

II.

I said, at the beginning of this address, that one of the means of lessening the cost of milk, was the improvement of our cows, and I have just shown how this is to be managed. Another means suggests itself, secondly, and that is to diminish the cost of their food. Many things have to be studied as to economical cow feeding. Ensilage, which, unfortunately, is not yet common enough among our farmers, is one thing that will greatly tend to lessen the cost of producing milk. I do not intend to enlarge upon this to-night. The reports of our association, which each of our members receive, are full of it. The substitution of potatoes, mangels, carrots, corn, for most of the hay and grain, is another of the things that farmers may employ in lessening the cost of the ration his cow receives, and which, consequently, will lessen the cost of their milk-yield. This is another thing that may be found fully treated in several of our reports.

III.

A third way of lessening the cost of milk is to create a rich and productive pasture for our cows in summer, at a cheaper rate than that we now provide by means of the clovers, though the clover is doubtless the best of all pasture-plants for milk cows. But, unfortunately, it has the serious defect of only lasting two years, so that we are obliged to break up the land and sow clover again every two years, if we want to renew the pasture. We have then to find some other pasture-plant that will stand longer and be, therefore, less costly. This plant we have already, if we choose to make use of it, and, in my opinion, it is, after clover, the best suited to pasture. I mean the Orchard-grass or Cocksfoot, of which the following is a representation.

This grass is so valuable for the improvement of pastures, that I think it well to give you as many details concerning it as possible. The following is its botanical description, by the Abbé Provencher, in the *Flore Canadienne*: Perennial, stem two to four feet high, rather rough. Leaves linear, plane, rather keel-shaped, glaucous, slightly rough, with the sheath divided only in the upper part. Ligules pointed, jagged. Spikelets generally four-flowered, greenish or violet-tinged, in unilateral compact glomera, making a unilateral panicle, with distinct branches. Flowers more or less ciliated on the keel of the lower glume or husk. Glumes very unequal. Anthers large and yellow. Is found in Canada, in meadows, in grassy spots, especially where shaded. Flowers in June.

Orchard grass grows all over our province, up to 47° 3' N.L., and probably still further north. It does well in all kinds of soil, dry or damp, though not if swampy, and it accommodates itself to land too poor for other grasses. This quality makes it very useful for sowing on poor land and on dry sloping banks, to prevent land-slips. In fact, it does well everywhere, especially, of course, on good clay loam. It stands heat and frost well, and yields lots of grass, particularly if it is fed or cut frequently. Shade seems to suit it; hence, its name of orchard-grass. Must not be sown with timothy, as it is too hard for feed by the time timothy is fit to cut. Nothing can be better for permanent pasture,