have attained. The increased evidence of the fact that high class poultry pays is surely sufficient to encourage us to strike out boldly and extensively in the field of enterprise.

Every effort in this direction will meet with such favor that success will surely follow. Contrast the present with the

(1) The price of pork seems to have fallen a little of late, and well it might, for it was irrationally high. Ed.