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Notes by the Way.

RICHELIEU COUNTY'S FARMS.

ST. HYACINTHE, July 17 (Special)—Mr. J. Poloquin, president of the Agricultural Society, who was chosen as judge for agricultural competition in the county of Richelieu, has just returned to this city. During the last three weeks he has visited eleven parishes, inspecting the farms and gardens. He speaks very highly of Mr. Séraphin Guévrémont's farm. He thinks it would be in the interest of the county to employ such a man to give the farmers practical instruction. He reports that the hay crop is not so good as last year. Oats will not be so good, but wheat, barley and peas are better. Potatoes, corn and other garden produce look very well and are likely to turn out better.—*Montreal Star.*

As Monsieur Séraphin Guévrémont is an old pupil of ours, we were delighted to see the above. We believe that he is thoroughly competent to "give the farmers practical instruction" in the nicer operations connected with their business. His root-growing, the foundation of his farming, is quite perfect.

Haymaking.—There are certain established rules that have long been settled about haymaking, at least in England. Even there, writers in the agricultural papers think it necessary to repeat them annually, as there are always fresh readers to profit by them: Some of them we append:

1. Cut early, and cut low.
2. Never touch grass lying in swath in wet weather, unless it is turning yellow underneath.

3. Meddle with clover, when being made into hay, as little as possible: the slightest hustling it about when partly dried knocks off the leaves.

But ted and hustle meadow-hay about as much as possible; never fail to put it into cock at night; dew, worms, &c., injure it if left abroad.

5. Turn clover as soon as the surface is wilted and then get it into cock; never turn it out of cock unless rain makes it absolutely necessary, but carry it from cock to stack, or, if you must, to barn.

6. If you stack your hay, fill the stack well in the middle before leaving at night.

7. Unless the stack heats or sweats a little, the hay has been either made too much or allowed to stand too long.

8. Pull the outsides of the stack hard, and put the pullings on the top.

9. Never make chimneys in a stack: they draw the heat that should pervade the whole into parts of the stack.

Chief errors in haymaking:

Cutting too late:
Making too much.
What is wanted is in:
Meadow-hay; well coloured green, soft, bright stuff;

Clover-hay; rich brown coloured, fat-feeling stuff.

The aroma of clover-hay is very different from the aroma of meadow-hay. We intend to import a small truss of London-market clover-hay, packed in tin-foil, to exhibit as a specimen of what—right or wrong—is sought for there. There is no use our keeping on sending inferior manufactures to London when our raw materials are quite as good as those made up there.

It must be borne in mind that it is only in the home-counties of England that the perfect hay sought for by the wealthy inhabitants of that country is to be found. If you want to secure a market, you must fit your goods to the market, whether your taste agrees with it or not. We thought "unknew all about it," whatever it was, but we did not; for instance:

In September 1849, we sent two loads of superb white-turnips—for the table—to the Borough Market, London: Return expected, £15.0s.

Cash received £1.15s.

Why the disappointment? The salesman's note accounted for it thus:

The turnips were in bunches varying in number from 7 to 10, instead of 9 each, and they were tied with lay-cord instead of with withies (i. e., willow twigs).

So the turnips, which would have fetched 2s. 6d. a dozen bunches, for the swellest of the swell Pall-Mall and St. James Street Clubs, were sold to some cow-keeper or other in Bermondsey or Whitechapel, because we did not know how to pack our goods to suit our market.

Again, we sent half-a-dozen perfect Southdown lambs, 10 lbs. the quarter, to Smithfield market—about 1850—Bad prices: why? We thought that as 3 months old bull-calves were never castrated for veal, lambs might be treated the same, but the West-End butchers were of a different opinion: Uncastrated lambs, said my salesman, are always red (foxy is the slang term at Smiffield) in flesh.

Do you see? The green-grocers, who sell turnips, wanted just the sized bunch that suited their trade, and the butchers of Mayfair and Belgravia were looking for lambs that would show well when hung up outside their shops.

And just so, the corn-chandlers, who provide the horse-keep of the great London noblemen's stables want hay that in colour, aroma, and texture will give satisfaction, not to the noblemen, but to those much more difficult persons, their stud-grooms and coachmen.

The changeable weather we have been having lately,—from the 18th June to the 4th July—has delayed haymaking even on farms where the owners would have begun had the chances been better. And this will tell on the second-cut clover, as the vitality of the plant is quickly impaired after the seed-heads have begun to mature.

The hay-crop in England is not nearly so good as it was expected to be, and for this reason hay will probably remain comparatively dear there, unless a heavy second-cut should render it abundant. (1) Of course, the second-cut is far from being as good as the first; not only so, but the weather in which it is made is usually more catchy, and however carefully it is put together, very few clover-haystacks of the second crop are to be found without some signs of mould in them.

(1) Later news says that the crop of hay is tremendous, nothing seen like it for several years!—En.

Pasture.—Mr. Sheldon, a well known English agronomist, well skilled in dairy-farming publishes the following advice on the improvement of grassland, in the *English Agricultural Gazette*:

"I have tried various methods of improving land — permanent grass land—and, so far as meadows are concerned, I think no other system of manuring is equal to that of feeding fattening sheep upon them through the autumn, when the sheep are getting as much corn and cake as they can conveniently eat—unless it be that of dressing the land with cow manure, to the composition of which decorticated cotton cake has greatly contributed. Perhaps the sheep are to be preferred, but on a dairy farm the other method is the more readily available. In practice, I have found it well worth while to use artificial with farmyard manure alternately, and sometimes I have given a fair dressing of both during the winter, the latter in the early and the former in the late winter months. It does not often occur that enough farmyard manure is made to dress all the meadows over once a year, and in this event it is sound practice to dress with farmyard one year and with artificial the next, and so on. The artificial I have found to be the best on land—a damp, retentive soil for the most part—is 1½ cwt. of nitrate of soda, 3 cwt. superphosphate of lime, and 2 cwt. kainit, bought separately, mixed at home, and put on the land in March. This dressing costs about 26s to 28s an acre, and pays for itself thrice over. It may be objected by some that they cannot afford this outlay; to this I would reply that they can still less afford not to afford it, unless they have land good enough not to require it."

Barley.—The annexed extract from an exchange rather surprised us. That barley was grown in the States for malting purpose alone, and was never used for cattle or pig-food was quite new to us, as was the fact that "some years ago that grain was the common food for horses", as we always fancied that barley, unless sprouted, i. e., half-malted, was too heating for them though, if in a hot climate like Palestine, the Sultan Saladin Arabs thrived on "the Golden barley of Yemen", as he told Sir Kenneth in their conversation by the "Diamond of the Desert," that grain could not well disagree with horses in the less sultry atmosphere of the Northern States. Still, we prefer oats, with a dash of horse-beans in winter.

One thing is certain, though the reason for it is far to seek: barley is the best nurse for grass-seeds of all the grains. The reason may be, though we do not affirm that it is, that barley almost invariably following a hoed-and manured-crop, the land is in the best possible condition to grow any plant. The advice as to cultivation is good:

The Barley Crop.—Barley has been grown heretofore solely for malting for the brewers; and its feeding qualities have been wholly ignored. Yet some years ago this grain was the common food for horses, and when ground into meal was used with waste milk and boiled potatoes for feeding pigs, and made the very best pork. The prejudice against the culture of barley, common among farmers, is, no doubt, due to the necessity for the thorough cultivation, which takes the head and hands more than is agreeable to them. But the times demand a great shaking up of dry bones, and one must put his hand to the plow in earnest if he will succeed in making the farm pay just now, and barley is a