

Talk about modern damsels dealing in slang ! These dames, *très grandes dames, toujours*, dealt in far greater vulgarity of language than anything we hear to-day.

Such a thunder-storm this morning, July 7th ! The land is soaked even on this sandy soil, and the heavy land will do without more rain till harvest. Very little, if any, hay down yet. The chief grasses in the meadows seem to be weeds ; pastures are looking fresh, and the "mud-holes," in which the cows drink, are pretty full.

Just began cutting vetches and oats for the stock ; vetches hardly out in bloom, so, perhaps, the cows will scour.

Plenty of oats and pease (*meslin* or *gabourage*) to succeed the vetches and oats, if the "boss" will stand it ; far better to give them to the cows than to let them fall off in their milk and allow the *meslin* to ripen.

*Root-crop.*—The roots came up very irregularly and are going to be very costly to single Swedes, mangels, and carrots very late in sowing ; not fit for the hoe yet (July 7th).

*Charlock* is looking brilliant in some places between Ste-Anne and Montreal ; no one seems to be spraying it with the sulphate of copper, though I saw a very fair apparatus at work, on potatoes, for the "bug," which would answer as well for the other purpose.

*Tobacco*-plants seem to be recovering from the effects of the wind-storm on the 29th and 30th of June ; so do the pease, but the corn and haricot-beans are, I fear, ruined *à tout jamais*, and the Virginia creeper (*ampelopsis*) that we had succeeded, after two seasons' hard work, in getting nearly perfect round our house-gallery, will take at least another season to attain its previous condition. We like a hill-side, if it is sheltered from the S. W. ; but, here, we get that wind rather too strong.

O. M. Hatcher, manager at Winnipeg for the Deering Harvester Company, returned recently from a trip to headquarters at Chicago. Mr. Hatcher gives a gloomy report of the crop situation in the northwestern states. The drought has extended all the way to Chicago, and even south of that, the States of Illinois and Indiana having suffered

severely. On the big farms in North Dakota the wheat was being ploughed up as fast as the men and teams could do it. On the great Dalrymple farm 60 gang ploughs were at work turning the crop under and preparing the land for next year. At the Grandin farm, at Hague, 40 ploughs were at work ploughing up 12,000 acres of wheat. At the big Elk Valley farm the wheat was also being ploughed up. A great deal of the wheat was ploughed up earlier in the season, and the land resown to other crop, such as oats and flax, but the second crop was not proving a success. The smaller farmers were also busy ploughing up their crops. The Deering Harvester Company have representatives in almost every district throughout the grain states, and they have an excellent system of crop reporting—probably equal to the best. Their estimate is that the three great spring wheat states of Minnesota and the two Dakotas will produce not more than 50,000,000 bushels of wheat, where they should have a crop of 200,000,000 bushels or more. Including Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, they estimate a crop of 150,000,000 to 175,000,000 bushels. Altogether the spring wheat states will not produce more than is required for home consumption. Fodder crops, Mr. Hatcher says, are very poor and hay has already advanced much.

*The tap-root of wheat.*—A special correspondent of a Montreal paper has the following : A feature brought out emphatically by many Northwestern correspondents is that much of the wheat which looks well and is being figured by those who do not make a careful examination to yield an average crop will not in reality produce much of anything, owing to the fact that the tap root is dried up and the plant supported merely by superficial roots along the surface of the ground. Wheat in this condition, it is stated, will not develop as sound grain. This seems a reasonable proposition, in view of the weather conditions that have prevailed, and if at all prevalent, it may result in an even greater loss than yet appreciated.

The idea is practically correct, but the words *tap-root* are wrong, for wheat has not a tap-root. Its growth is peculiar : sow wheat and cover it in 4 inches deep, and you will find upon examination that the grain has given rise to two different sets of roots, the *coronal* and the *germinal* ; the latter